

A Legacy of Helping Animals



(from left to right, Seamus, Terry, Laura and Chloe)

Meet Terry and Laura Cunningham, members of the Heart of the Valley Best Friends Legacy Society!

The Cunninghams have been involved with HOV for many years. Prior to building our current facility, volunteers were frequently asked to house animals overnight during chilly weather. During a particularly long cold snap in December at the old shelter, the Cunninghams volunteered to foster a dog until the weather warmed up. For 9 days Laura picked up Chloe at 5:00 pm and dropped her back at the shelter at 8:00 am. On day 10 as she was driving to the shelter, she pulled the car over and called Terry to let him know that she could not do it and all she wanted for Christmas was Chloe!

However, there was one small issue, their homeowner's association only allowed for 3 pets (2 cats and 1 dog or 2 dogs and 1 cat, but not 3 of the same). The Cunninghams already had 2 dogs. So, they walked Chloe to one of their HOA representatives and introduced their new "cat" -- thankfully the HOA president nodded in agreement and was the first to welcome their "cat" to the neighborhood.

That began 10 wonderful years with Chloe and the Cunninghams are so grateful for the wonderful memories they have. To celebrate Chloe's life, they chose to make a bequest in their will in honor of her. "It was super easy to add this gift to our will with a simple statement that we would like to leave a gift to HOV in honor of Chloe. That is all you have to do. You can leave a specific amount or a percentage of your estate value. We did it and then let HOV know," Terry said. "I encourage people to

align their giving with their passions. You can't leave your money to your pets, but you can leave it in honor of your pets. You do not have to be super wealthy. Every gift is transformative to an animal."

If you are interested in learning more about the HOV Best Friends Legacy Society and how you can make a planned gift, please contact Tiffany Sandholm at 406-404-3069 or at tiffany@heartofthevalleyshelter.org.