



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
Carl Hughes, President
Brad Junge, Vice President
Matt Angleman, Secretary
Peter Bacich, Treasurer
Directors: Dr. Cathlin Craver, Jen-
nifer Seal, Hon. Lance Timbreza,
Stacy Mendell, Dean Harris, Jeff
Kuhr, PhD



RHHS COVID-19 Resources

We know this is a trying time for many of our community's pet owners. We are committing additional staff to our community resource programs to make sure pet owners have everything they need to prepare for and weather this pandemic.

- Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics.** Ensure your pets are up-to-date on vaccines in case they have to go into emergency boarding or foster care. Clinics are by appointment only, every other Sunday.
- Animal Resource Center - Pet Pantry.** Food and pet supplies for pet owners experiencing hardship. Delivery available.
- Animal Resource Center - Short-Term Boarding.** Emergency boarding for qualifying individuals in situations of short-term crisis.
- Cat & Dog Behavior Counseling.** Video or telephone consults to address problem pet behaviors. Free during stay-at-home orders.
- Companion Protect Pet Insurance.** Protect your pet (and your wallet!) from unforeseen medical emergencies. Get a quote at enroll. pet/YXBZJ6 and part of your fee comes back to RHHS.
- Grand Valley Emergency Pet Foster Network Facebook Page.** A community-based group to find longer-term temporary foster homes for people affected by the pandemic.
- RHHS Website & Social Media.** Follow us for info on COVID-19 and pets, things to do while isolating, cute videos, and more!

From the Executive Director's Desk

In early March, our incredible team sprang into action to implement phase one of the shelter's Emergency Plan. As the crisis unfolded throughout the country and in our own community, **we quickly adapted to constantly changing circumstances, statewide orders, and the needs of partner shelters, pet owners, and our community.**

Since then, we moved almost all our pets into homes—both foster and forever homes—to **free up space, staff, and resources for pets and pet owners affected by the pandemic.** We continue to serve you by appointment. Our staff has been creative in finding ways to help our community.

Animal shelters are considered a "critical" business, so our staff is still hard at work finding

forever homes for pets, delivering free critical resources to pet owners, and **making sure no pet in our community suffers in these uncertain times.** We are also still taking in pets and working daily with animals in our behavior programs. **The RHHS team has been an inspiration to me throughout all of this with their dedication, optimism, and agility in the face of uncertainty.**

I am humbled by the outpouring of support from our community—towards shelter pets and towards each other. Our volunteers were at the shelter unfailingly until we decided to suspend on-site volunteer activities for the safety of our community, and many continue to volunteer from home. More than 100 families offered to open their homes to our pets, too.



Executive Director Anna Stout & Rupert

I hear people talk about an eventual return to "normal" and after everything I've witnessed the past month, **I am hopeful we are creating something better to return to—at the shelter, in society, and in our individual lives.**

Thank you for your continued support. **Wishing you health, resilience, and a better normal.**

COVID Companions Foster Program

When you're doing your part to #stopthespread by staying at home, especially if you're on your umpteenth Netflix series, **you might as well share your couch with a furry friend in need!** That's the attitude of more than 100 Grand Valley residents who signed up for Roice-Hurst Humane Society's **COVID Companions Foster Program.**

"We have always had dogs but lost ours a while back," Sally Ozbun said. **"The foster program fills the empty part in our heart."**

Sally and her husband are fostering Tagalong, a 2-year-old Chihuahua mix.

The couple are the busy owners

of a seasonal business, which makes it difficult to welcome a permanent dog into their life. For the Ozbuns, **fostering a dog was a great way to spend time with a homeless pup, lend a helping hand, and stay occupied during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

"Having Tagalong around is a great diversion from the troubles we see with COVID-19," Sally said. **"I would recommend fostering to anyone that is struggling with the anxiety of the news and daily upset of our lives now.** Taking him for walks has been my exercise program since the gym is closed. His little tail goes a mile a minute.



When you see that, it makes you realize that the world keeps turning. Maybe you'll even forget to turn the news on!"

If you have room in your home and heart and want the company of a COVID Companion, visit our website to fill out an application!

Find COVID-19 resources for pet owners, an emergency pet preparedness checklist, and how to DOUBLE your donation for mobile veterinary outreach inside...

Preparedness Kits for Pets

One of the best ways to have peace of mind in times of crisis is to have a plan laid out for what happens to your pet if crisis strikes. There are two scenarios to prepare for: an emergency with your pet (like sheltering in place or quarantining) and an emergency that separates you and your pet.

The following list will help you prepare for an emergency in the event your pet must go into boarding or temporary care because something happens to you:

Emergency Kit Checklist

- 3 weeks of food stored in an airtight container
- 30-day supply of any medications or supplements
- Cat box, scoop, and litter
- Treats, toys, and other supplies your pet needs
- Sturdy leash, harness, and/or carrier
- Collar with ID tags
- Copies of most recent vaccination records
- Future Caregiver Forms filled out for each pet (available at rhumanesociety.org under the Community Resources tab), which include information about food, schedules, medical conditions, daily routines, and veterinarian information
- Contact information of the person or boarding facility that will take your pet(s)
- Copies of will/estate documents with instructions for your pets. Download sample language on our website under Community Resources.

\$20,000 Matching Challenge

To Prepare for Quick Deployment of the Mobile Unit

Earlier this year, a gracious donor approached us with a challenge: **he would donate \$20,000 to match any donations made specifically to get the mobile veterinary outreach vehicle ready for deployment.**

So now it's our turn to issue the challenge to you, our incredible supporters! **Please help us hit the \$20,000 matching goal** and make sure the mobile unit is ready to serve our community as soon as statewide orders are lifted. **(Please note "mobile unit matching donation" on your check or mark the box on the enclosed envelope to have your donation matched!)**

Our first surgeries for shelter pets and community cats were scheduled for late March, but the governor issued a statewide order on March 19 prohibiting non-essential veterinary

surgeries or procedures, including spays and neuters, which indefinitely suspended our launch date.

Though the vehicle is parked for now, **we know it will play a critical role for shelter and community pets the moment it can be deployed.**

All non-essential surgeries for our shelter pets are being deferred, community cats are breeding freely as we enter kitten season with no TNR (trap-neuter-return) happening, and pet owners are unable to access preventive care. **We are preparing now to deploy without delay to address these needs** and request your help to ensure we have all the supplies necessary to meet the needs of our community. **Please consider a donation of any amount today!**

We know you have questions about pets and COVID-19. Currently, there is no evidence pets can spread the virus to humans and there is no reason to surrender a pet to a shelter after exposure to a sick person. For information about pets and the virus, including what to do if you are sick, visit avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19.

Order your Corona Care Pack today!

Each customized package includes toys, treats, training tips, and a list of fun activities to do while staying at home with your pet! Free delivery throughout greater Grand Junction. Supplies limited. Suggested donation amounts and order form at:

rhumanesociety.org/corona-care-packs/



970-434-7337 rhumanesociety.org

The Kind of Story We Need Right Now

Michael found the perfect companion in his high-energy little puppy, Cash. But when his new job took him out of town, he felt it was **best to leave his pup with a family member until he could find housing that would allow his four-legged kid.**

Tragically and unexpectedly, that family member passed away. The loved ones handling her estate **didn't know Michael was out there waiting to be reunited with Cash**, and so they brought him to Roice-Hurst.

Once at the shelter, Cash was enrolled in the Calm Canines program to help with his energy levels and to teach him manners. He seemed to be deteriorating at the shelter, so **our team decided to send him to respite foster care** to give him a break from shelter life.

For eight months, Michael searched for Cash on every shelter website in the state.



Michael and Cash reunited at last

He finally saw him on the Roice-Hurst website and immediately contacted the shelter. Michael, who was living in Greeley at the time, drove hours to meet Anne, Cash's loving temporary foster, in Gypsum and be reunited with his crazy pup.

It was clear the bond had not suffered despite the time apart as **Cash rushed to Michael and jumped right into his car**, ready to go home with his forever family.

Mark Your Calendars! (in pencil...)

Like so many nonprofits, we are adapting to ever-changing circumstances. For now, these are the major events we are planning. We hope to add adoption events as public gathering restrictions change. We certainly have a new appreciation for what it means to gather with pets and fellow pet lovers and do not take that for granted. Join us to celebrate people AND pets!

July 24 - Wine & Whiskers Gala. The "Come-As-You-Are" Gala at Two Rivers Winery. Featuring the best pet-themed silent auction in town!

August 8 - Wüffstock Music Festival at Las Colonias Amphitheater featuring Telluride Bluegrass Festival winner Bowregard, local favorite Stray Grass, and Denver-based Leon & The Revival. Dog friendly!

September 25-26 - Shelter Break! A 2-day event that "locks up" community members with shelter pets on-site or at their own office!

Registration, ticketing, and information about these and other events can be found at rhumanesociety.org/events

To learn more about our response to COVID-19, meet our adoptable pets, or access resources for your pets, visit our website at rhumanesociety.org or call us at 970-434-7337.

Shelter Needs

Even though our doors are temporarily closed, there are still many ways to support shelter pets. While you are staying at home and keeping a safe physical distance from others, consider all the ways you can still make sure shelter pets have everything they need:

Donate. As the economy is inevitably impacted by this pandemic, donations will likely decrease, but we are still bringing in and caring for many pets. Please consider donating, whether online under the "Support" tab at rhumanesociety.org, by phone at 970-434-7337, ext. 100, or by mail. Every donation truly impacts the life of a shelter pet.

Create your own COVID Companion Fundraising Page. Raise money through your virtual networks on behalf of a shelter pet. Email Sandy@rhumanesociety.org to set up your personalized fundraising page!

Donate supplies. Check out our wish list at rhumanesociety.org/wish-list or order supplies directly from Amazon or Chewy and have them shipped directly to the shelter.

Foster a COVID Companion. We are moving our entire shelter population into foster care to ensure we can meet the emergency sheltering needs of our community in the coming weeks and months. It's hard to say who benefits more from having a COVID Companion at home!