



Roice-Hurst Humane Society

PO Box 4040
Grand Junction, CO 81502



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



Mission

Promoting bonds between
pets and their people

Vision

We envision a community
that is healthier for and
thanks to its pets.

Values

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

Board of Directors

Anna Stout, CEO
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Solving the Veterinary Shortage

From the CEO's Desk

In 2022, **Roice-Hurst Humane Society's programs served a surging number of pets and people.** On the surface, this increased impact seems to be reason for celebration. After all, almost 200 more pets joined new families in 2022 than the year prior!

In actuality, **the across-the-board rise in overall pet intake and demand for support programs is indicative of a community facing increased barriers to remaining united with their pets** — barriers including a lack of affordable, pet-friendly housing and rising inflation.

To make matters more challenging, as intakes increased in 2022, **access to routine veterinary care for shelters and pet owners alike restricted due to a national veterinary workforce shortage.**

Because unaltered pets filtered through our doors faster than spay/neuter surgery appointments became available, **we pivoted to a temporary foster-to-adopt system in 2022 to bypass the bottleneck,** moving pets into foster care with their soon-to-be adopters until surgery was performed.

Through collaboration with a wide array of partner vet clinics, traveling relief veterinarians, veterinary educators and students, and contract vets, **we battled the backlog of spay/neuter surgeries all year long.**

Continued inside ►

Open to read more about how Roice-Hurst Humane Society is working to combat the veterinary shortage with state-level advocacy.

970.434.7337 RHhumanesociety.org

From The CEO's Desk: Veterinary Shortage

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As the co-chair of the Animal Welfare Association of Colorado (AWAC)'s Advocacy Committee, I am proud to represent Roice-Hurst Humane Society and rural Colorado at the state level to propose solutions to this veterinary shortage.

Through the Vet Care Coalition, AWAC has advocated for the **Increasing Access to Veterinary Care Package**, a three-pronged legislative solution to expand Colorado's veterinary workforce.

The first prong is to increase access to care by codifying **veterinary telehealth**. This technology has been successful in human medicine for years, and expanding its use to veterinary medicine will enable more animals to receive timely care, especially in rural areas.

Secondly, we can maximize staff efficiency by expanding the role of **Veterinary Technician Specialists**. By providing and recognizing additional training and credentialing in certain specialties, Vet Tech Specialists will have better support, compensation, and career opportunities.

Finally, the creation of a **mid-level veterinary practitioner called a Veterinary Professional Associate (VPA)** will help veterinary clinics meet demand for services by expanding the veterinary workforce. This Master's degree-educated role will be comparable to a human Physician's Assistant – examining pets, diagnosing minor conditions, performing non-thoracic surgeries, and leading healthcare teams.

You can **support this state bill** by writing letters to state legislators and sharing your personal stories about difficulty accessing veterinary care to info@rhumanesociety.org with the subject line "Attn: Anna Stout Vet Access."

Spring 2023 Newsletter



As Roice-Hurst celebrates our 60th year of service in this community, I am reminded just how incredibly far animal welfare has come over the years, thanks to visionary people who dared to make progress to better the lives of pets and people. As always, I am so grateful for your support as we continue to make Colorado a better place for animals.



CEO Anna Stout &
Former Foster Bindi

Mark Your Calendars!

Get tickets as they become available at
RHhumanesociety.org/events



Stray Grass for Stray Pets Concert Saturday, May 13

Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

Bring your dog and enjoy an evening of food, drink, and live acoustic Americana music by popular local band Stray Grass!



60 Year Celebration

Saturday, June 17

Location To Be Announced

Join us in celebrating 60 years of transforming lives! Take a walk down memory lane, learn about our humble beginnings, and meet some of the pets that we continue to help today!



Furry Friends Kids Camp

July 24-July 27 from 8:45am-12pm

Roice-Hurst Humane Society

Your kiddo's been waiting all year for this! Children ages 6-12 will learn all about dogs and cats with activities that emphasize safety and compassion.



Wüffstock Music Festival

Saturday, August 5

Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park Lineup To Be Announced

Bring the whole family (including your dog!) for a fun evening of music at western Colorado's most beautiful venue!

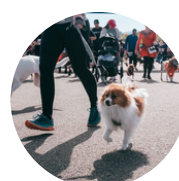


Wine & Whiskers Gala

Saturday, September 9

Two Rivers Winery

Come as you are, even if you're covered in pet hair! Sip local wine, enjoy heavy appetizers, bid in the auction, and meet the pets you help support.



Howl-o-ween Fun Run & Dog Walk

Sunday, October 29

Las Colonias Park

Dress up with your furry friend for a 5K or 1-mile fun run and dog walk!



Is your business interested in sponsoring an event? Visit RHhumanesociety.org/corporate

From Volunteer to Vet Student

For nearly two years, Roice-Hurst volunteer Macy Plano signed up to assist with any veterinary task that we offered — from handling pets for routine exams and low-cost vaccination clinics, to monitoring pets' vital signs as they woke up from spay/neuter surgery.

Today, Macy is a second-year veterinary student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

"The experience of volunteering at Roice-Hurst made me a **more competitive candidate** when applying for veterinary school and **prepared me to practice clinical skills**," Macy said. "The staff at Roice-Hurst were incredibly supportive throughout my journey and even wrote me a letter of recommendation. **I wouldn't have gotten to this point in my career without them!**"

Former RHHS volunteer and future veterinarian, Macy Plano



Interested in veterinary medicine?

Follow in Macy's footsteps! We are accepting volunteers to assist with veterinary tasks on clinic and surgery days — no experience needed!

Learn more and sign up at RHhumanesociety.org/volunteer.

Spring Into Kitten Season!

As the sun shines and flowers bloom, kittens start popping up in the strangest places — in bushes, under porches, you name it. Spring marks the start of **kitten season**, the time of year when cats reproduce and **hundreds of tiny felines funnel through our doors**.

Kitten season is incredibly resource-intensive, and **we need your help!**

The only way we can care for all of these kittens is our network of generous **foster homes**. If you have some extra space, time, and love to give, a kitten is depending on you. There are foster opportunities available for nearly all lifestyles, and **we provide all necessary supplies and vet care**.

Sign up to foster at RHhumanesociety.org/foster!

If you can't foster, support our kittens with a gift! Raising kittens requires many specialized supplies, like baby bottles and kitten formula. A baby like Cobbler will be very grateful for any gift you pick out from our wish list at RHhumanesociety.org/kittenseason.



Angels from Ariel

Every Friday, **our shelter cats look forward to a fun visit from their friends at Ariel Clinical Services**, an organization that provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Ariel clients volunteer as part of a collaboration between Ariel's Community Services and Supports program for adults and Roice-Hurst's Community Health Through Shelter Pets program.

Interacting with pets provides profound benefits — increased social connections, empathy, self-worth, and overall happiness. Plus, our shelter pets love it, too!

Dayshe, Chuck, and David are Ariel clients



"My favorite part is helping cats find good homes," said David, an Ariel client. **"You have to be patient with them and think about how they feel."** Through volunteering, the group has learned about respecting boundaries by reading feline body language.

For Dayshe, another client, it's the sweet cuddles and soft fur that makes volunteering rewarding. For Chuck, it's **knowing that the time he spends playing and socializing with the cats makes a difference**.

"You've got to show them love," Chuck said.

For a shelter cat like Dixie, **gentle pets and engaging playtime with volunteers can make the journey to a new home exponentially easier**.





Lives Transformed

Each day, pets and people find the help they need at Roice-Hurst Humane Society. These are just a couple of our favorite stories of pets we met recently.

Best Furriends

Months passed as a shy, black cat named Wally waited in a foster home for an adopter to pick him, with no luck. Eventually, he returned to the shelter and **struggled to feel comfortable in his new environment.**

At the shelter was **a kitten named Toby**, who coincidentally shared a similar background and the same uneasy feelings that Wally had.



Toby and Wally snuggle paw-in-paw

Our team placed the boys in a kennel together, and **they both lit up!** Immediately, the cats snuggled up together and gained instant confidence.

Just one day later, a family came looking to adopt a cat. After witnessing the special bond between Wally and Toby, **they knew they had to welcome both to the family!** Their sweet bond continues to grow in their new home.

Wally and Toby became best buds at Roice-Hurst!



Love on Wheels

This winter, five nearly-identical small dogs were rescued from unsanitary living conditions by Delta authorities. Six-year-old **Merlin was in the worst shape of them all – unable to stand or walk, incontinent, and covered in mats and waste.**

At first, Merlin was so weak and immobile that he needed to be flipped from one side to the other every few hours to prevent sores.



After a vet exam, a thorough cleaning and grooming, a delicious meal, and a fateful move into the most loving foster home, Merlin's spirits lifted. **What he lacked in physical ability, he made up for in sweetness and charisma.**

Finding an adoptive home for a disabled pet is often a long and taxing challenge. Luckily for Merlin, he was home all along! **His foster mom Jenna loved him so much, she decided to promote him to a permanent family member.**

Today, after months of physical therapy, **Merlin zooms around the house in his homemade wheelchair** and is living the life he's always deserved.

"He's getting stronger every day," Jenna said. "I wouldn't trade this little guy for anything."

Merlin recently began standing and stumbling unassisted – **a hopeful testament to the incredible love his family has poured into him.**

Paralyzed Merlin was adopted by his loving foster family!

ASK CORALINE

Coraline is Roice-Hurst's resident all-knowing office cat. She joined our team in 2015.

Dear Coraline,
How can I make sure my pets stay safe and cared for in a crisis or emergency situation?

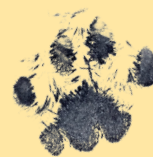
In my eight years at Roice-Hurst, I've witnessed thousands of pets find homes. Sadly, I've also seen thousands of pets become separated from loving families due to lost housing, financial hardship, owner illness or death, and other heartbreaking emergencies.

Spring cleaning is the purrfect time to get organized and prepared. Ensure your pet is easily identifiable and all information is up-to-date. Put together a pet emergency kit, complete with pet supplies, first aid, and vet records.

With my expurr guidance, Roice-Hurst offers a variety of support programs to help you remain united with your pet through tough times.

Owner illness or death is the third most common reason pets come through our doors. Create or update your will to include plans for your pets and detailed instructions for a future caregiver.

Find sample directives, templates for future caregivers, and much more information about planning for your pets and at RHhumanesociety.org/planforpets.



CORALINE

