

GREY MUZZLE ORGANIZATION

A PERSONAL VIEW

By Paulette Callen, Grey Muzzle volunteer



[Paulette Callen](#) is a writer who lives in Manhattan. “My volunteer service to Grey Muzzle consists of writing occasionally for their newsletter, because that’s what I can do best. I feel privileged to contribute in this small way. I live with an old dog who is also blind. She is the sweet spot in my life. I believe that providing a safety net to all senior dogs who may, for one reason or another, find themselves homeless, is the duty of everyone who has ever loved a dog.”

“We envision a world where no old dog dies alone and afraid.

The Grey Muzzle Organization improves the lives of at-risk senior dogs by providing funding and resources to animal shelters, rescue organizations, sanctuaries, and other non-profit groups nationwide.”

These words head the VISION and MISSION page of [Grey Muzzle’s](#) website. They describe what the organization does, and why.

Sixty-nine [volunteers](#) work to raise funds and process applications to get the money to the old dogs who need it; 12,000 [supporters](#) have contributed their treasure and that number is growing; 22 organizations last year were awarded grants, and that number is growing every year as well.

Why care about old dogs?

This striking website brims with affecting statements of purpose and mission, stories of individual dogs who were loved and comforted till the ends of their lives by people who lifted them out of cold, cement-floored

cages – people who might not have been able to do so without the funding provided by Grey Muzzle. It's all worth reading. The deserving nature of the dogs, the love you get back when you open your home and heart to a senior canine – the sentiments are beautifully articulated on these pages.

But still, in the great scheme of things, with all the problems in the world and all the dogs who need help, why bother with a dog whose time may be short and the quantity and cost of caring for her may be great?

Clearly, given the number of seniors who are abandoned and dumped in shelters every year, many people still do not have a positive answer to this question.

My answer to *Why care about old dogs?* is another question: **What does it say about us if we don't?**

It says volumes. It says we are a throw-away society that can't distinguish between a thing and a living being. It says we cannot love as we have been loved. It says we have no innate sense of justice. It says we have not yet evolved beyond the subsistence mindset, though most people, in this country anyway, do not live a subsistence lifestyle any longer.

The task is great. There are so many needy people and animals. The challenges are not insurmountable, however. When we, with all good faith and honest intentions, extend our circle of justice and compassion to include the most vulnerable – and few members of our society are more vulnerable than an old homeless dog – a way will be found.

Grey Muzzle is helping to lead the way.