



### Mission

Promoting bonds between  
pets and their people

### Vision

We envision a community  
that celebrates pets

### Values

We are guided by  
compassion, collaboration,  
stewardship, leadership,  
and excellence

**Anna Stout, Executive Director**

**Connor Kain, Office Manager**

**Emily King, Animal Care  
Supervisor**

## Mark Your Calendars!

### April 28, 10-4p - Open House

Come meet our current residents and tour the shelter to see all the exciting changes that have taken place. Light refreshments will be served.

### May 20, 6-8p - Zac Grant Trio, a dog-friendly concert!

Gates open at 5:30, admission \$10. Kids under 12 and well-behaved dogs free. Dogs must be leashed at all times. At Western Colorado Botanical Gardens.

### June 22, 9-4p - Shelter Break

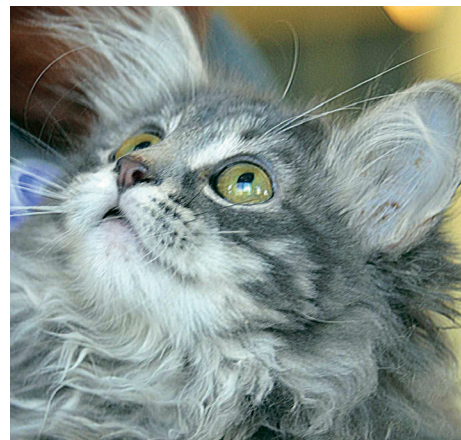
Get locked up with our pets and raise your bail to raise money for our pets!

### July 28, 9-12p - "Caturday" Cat Celebration

Join us as we host The International Cat Association for a cat show, agility demo, adoptions, and more at the Mesa County Fair. Must pay fair admission.

### August 10, 6-8:30p - Wine & Whiskers Gala

The "come-as-you-are" gala at Two Rivers Winery. More info to come!



### September 16, 11-8p - Wüffstock Dog & Music Fest presented by Wag Resort

Featuring music by:

JACK+JILL Duet, the Thomasina Russell Band, Sum Of Us, Flat Top Reed, and Stray Grass

Admission \$20. Kids under 12 and well-behaved dogs free. Kids activities from 11-4p. Don't forget to take your dogs to the Lincoln Park Pool to swim during the Dog Days of Summer from 9-12!

Visit [rhhumanesociety.org/calendar](http://rhhumanesociety.org/calendar) for more about these and other events, including upcoming adoption events!

**970-434-7337 [rhhumanesociety.org](http://rhhumanesociety.org)**

## Leaders in Collaboration

### How Mesa County agencies work together to save more lives

One of the things we are most proud of at Roice-Hurst Humane Society is the work we have done to build strong relationships with animal welfare organizations in our region and across the state. In February, an activist group called No Kill Colorado (NKC) published a map of "save rates" based on numbers reported annually by Colorado animal shelters and using an extremely flawed formula. Our closest partner, Mesa County Animal Services (MCAS), was square in their crosshairs.

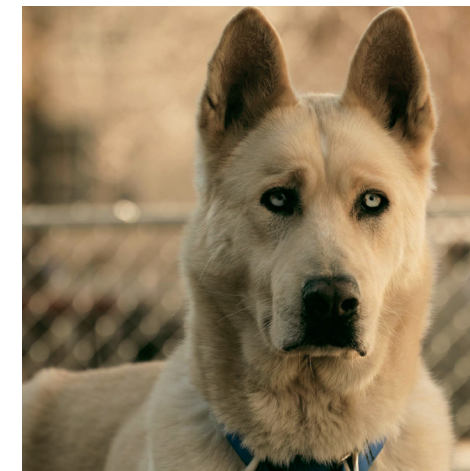


Oso arrives at the rescue

We have written before about the **unique relationship we have with MCAS and how it has allowed us to focus on our respective missions and save more animals' lives.** Our organizations have distinct but overlapping missions: MCAS exists to ensure public health and safety and animal welfare. Roice-Hurst works to promote the bonds between pets and people through sheltering, adoptions and providing resources for our community's animals.

By publishing a list of individual agency statistics and assuming some kind of conclusion can be drawn from those numbers, NKC is missing a glaring detail: **we work together. To have a true picture of how many lives are being saved, we must be measured as a community.** MCAS statistics cannot be viewed or interpreted in a vacuum; the decisions made at one organization affect the statistics at another.

Because MCAS deals with animals that pose threats to health and safety, animals that were subject to abuse, and animals that have not received proper care, their "save rate" is necessarily going to be lower. But by taking on those animals that are less likely to be rehabilitatable or curable, and by making humane euthanasia affordable, **MCAS does an invaluable service to Roice-Hurst and to our community.**



Oso was transferred to RHHS from MCAS. After being returned to RHHS twice for destructive behaviors that caused harm to himself and to property, RHHS and MCAS worked together to find Oso a breed-specific rescue that met his behavior and training needs.

Roice-Hurst Humane Society, by NKC's calculation, has a save rate of over 96%. But we could not have that save rate if it weren't for our partnership with MCAS. **What is actually commendable is the exceptional relationship between the two agencies, not the number itself.**

Movements like No Kill Colorado don't help the cause of homeless pets and, in fact, villainize agencies like MCAS that truly go to every length possible not to euthanize. **We are working as an animal welfare community to reinforce the pillars that sustain the heavy burden of animal welfare—a load that can only be borne by collaborating across agencies and strengthening each other through our partnerships.**

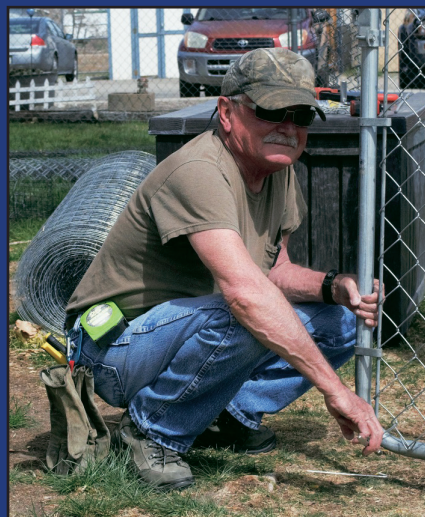
**Leaders come in all shapes, sizes, and even species!**  
See inside for more stories of people, businesses, and animals leading the way for our shelter...

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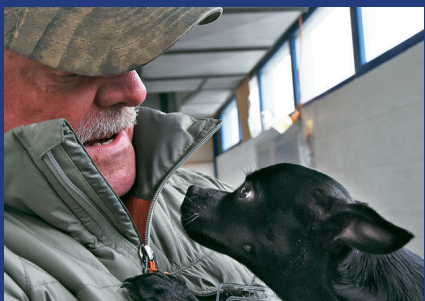


## Volunteer Spotlight

When Harry Segelken began volunteering at Roice-Hurst with his wife, Chris, he came in initially to walk dogs. He soon offered up his fix-it skills and saved the shelter thousands of dollars in repair projects. Before long, he was coming in with his professional camera gear and photographing the dogs for our website.



As the volunteer program has developed and offered more training to our volunteers, Harry advanced as far as he can go in the dog department. Now he is helping Laura develop a fourth volunteer level, the V-4. This level will offer even more specialized training and opportunities to volunteers who dedicate so much of themselves to our animals and the shelter. Harry is an invaluable leader for all the volunteers at Roice-Hurst and we are so grateful for his time and initiative!



## From The Executive Director's Desk: Caring for the Caretakers

One of the things I hear often is, "You work at Roice-Hurst? You get to play with animals all day long!" To an extent, people are right. We have the incredible job of loving animals all day long and we are extremely grateful for that. But there is another side to animal welfare that is often overlooked—it is a very emotional responsibility.

**Caring for our community's animals requires compassion, patience, empathy, and a lot of resilience.** The vicarious trauma a shelter worker experiences from rehabilitating sick or neglected pets, the repeated feelings of loss that come with saying goodbye to animals you have looked after for days or weeks, and even the exhausting daily responsibilities of cleaning, feeding, and socializing pets can take an emotional toll that builds up over time.



To help us care for the caregivers at RHHS by donating your time, expertise, or other wellness ideas, contact Anna at 434-7337, ext. 107.

## Shelter Break!

Are you feeling **guilty** about the pets in our community that don't have a home to call their own? Do you feel **imprisoned** by your love for these creatures? Be an **accomplice** in finding these pets a better future. Join us at this exciting new event on June 22 and break these pets out of the shelter for good! Become one of our **Canine Convicts or Feline Felons** and raise your bail to care for all the animals that are **locked up** while they await their forever homes.

Participants will be locked up in one of our dog kennels or in our cat rooms until they meet bail, all



At Roice-Hurst, our team is made up of many of the kindest, most compassionate people in our community, **so we make sure they have tools at their disposal to care for themselves with as much love as they care for the animals.** We have worked together to create a culture that promotes and prioritizes wellness at all levels—from our staff to our animals.

### What wellness looks like at RHHS:

- Weekly wellness topics, like self-compassion, communication, empathy, & mindfulness
- 2-minute gratitude at staff meetings
- Monthly wellness stipend for staff
- Triad EAP, Appleton Clinics, AFLAC benefits
- Paid time off for recharging
- Meditation, massage, & exercise activities
- Gratitude journals
- Pass to the botanical gardens for "butterfly breaks" in times of stress
- Punch pass to Avalon movie nights
- Guest speakers on budgeting, personal finance, & long-term planning; nutrition & health; & safety
- Goal-setting and organizational support of personal passions



the while socializing with our animals and learning what it's like to be a shelter pet. Enrichment activities with your kennel mate are planned throughout the day, and there are lots of opportunities to win prizes! At the end of the day, celebrate with us at a barbecue catered by Rib City!

To learn more, sign up or to sponsor, call Laura at 434-7337, ext. 102.

## Brussels Sprout

### Leading Unsocialized Cats Away From Fear

Brussels Sprout came to us last year after she was found living on the side of the road in an old boat. **She was in terrible shape—lethargic, underweight, dehydrated, and sick with a respiratory infection.** Her infected gums and tongue ulcers suggested she had been exposed to caustic chemicals and made it hard for her to eat or drink anything.

After antibiotics and patient coaxing by our staff to eat, "Sprouts" began to improve. But as she felt better, we realized she was a feral cat and was not socialized with people. Feeding and medicating her became more difficult as she grew stronger and fought back. Eventually, she was diagnosed with stomatitis, an autoimmune disease that affects the gums and mouth, and had to have all her teeth removed. Following surgery, and thanks to pain meds, we made progress handling her. **We weren't sure if she could ever be socialized enough to be a house cat, but her chances back out on the street would be grim without teeth.**

During this time, Augustus, a fearful and under-socialized cat, came to our behavior program. For weeks, he hid at the back of his cage trembling, disengaged from all attempts at interaction by our staff. During cleaning one day, Sprouts ventured out of her cage and jumped right up next to Augustus, making herself at home in his cage. **For the first time since his arrival, Augustus stopped trembling.**

At the end of the day, Sprouts was still curled up to Augustus, and when staff attempted to return her



Looking for a way to spend your summer? Volunteer with our pets! To learn more about our volunteer program, contact Laura Taylor, Volunteer Coordinator, at 434-7337, ext. 102!



Sprouts and Becca

to her own cage, she hissed and refused to leave. **She spent that night with him and her role as 24-hour therapy cat began.**

As Sprouts slowly learned to trust her human companions, Augustus watched attentively and took his cues from her. **Before long, both cats loved—and even sought out—the caresses of their caretakers.** For weeks, Sprouts persuaded Augustus down from his cage and helped him explore the vet room, never leaving his side.

Once Augustus graduated from the behavior program and made his way to the cat room, a new behavior cat, Becca, came to occupy his former cage. **Sprouts knew exactly what to do—she jumped up next to Becca and expertly got to work showing her how to trust.**

As Sprouts finished her own medical treatment and the time drew close to move her to the cat room for adoption, our Animal Care Supervisor, Emily, realized she was going to lose her invaluable helper and adopted her. Sprouts now has a permanent home in Emily's office, spending her days sprawled across the keyboard or making occasional calls around the office, and her nights in the cages of unsocialized cats teaching them "how to cat" in a people world.

## Business Spotlight

### ADCOCK CONCRETE

When it comes to local businesses leading the way in our community, Adcock Concrete is among the best of them. You may know Adcock Concrete for their award-winning work in the downtown renovations or their part in expansions at Colorado Mesa University, but what you don't know is that Adcock's concrete supports many structures around Roice-Hurst! From the expansion that now houses our kitten room to sidewalks in the west play yard, Adcock has responded to every concrete need that has arisen at the shelter. Mike, owner and president, worked with Whitewater Building Materials, United Companies, and Elam Ready Mix to get all the concrete donated to lay pads when we moved into our current location.

Recently, we contacted them in a panic—we needed to add a walkway to accommodate the flow of cats for the Animal Planet filming during the launch of the Grand Valley Cat Coalition, and we needed it done within weeks. Not only did they send a crew out within days, but they did it without asking for anything in return since Mike, the owner of Adcock Concrete, always sends his crews out to the shelter on his own dime. They have saved the shelter tens of thousands of dollars over the years so that money can instead be spent on what's most important—our animals.

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