



**Roice-Hurst
Humane Society**

Promoting bonds between pets and their people

P.O.Box 4040
Grand Junction, CO 81502

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ForeverHome

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

PROMOTING BONDS BETWEEN PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

SPRING 2016

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Roice-Hurst Humane Society is expanding its services, and our new mission statement – “Promoting bonds between pets and their people” – reflects that growth.

As the animal welfare industry across the country and within our own community changes, Roice-Hurst’s role in our community is changing as well. In addition to sheltering and finding forever homes for homeless cats and dogs, RHHS now provides pet education, behavior counseling, training services, and other forms of assistance. These services are designed to promote the bonds between pets and their people so that fewer animals are relinquished, or returned, to the shelter.



Photo by James Lout Photography

www.RHHumaneSociety.org

“Walk Your Dog,” “Woofstock” set for April 16 at the Botanical Gardens

Celebrate spring with two FREE-ENTRY events sponsored By Wag Resort!

“Woofstock,” a music festival featuring popular local bands Flat Top Reed, Jack + Jill, and the Instagators, will run from noon to 5 p.m. (gates open at 11 a.m.). There will also be kids’ activities, cat/dog behavior sessions, a beer garden, food available and more (no outside food or beverages allowed).

“Walk Your Dog” is an invitation to get out and walk your dog any time between 7:30 a.m. and noon, starting at the Botanical Gardens trailhead. Roice-Hurst volunteers will be on hand to help interested smart phone users download the free Woof-trax© “Walk for a Dog” app to start earning money for Roice-Hurst pets.

Well-behaved dogs are welcomed all day.

Roice-Hurst’s Animal Resource Center up and running

Roice-Hurst now offers fun cat- and dog-related classes for pet owners in our community to learn more about their furry friends.

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why on earth does my cat do that?” or “How can I get my dog to stop doing that?”

Our pets don’t come with an owner’s manual, and at times the things they do simply don’t make any sense. But to our cat and dog counselors, almost every behavior has an explanation that is rooted in the animal’s needs or motivations.

Beginning in April, RHHS will host small informational classes in the evening and on weekends that are open to the public on topics including cat and dog enrichment and training, crate training for dogs, grooming basics, potty training, clicker training and tricks, traveling with your animal, and nutrition, among others.

All informational classes are free for RHHS adopters for the first six months after adopting a pet from the shelter and range from \$5-\$15 per class (or a donation of food or litter) for the public. Class space is limited and participants must register in advance.

For a calendar of classes, visit our website at www.rhhumanesociety.org/calendar or visit the shelter to pick up a list of classes for the month.

Read how our new dog behavior program helped Libby; details on page 5...



Shelter starts new adoption policy

As of January 1, Roice-Hurst implemented a new adoption process that removes many of the hoops potential adopters had to jump through to adopt a pet from our shelter.

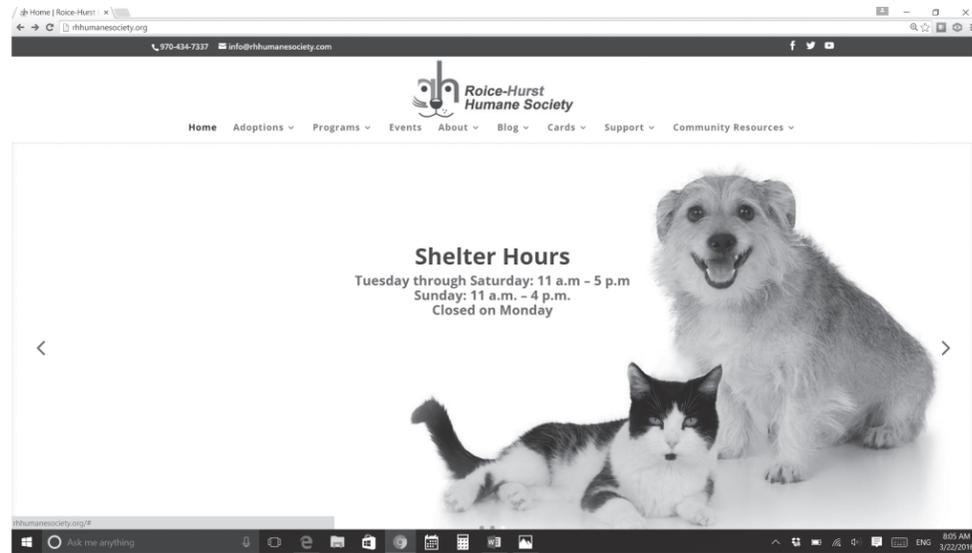
Our new adoption policy utilizes a **conversation-based approach** that reflects the research done at shelters and adoption centers across the country and does away with barriers that kept good families from becoming adopters.

It focuses on the **matchmaking process** and educating adopters about responsible pet ownership, as well as breed-specific and individual animal considerations.

Also as part of the new adoption policy, RHHS is **now doing on-site adoptions at events**, rather than making adopters wait until after the event to adopt at the shelter.

Spring means kitten season, and Roice-Hurst is always in critical need of feline foster homes this time of year. For more information, contact foster coordinator Emily Scanlon at emily@rhumanesociety.org, or 970-434-7337.

Roice-Hurst launches a new and improved website!



If you have visited us online recently, you've seen that our website has undergone a much-needed facelift. Thanks to the generous donations of a few private individuals and Mozaic Technology, Roice-Hurst launched a new user-friendly, mobile-responsive, aesthetically-pleasing website at the beginning of this year. It features beautiful photos of RHHS animals and is very easy to navigate.

A few of the exciting new features you will find are:

- An events calendar that allows you to add RHHS events directly to your phone or online calendar.
- A listing of our available pets that plugs right into our shelter software so pet status is as up-to-date as possible.
- The RHHS blog, which will be updated regularly to keep you in the loop with news and information from the pet world.
- A place for landlords to post their available pet-friendly rentals.
- Lost-and-found-pet forms for the public to post pictures and details about missing or found pets.
- An easy-to-use donation page that lets donors leave public messages on our donation scroll, sign up for recurring donations, or make a memorial donation in honor of a person or pet.
- Links to resources for pet owners and animal lovers.
- Mobile responsiveness to allow you to access our website from your phone, tablet, or mobile device.

In addition to the new website, RHHS is also ramping up its social media presence on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram with daily photos, videos, and information about our pets and events. We are also now sending regular e-newsletters in addition to our print newsletters to keep our supporters informed. You can sign up for our e-newsletter and find links to our social media pages on our website.

Hope's "Cinderella story" raises funds (and awareness) at HopeWest gala

Unlike the well-known fairy tale of Cinderella, we don't know much about Hope's past life. A kind soul found the bedraggled little 8-week-old Havanese/poodle mix wandering the streets the day after Christmas last year. Hope went to Mesa County Animal Services in an effort to find her owners, and when no one reclaimed her, she was brought to Roice-Hurst.

As it turned out, Roice-Hurst executive director Anna Stout had been looking for a rescue puppy to donate to HopeWest for its annual "Black Tie & Boots" gala Jan. 16th, to raise funds for their mission and awareness for ours. For years, an adorable purebred puppy had been donated by a local breeder for the live auction. This year, for the first time, the adorable puppy was going to be a homeless pet.

Just like Cinderella, Hope elicited many oohs and aahs upon her entrance into the ballroom, accompanied by Stout. And what happened during the live auction could have been scripted right out of a Disney movie.

The wonderful, generous couple who were the highest bidders for Hope already had a full, furry household. In a surprise move that delighted the crowd, the couple donated the puppy back to the second highest bidder, raising \$5,200.

"She was just perfect; everybody adored her," reported Dani Martin, HopeWest's marketing director. "We were delighted to have little Hope and hear she's doing well in her adoptive home." According to the Roice-Hurst staff, the sweet, adoptive family surprised their two young daughters with the addition of Hope, and they've brought her by the shelter to visit. As part of their adoption package, the family will be able to attend training classes that are planned to start soon at Roice-Hurst.

As a result of this novel collaboration, Hope received a loving family, Roice-Hurst raised awareness of the value of rescue pets, and HopeWest received funds to help care for community members coping with serious illness and grief. A true fairy-tale ending indeed!



Roice-Hurst executive director Anna Stout with Hope at the HopeWest "Black Tie & Boots" gala January 16th.



After a visit to the groomer and pampering worthy of a princess, Hope was ready to make her debut at the big ball!

Save the date for these great Roice-Hurst events:

4/16 – Woofstock;
Botanical Gardens

6/25 – Stray Grass;
Grande River Winery

8/19 – Roundup;
DoubleTree

10/1 – Bow Wow
Film Fest; Avalon

City Market donation program change

City Market is now requiring that customers renew their enrollment in the "Community Rewards" program at the first of every calendar year. You can do that on their website www.citymarketcommunityrewards.com and select Roice-Hurst Humane Society as your charity of choice. (Customers enrolled in this free program just need to swipe their value card every time they shop, and a portion of their grocery purchases will go directly to their designated nonprofit.)

If we don't have your name or address listed correctly, or if you prefer not to receive a newsletter or other future mailings from us, please contact Elaine Johnson-Craig at mej@acsol.net or 970-986-5819.

Coping with the loss of your best friend

Anyone who has ever loved - and lost - a pet knows how devastating it can be. "People often say that they grieved more for their dog than for their parent, sibling or grandparent," says Dr. Betty J. Carmack, author of *Grieving the Death of a Pet* and a pet loss counselor. "This is not a lesser grief. It is very profound and very real."

Why is it so hard to say goodbye? Dr. Linda R. Harper, clinical psychologist and facilitator of the WINGS Pet Loss Support Group in Chicago, explains:

Our relationships with our pets are like no other. They are a reliable constant; they love unconditionally and comfort us through difficult life transitions.

We may spend more time with our pets than anyone else; their loss leaves a huge hole in our days as well as our hearts.

Our pets give us a sense of purpose and meaning as their caregivers. When we lose them, we can feel we have lost a part of ourselves.

Pets fill our basic need for physical touch and affection.

What makes the loss of a pet especially hard is that the support network that usually comes with the passing of a human friend or family member may not be there. Comments like "get over it, it's only a cat (dog)" are not uncommon.

For anyone struggling with grief, talking with a fellow animal lover who "gets it" can help. There are also pet-loss support websites, pet-bereavement counselors, and books available. (Try www.petloss.com and www.pet-loss.net online.) Activities that may help include creating a memorial; writing down your feelings in a journal; creating a photo album; making a charitable donation in memory of your pet; or volunteering.



Family members, friends and shelter staff attend the blessing of a tree at Roice-Hurst that was donated by volunteer Cindy White in memory of her husband, Jim. Donors can provide a shade tree for the dog park area, or purchase for the shelter grounds, a decorative stone with a plaque in honor, or memory, of a beloved human or pet. For more information, contact fundraising co-chair Elaine Johnson-Craig at 970-986-5819, or mej@acsol.net.

When you feel the time

might be right to open

up your heart again,

please consider

bringing home another

pet. "We need to carry

on our pets' mission of

love," says Dr. Harper.

"I believe one of the

best tributes we can

give to our pets who

have passed away is to

adopt and love another

one - but only when

we are ready."

Georgie's "too-long tail"

In the animal rescue world, that term describes a pet that, for whatever reason, is having trouble getting or staying adopted. Unfortunately for Georgie, hers is one of our longer "tails;" a staff favorite who's had some really bad luck outside the shelter.

Georgie, a 7-year-old domestic short-haired cat, first came to Roice-Hurst in August of 2010 as a stray. She's been adopted - and returned - four times. Her most successful adoption lasted just over two years, but her owners moved and brought her back. The other three returns stemmed from her dislike of other animals and wanting to be the only pet.

Staff members say they love Georgie because she is: calm/mellow; very talkative; queen of the cat room; loves giving/receiving attention; and thoroughly enjoys basking in the morning sun. Georgie has had some weight problems, but she's doing great on her diet and has slimmed down from 19.6 to 14.9 pounds so far!

Could YOU be Georgie's best chance at a loving, forever home? For more information, contact Roice-Hurst cat behavior counselor Jodi Summers at 970-434-7337, ext. 103.



Big Love! Georgie is ready to come home with you!



From performing a wide variety of data entry tasks, to walking and socializing dogs, to helping at offsite events, to making items for craft fair booths, Shellee has significantly helped lessen the workload for staff members and other volunteers.

Volunteer spotlight: Shellee Highfill

A year and a half ago, Shellee and her husband moved to Western Colorado from Michigan. The first thing that Shellee (a life-long animal lover) vowed to do was find an animal shelter and volunteer. She's kept that vow in spades, averaging 20-25 hours a week helping both at, and away from, our facility.

"Without Shellee, I know I personally would be overwhelmed with paperwork," says volunteer coordinator and office staffer Emily Scanlon. "She loves the animals and is always happy when she's here."

Shellee's volunteer time will be a little more limited for a while, because she's adopted a puppy, too. Talk about going all in with Roice-Hurst! "I love it there, the people are so great to work with, and they're great with the animals," Shellee says. "The nicest thing is all the people I've been able to meet, and all the new friends I have. I can't imagine being at another shelter."

DID YOU KNOW that Roice-Hurst Humane Society won "BEST VOLUNTEER GROUP" in The Daily Sentinel's 2016 "Best of the West" contest? According to the Sentinel, more than 44,000 total votes overall were cast online for a variety of business and other categories. For information on joining our volunteer group, go online at www.rhhumanesociety.org or call 970-434-7337.

Joan overcomes her fear and finds the perfect home

Brought to Roice-Hurst with three other cats, Joan (who was featured on the front page of our 2015 fall newsletter) had a very low confidence level and some fear aggression. She never came out of her box, except at night to eat and drink. She would let you pet her only if you moved very slowly and only touched her head.

Cat behavior counselor Jodi Summers used interactive play with Joan to build her confidence and gain her trust. **Joan stopped hiding and became one of the most affectionate cats in the cat room, greeting everyone that came in.** She loved to be brushed, and was even learning to give high fives before catching the eye of adopters Brant Bear and Marissa Untalan.

"We couldn't have found a better cat for us," says Brant. "Because we were in college and working, we wanted a cat that was very loving but also independent. Joan is the sweetest thing ever, and we can leave her and know that when we come home, nothing's been disturbed or destroyed." Joan can still be shy with strangers and often hides when the couple has company, but she's not aggressive, Brant reports. **"Joan is exactly the cat we wanted, and we're so happy we got her!"**



Cat behavior counselor Jodi Summers used interactive play with Joan to build her confidence and gain her trust.



Photo by Barbara Geiger

"Licorice is darling, absolutely gorgeous; not one white hair on him. When he came home, we bonded in 24 hours."

Two kittens are better than one at the Hodges' household

Last September, Shirley Hodges was looking for a kitten. She had never had a male, so she automatically looked for a female. At the time, Roice-Hurst had more than one black kitten. When she went back to the shelter, picked up what she thought was her kitty and took it to the veterinarian to be spayed, **she got a big surprise: the "she" turned out to be a "he"!**

"Dr. Nancy and I had a good laugh over that one," says Shirley. As it turned out, Shirley is "thrilled with the accident" of mistaken identity.

Shirley already had a 12-year-old cat that gradually learned to tolerate the kitten's youthful exuberance, but it soon became clear that Licorice needed a companion more his age. So Shirley went back to Roice-Hurst six weeks later and adopted a little female kitten as a playmate. "Because she was the runt of the litter, I think she got extra attention from the staff member who fostered her," says Shirley. "Princess Peppermint now thinks she's royalty." **While she insists that "three is my limit," Shirley still enjoys going out to the shelter "just to look" at the new arrivals!**

Libby lifts spirits of hospice patient

Lanelle Newitt was looking for a very special dog: calm and gentle, since her husband Earl was at home in hospice care; but also watchful and protective, to alert her of visitors or strangers. Luckily, their grandson Lance is a dog behavior counselor at Roice-Hurst, and he had come across the perfect "blend" in Libby (formerly Irene), a two-year-old Akbash Dog transferred from a rural Colorado shelter.

At first, Libby didn't get along with the couple's small dogs, so Lance had to develop a step-by-step behavior modification plan to enable them to even be in the same room. Today, all the dogs are a "balanced pack" and get along well. Libby has formed a loving bond with her entire human family, but especially with Earl.

Libby barks softly to awaken Earl, perks him up and puts a smile on his face (before he was sleeping till late morning and was less engaged in daily life). Libby also sleeps next to his bed, where she can watch over him.

This perfect match turned out to be a blessing for Libby, too. She has a big ranch on the mesa on which to roam, where she can get the exercise and physiological stimulation her breed needs. But instead of guarding livestock, Libby has a much more important job now: bringing comfort, love and joy to her humans when they need it most.



"Most dogs are given up when someone goes into hospice. This dog has gotten a man in hospice out of bed and into a chair," marvels Earl's daughter, Connie.

Another hospice patient helped, thanks to kind adopter

When Abby's owner Joe went into hospice care and could no longer keep her, friends and family arranged for the 14-year-old greyhound mix to go to Roice-Hurst. Poor Abby was scared and trembling when she arrived, not used to being away from her home and Joe.

After seeing a post about Abby on the Roice-Hurst Facebook page, Janice's daughter called her immediately, and told her that Abby should be her new dog. Janice came in the next day, met Abby, and adopted her.

Not long after Janice left, one of Joe's loved ones came into the shelter to make a donation on Abby's behalf. He said he was on his way to see Joe, so **Dorothy, our shelter operations manager, printed a photo of Abby and Janice to show Joe that we had found his beloved pet another loving home, so he could rest easy.**

Janice says she didn't hesitate to welcome Abby into her home, even though she was already caring for three other senior dogs. **"These old dogs are so special," Janice relates. "They are gentle and wise and need a home because, for one reason or another, the home they knew all their lives is no longer available to them."** It's because of people like Janice that Roice-Hurst is able to re-home these senior dogs in need; could an older pet be a great fit for YOUR family?



"Janice was so sweet, she gave all of us hugs and said she just loves to give senior dogs a great life in what time they have left," says shelter operations manager Dorothy McClure.