



ForeverHome

A Chat with the Friends of the Roice-Hurst Humane Society

SAVING ONE LIFE AT A TIME SINCE 1963

FALL 2015

Cat behavior program starting at Roice-Hurst

A major reason cats end up in shelters is behavior problems at home. Roice-Hurst's new program aims to help cats and their owners peacefully coexist.

You might not be able to herd cats, but you can train them! That's the philosophy behind the new feline behavior assessment and training program in development at Roice-Hurst Humane Society (RHHS). Spearheading the program is Jodi Summers, RHHS cat care specialist.

"People tend to treat cats as small dogs," says Jodi. "Once you know what makes a cat a cat, you see that most of the 'problem' behaviors are just normal cat behaviors. And it makes it much easier to deal with those behaviors."

A veterinary technician for 18 years, Jodi has spent the past eight of those specializing in cat behavior and nutrition. She joined the RHHS staff this summer, with a desire to bring her passion, knowledge and experience to the aid of shelter pets and their people. She is currently enrolled in a comprehensive Humane Society of the U.S. course on cat behavior and retention, with the goal of bringing new resources to RHHS' cat rescue and welfare efforts.

Among the resources in development is a "hotline" for cat owners to receive free counseling (over the phone or in person) from our cat behavior team on how to help them address problem behaviors and keep their cats at home. In 2016, RHHS is hoping to introduce *Cat Behavior 101*, *Kitten Kindergarten*, and other exciting group classes as well.

"I look forward to helping as many cats as I can, and to be available to the community," Jodi says. "We want input from the public so we know what help they really want and need. Our goal is to strengthen that bond between cats and their owners."



Cat care specialist Jodi Summers works with Joan, a middle-aged, fearful cat, who used to never come out of her cubby, but now comes out to greet Jodi to "get some loving" and scamper around.

A dog behavior assessment and training program is also in the works at the shelter. Details on page 6...

Without you, we couldn't care for all those wonderful animals that come our way!



Your support will help provide care, compassion, and a chance to find loving homes for the hundreds of cats and dogs in need who pass through our doors every year.

Thank you for being their champion!

www.RHHumaneSociety.com

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Anna Stout brings a passion for animals and nonprofits to Roice-Hurst in her new role as executive director.

Since her hiring in June, Anna has drawn on her 11 years of nonprofit organizational experience to assist the RHHS board in its goal to continue improving operational efficiencies, while following current “best practices” in animal welfare and sheltering.

Of the 52-year-old nonprofit, Anna says that the all-volunteer board recognized it needed additional help to run the facility more like a business in order to be sustainable for the next 50 years. “I am here to help evaluate, develop and implement internal operations practices that lead to high customer and staff satisfaction,” she relates.

In addition to founding and running her own nonprofit, Anna has served on other local nonprofit boards and specialized in organizational leadership in her master’s degree program at the University of Denver. She also became a dog trainer at the age of 18. “Animals and animal welfare are paramount in my world,” she explains.

Welcome, Anna!

Roice-Hurst continues its forward progress in 2015

Dear Roice-Hurst Humane Society supporters,

WOW! What a great year this has been for our nonprofit organization and our lifesaving mission! The board of directors is excited to bring some amazing opportunities and positive changes to our organization – all for the benefit of our shelter pets and the animal welfare community.

In addition to creating a new executive director position to lead our nonprofit, the board is working collaboratively with community and statewide partners to stay abreast of the changing trends in our industry. Areas we are currently working on include programs and resources to help keep pets in their homes, behavior assessments and training for shelter pets, community education, focused volunteer efforts, and ongoing staff training.

Our organizational role is expanding beyond the relinquishment and adoption of pets to embrace a more proactive, holistic approach to animal welfare and playing an enhanced, supportive role within our community.

Whether you are an adopter, volunteer, or donor – THANK YOU for the love and care you bring to the homeless pets of Roice-Hurst! We would not be where we are today without you, and we ask that you help us continue saving lives and finding those “forever homes.”

Sincerely,

Sonya Foster

President; Roice-Hurst Humane Society
Board of Directors



Support Roice-Hurst and other local charities on “Colorado Gives Day” Dec. 8

Roice-Hurst and 21 other Mesa County nonprofits have joined together to promote “Colorado Gives Day,” an annual philanthropic movement to strengthen the state’s nonprofits that will be held on Dec. 8th this year.

For 24 hours that Tuesday, donors can visit the website www.ColoradoGives.org, select the charity or charities of their choice, and make tax-deductible donations to those nonprofits. Contributions made online that day will also be enhanced by a \$1 million Incentive Fund created by FirstBank and other partnering sponsors. (Donors can also go online and preschedule their donation for Dec. 8 starting Nov. 1.)

Community First Foundation created Colorado Gives Day in 2010 to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Last year, the nonprofits in the Mesa County collaboration raised \$121,280, and the collective goal this year is \$130,000. **(Roice-Hurst raised \$6,685 in our third year of participating in this fundraising initiative, and our goal is to top \$7,000 this year.)**

The Mesa County collaboration will host a pre-event at Kannah Creek Brewing Co. starting at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 1st, featuring gift basket prize drawings and the tapping of a unique brew. Representatives from participating local nonprofits will be on hand to answer questions and help preschedule donations for Colorado Gives Day.

This is a wonderful chance to partner with an established, statewide program and keep your money local! For a list of the charities involved in the Mesa County collaboration, visit the Colorado Gives Day website.

Grand Junction Subaru has chosen Roice-Hurst *for the second straight year as its Hometown Charity for the year-end “Share the Love” event. Subaru of America, Inc. sponsors the annual charitable event nationwide, and retailers can select a local nonprofit to support.*

*For every new car purchased or leased at the Grand Junction dealership from Nov. 19 through Jan. 2, Roice-Hurst will receive \$250. Last year, our nonprofit received \$14,189 from this campaign. **We so appreciate their compassion and generosity on behalf of our homeless pets!***

We would love to add your email address to our contact list; we’re developing new ways to inform and engage our supporters, in addition to the printed newsletter. Also, if we don’t have your name or address listed correctly, or if you prefer not to receive a newsletter or other future mailings, please call the shelter office at 970-434-7337 or email us at info@rhhumanesociety.com.



PLAY BINGO EVERY WEEK

at Roice-Hurst’s sessions:
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

AT GOLD MINE BINGO

511 28-1/4 Rd.

(a non-smoking, family-friendly facility)

Net proceeds from Roice-Hurst’s weekly bingo sessions have been funding an average of 8% of our annual operating budget the past few years. You can play for as little as \$10, and total payouts are up to \$2,000 each session. Come play, have fun, and support our homeless pets!

Why we give to Roice-Hurst

“Kristine and I have been delighted to consistently donate to Roice-Hurst over the years because we appreciate their mission. Having no children, we have joked that our dogs are ‘our kids.’

“Since we married in 1998, we’ve adopted a total of four dogs – all from different walks of life. Though we haven’t adopted from Roice-Hurst, we appreciate every organization whose mission is to take in homeless pets and give them love and comfort until they one day find their ‘forever home.’”

Ken Schreiner



This year, when you're at the supermarket loading up the cart with a turkey and all the fixings, perhaps you could take a moment and pick up something for a cat or dog that will be spending the holiday waiting for a home and family: a bag of food or some treats or toys.

Thanksgiving is a great time to celebrate your good fortune by remembering homeless pets whose holiday may not be so blessed...

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and most of us are looking forward to spending quality time with family and friends, overindulging in a delicious meal, and maybe watching a football game on TV.

Most of us have much to be thankful for and take a moment on that special day to reflect on our blessings. But how often do we give a thought to the homeless pets that may not have enjoyed many blessings before they arrived safely at a shelter like Roice-Hurst's?

While the Roice-Hurst shelter will be closed to the public on Thanksgiving Day, donations may be dropped off during open hours (listed on our website) at our facility, located just off the Riverside Parkway at 362 28 Road in Grand Junction. Also on our website is a "wish list" of those items most needed to help us care for our cats and dogs. Of course, monetary donations to help purchase those items is always welcomed and appreciated.

The board members and staff of Roice-Hurst have much to be thankful for, not just at Thanksgiving but throughout the year, because we have wonderful volunteers, advocates, and supporters like you who make our lifesaving mission possible. **THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!**

Dog behavior program in development at RHHS

As the availability of easily adoptable dogs continues to shrink across Colorado (thanks in no small part to ongoing spay/neuter programs and re-homing initiatives statewide), those entering shelters are increasingly harder to place because they often come with behavior issues.

With our limited staff and budget, Roice-Hurst has been challenged to address those issues in our service area. **In an effort to increase in-shelter resources**, we recently applied for grant funding to create a trained staff position, certified through the ASPCA's SAFER assessor and assessor trainer programs.

Our dog behavior program will encompass the needs of our shelter dogs in the form of behavior assessments and individual training plans, as well as staff and volunteer training in **basic positive-reinforcement training techniques**. It will also help meet the community's needs for education, training and counseling opportunities (with discounts for adopters) to help keep dogs in their homes, reduce returns, and generate revenue to help keep funding this program.



To help support this and Roice-Hurst's other lifesaving and adoption efforts, you can use the donation envelope in this newsletter to make a difference in the life of a homeless pet today!

Volunteer program revamped to better serve pets and people

Recognizing that the volunteer program needed tweaking, Roice-Hurst staffers reviewed the systems in place and researched best practices at other shelters. They came up with impactful changes to help benefit our animals, improve the volunteer onboarding process, and create opportunities to make a real difference in our areas of greatest need.



Shelter staffer Emily Scanlon takes on a new role as volunteer coordinator. "Volunteers are an essential part of animal sheltering, and we value their help greatly," says Emily.

Potential volunteers can apply online or in person. One-time attendance is required at a one-hour orientation class, available twice a month (currently the first Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the third Saturday from 10:00-11:00 a.m.). The orientation is followed by an individual, hands-on training session with staff to help new volunteers learn how to safely and effectively perform specific tasks.

Volunteers can be assigned tasks that meet both their and the shelter's scheduling needs. Many choose dog walking, cat socialization, or helping with behavior modification or training set in place by staff members. But there are other jobs around the shelter the staff needs help with: cleaning and laundry, yard and building maintenance, data entry, and transporting pets to and from veterinary or grooming visits.

There are many other options open for volunteer involvement, including fundraisers, adoption events, or bingo. And anyone with special skills or interests (website development/maintenance, video production, graphic design, marketing/public relations, fundraising, or nonprofit board experience) could be a valuable addition to the volunteer corps.

Foster a pet — save two lives!

Providing a temporary home for a pet helps save not one, but two, lives. By taking in an animal that needs to be cared for outside of a shelter environment, you make a huge difference in their quality of life and increase their chances of finding an adoptive home. You also help create space in the shelter for another cat or dog in need. If you have a family, fostering can become a real bonding experience. It's a great way to teach children about being kind to, taking care of, and being responsible for, a companion animal.

Here are some of the types of pets who benefit most from a foster home:

- Puppies or kittens too young to be adopted and that need socializing.
- Senior dogs or cats that don't do well in a shelter.
- Injured or abused dogs or cats that need tender loving care.
- Dogs or cats that have 'shelter stress' and need a break in a calm home environment.
- Moms with puppies or kittens.
- Dogs or cats with special needs.

For more information, call Emily, RHHS volunteer and foster coordinator, at 970-434-7337, or email her at emily@rhhumanesociety.com.

Trixie and her pups hit the jackpot in loving foster home

By Trixie, as told to Ginger Berry (Trixie's adoptive "mom")



Trixie and her pups found a safe haven in their foster home.



Trixie today is happy, strong and more confident.

"When I was running wild on the reservation, I could only dream that I would someday have such a wonderful home with a loving human. I am the LUCKIEST dog in the world."

My name is Trixie, but it really should be Lucky. I was found running wild on a reservation in New Mexico. Lucky for me someone noticed that, even though I was only around seven or eight months old, I was going to have puppies.

I was transferred to Roice-Hurst, where the staff worked hard to make me comfortable and to take good care of me, but a shelter is no place to have a fast-approaching family. **The staff found me a foster family who would take care of me and my puppies. This is where my luck really changed!**

I went to live with Ginger Berry. She had been looking for a four-legged friend to join her family for almost a year and agreed to foster me and my puppies. I was scared when I was dropped off at her home and had no idea what to do or expect with this new human. But she gave me a nice, warm bed, a tasty dinner, and she spoke quietly to me while she waited for me to come to her without trying to rush me.

My seven puppies arrived the next day in a cozy whelping bed. I spent the next eight weeks being a good mom and taking care of some very energetic puppies. But this left me almost no time to learn how to live with humans.

Once all my puppies were adopted by good families with the help of Roice-Hurst, I had time to start learning all the rules of living with humans. Like no matter how crunchy the remote, you can't chew on it, or on the floppy socks left on the floor. And who knew that you only go to the bathroom outside in the yard and not in the house? However, with lots of patience and hard work, I am learning the rules. My human enrolled us in a dog training class, and I have earned a certificate for basic training. I am now working on a more advanced level of training, and when this class is over, I hope to earn my Canine Good Citizen certification.

Adoption option twice as nice for local family



"Our 18-month-old daughter Samantha loves to hug and kiss her kitties whenever she gets the chance, although Bella and Bailey are masters at escaping her clutches!"

"In 2010, we adopted our first Roice-Hurst cat, Bailey. For the first year, Bailey didn't like to be touched or petted at all; she would occasionally venture into our bedroom at night, but scattered at the first sign of movement and didn't seem to know how to purr. **Five years later, Bailey is one of the friendliest and cuddliest cats we've ever had.**

"In 2014, we added Bella May, a bottle-fed baby of a feral cat, raised by Roice-Hurst staffer Cindy O'Shea. From the get-go, Bella was affectionate and demanding of constant attention, which she gets! Bella has her own pillow on our bed, and she owns every square foot of the place.

"Seeing Bailey blossom from a timid, scared cat into the lover of the household has been incredibly rewarding, while Bella's forever personable (and always-touching) paws keep us warm and smiling. We're very grateful for the temporary housing Roice-Hurst provides to the animals that add so much to our lives."

Tyler, Lindsey and Samantha Riehl

Ratatouille, survivor and shelter ambassador, now a beloved pet

In early August, a tiny orange-and-white kitten was found wailing and writhing on the front porch of a kind man who brought it to Roice-Hurst. It was clear there was something very wrong with the kitten, and we rushed him to a nearby veterinary hospital. The prognosis was bad and there wasn't much hope he'd make it through the night.

Not only did he recover, he became a real-life example of why Jake's Fund, our special-needs medical fund, is so critical to the care of our sick and injured pets. Ratatouille, aptly named because of the rat poison he ate that almost took his life, helped us raise over \$2,500 for other pets with critical medical needs.

Sandy Reams fell in love with "Touille" and declared that the small kitten with the blood-red right eye (a temporary side effect of the poisoning) would have his "forever home" with her. Once introduced to his new animal siblings, Touille was immediately befriended by Roger the rabbit and Mr. Mitts, the huge yellow kitty. "He is just so sweet," Sandy says, beaming. "I wake up every morning to him kneading my neck and wanting to be loved." And every evening she watches him tear back and forth with Roger and Mr. Mitts in tow. Ratatouille survived his near-death experience and is now living on cloud nine!



Since the first day "Touille" went home, Roger the rabbit has followed him around, snuck in the house to sleep with him, and come to his rescue when Touille is in distress.