



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.

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60 Years of Roice-Hurst

The support you showed for Roice-Hurst at our 60-Year Celebration event in June was incredible! **It was beyond inspiring to gather with hundreds of supporters who have enabled the survival and success of this organization for six decades through your unwavering generosity.**

In preparation for the event, we dug up sixty years of newspaper clippings to uncover Roice-Hurst's long and fascinating history.

In 1963, no animal services or humane society existed in the area at the time.

When a compassionate young girl stumbled upon a mother dog huddled with her newborn puppies underneath an old mattress at the landfill, a community-wide movement kindled Mesa County Humane Society, which later became Roice-Hurst Humane Society. Our first kennels were a chicken coop on Joe Roice's land.



Scan the code with your smartphone to learn more
about Roice-Hurst's fascinating 60-year-long history.

Sixty years did not pass without major challenges, but fierce supporters simply refused to give up on the pets of western Colorado.

Today, Roice-Hurst is undoubtedly stronger and more impactful than ever before, thanks to you.

Before the event, we asked past adopters to submit photos and stories of their beloved Roice-Hurst alumni from throughout the decades, and **we received more than 70 adorable and heartwarming submissions of former shelter pets leading the enriched, love-filled lives we wish for every pet.** If you've ever adopted a pet from Roice-Hurst, whether sixty years ago or six days ago, we'd love to hear your story at RHhumanesociety.org/happytails.



From the CEO's Desk

Veterinary Telehealth is the Future

In our spring newsletter, I shared about the **state-level advocacy work being done to address the national veterinary workforce shortage** through the Vet Care Coalition's Increasing Access to Veterinary Care proposed legislation.

I'm disappointed to share that the effort failed to make it through the legislative session.

A key part of the proposed solution was to increase access to vet care through the growing practice of veterinary telehealth — **a safe and convenient way to reduce barriers to timely vet care**, especially in underserved areas, and minimize stress in pets by delivering veterinary care via remote technology, like video calls.

Veterinary telehealth is not new.

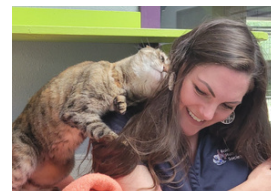
During the pandemic, an executive order was issued in Colorado allowing the practice, but we've now reverted to pre-pandemic laws.

Telemedicine is already a widely-used, trusted, and productive tool used in human healthcare, including pediatric care. Our pets deserve accessible care, too.

Several states have already embraced virtual vet care, and legislation is pending in others. Even Walmart has begun offering veterinary telehealth services to select customers.

Despite our legislative loss this year, **veterinary telehealth is a solution for expanded, accessible, and low-stress vet care that Colorado pets and their people deserve.**

In other news, you may have heard that I've **announced my candidacy to serve Colorado's 3rd Congressional District.** Since 2019, I've had the honor and privilege of spending time in various public service roles alongside my duties at Roice-Hurst. These experiences and connections have enhanced my contributions to Roice-Hurst as its CEO, and this next step into a higher level of public service is one that I am confident will continue to augment the important work happening at our shelter. Throughout my campaign, **it is our intention that I will continue to serve as CEO alongside this incredible team we have built.**



CEO Anna Stout & Shelter Cat Layla

MESA COUNTY

FOSTER PET CHALLENGE

Will you open your heart and home to a temporary foster pet? Roice-Hurst Humane Society and Mesa County have a goal of recruiting 100 new foster families!

When you take home a foster dog or cat, you expand our community's capacity to care for pets and make a difference for an animal in need. Plus, it's all the fun of having a new pet at home without the long-term commitment or cost, because Roice-Hurst provides supplies and vet care for foster pets until they are adopted!

If fostering isn't an option at home, you can still help! **Every \$150 donated to RHHS mentioning the Foster Pet Challenge** will offset the cost of caring for a foster pet & count as a foster family closer to our goal.

RHhumanesociety.org/foster

Howl-o-ween 5K & 2K

Whether your canine companion is ready to race or is more content with an easy autumn walk, dress up with your pup and join Roice-Hurst and the Grand Junction Sports Commission for the second annual **Howl-o-ween 5K & 12K Fun Run and Dog Walk, presented by St. Mary's Medical Center** on Saturday, October 28! Learn more and register at RHhumanesociety.org/5K



Update on the Wüffstock Music Festival

We regret to share that the Wüffstock Music Festival will not take place in 2023 due to a decision by the concert venue to give our reserved date to a bigger act. The primary intent of this annual event is to raise crucial funds to fuel our work, but unfortunately, attempts to book a new date and act that would yield meaningful proceeds have been unsuccessful. To all who anticipated this event, we share in your disappointment and hope to see you at future events.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

This summer, **Roice-Hurst Humane Society** partnered with **FreeWill**, an online estate planning tool that guides you through the process of creating a legally valid will or trust for free in just **20 minutes or less**.

Creating a will protects your assets, loved ones, and beloved pets if they outlive you. It also allows you to establish your legacy as an animal lover when you include Roice-Hurst Humane Society as a beneficiary, perpetually helping pets in need long after your lifetime at no cost today.

Get started at
freewill.com/
roicehurst.

Scan with your
phone's camera to
start your free will!



In Memoriam: **Ozzie**

After 18 years as an adored family pet to dedicated Roice-Hurst supporters Roger and Janet, Ozzie the cat passed away earlier this summer. His family remembers him as a truly special companion. **Ozzie not only left a lasting legacy in the hearts of his family – all of his earthly belongings were generously donated to the shelter cats at Roice-Hurst**, including an incredible 750 pounds of cat litter and more than 40 cans of cat food. Thank you, Ozzie and family!

Homeward Hounds



Homeward Hounds is an innovative collaboration between Roice-Hurst Humane Society and HomewardBound of the Grand Valley that **allows houseless pet owners to sleep securely in a private, climate-controlled Pallet shelter with their pets**. Roice-Hurst stocks an on-site Pet Pantry, while HomewardBound provides meals, showers, and support services.

Bruce and his dog, Otis, are regulars at Homeward Hounds.

"A lot of places, you have to lock them up outside and then you're always worrying," Bruce said.

Bruce credits Otis with helping him survive mental health challenges.

"One of the worst things about being homeless is you lose your purpose," Bruce said. **"He's probably rescued me more than I rescued him."**

Homeward Hounds was created thanks to a generous grant from PetSmart Charities.

VIDEO:

Scan to watch
Bruce and Otis'
touching story.



Boarding: Keeping Families Whole

After losing his home and family, **all Roan had left were his two dogs, Cleo and Titan**. Roan was scheduled to begin inpatient mental health treatment, but he couldn't bear the thought of rehoming his beloved pets to do so.

"We were literally crying trying to figure out what's going to happen to these dogs because they mean so much to my son," Roan's mother, Sarah, said. "Then we heard about Roice-Hurst's crisis boarding program."

To prevent the rehoming of wanted, loved animals, **our crisis boarding program pays for short-term pet boarding for people experiencing personal crises**, allowing them time and space to get back on their feet before permanently reuniting with their pets.

The day Roan entered treatment, **Cleo and Titan moved into temporary care with Your Best Friends Boarding Kennel**, one of several local facilities partnering with Roice-Hurst.

The dogs remained well cared for during Roan's time in the hospital, and **the trio joyfully reunited upon his discharge**. Afterward, Roan moved out-of-state to live with his parents, with Cleo and Titan by his side.

"He's got an awful lot of support here," Sarah said. "Having the dogs has been very beneficial for him, both physically and mentally. **This service is absolutely invaluable and a real blessing to keep them together.**"

Pets are profound sources of comfort, familiarity, and purpose. Losing that support in an already difficult time can be devastating.

So far this year, our crisis boarding program has served 19 cats and 37 dogs, keeping families whole through hard times. This program is funded by Roice-Hurst Humane Society's generous community of donors.

Names of people and pets in this story have been changed at the family's request for anonymity.



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.

Draco from Delta

Draco was found as a stray – shockingly skinny, wounded, and muddy – and brought to Roice-Hurst's Delta Satellite Facility. While his body was in rough shape, his spirit remained vibrant!

Draco quickly earned a reputation for being goofy, energetic, and extremely food-motivated. In just a month, Draco gained more than 10 pounds and his injuries healed. By the time was ready for a new home, he felt like a brand new dog!

"We matched right away," his adopter, Calvin, said. **"He's getting chubby! His coat has gotten shiny and colorful. He's really healthy."**

Draco arrived at Roice-Hurst as a malnourished stray.



Tough Temple

This summer, a spicy, independent outdoor cat named **Temple** climbed into a vacant home's air conditioning system and gave birth inside of a wall – seemingly the most secluded place she could find to raise her three boys: Coco, Mouse, and Fig.

After the family was discovered, **Temple and her kittens moved into a more suitable home with a loving foster family, despite Temple's hissy attitude.**



Temple snuggled up with her babies in foster care.

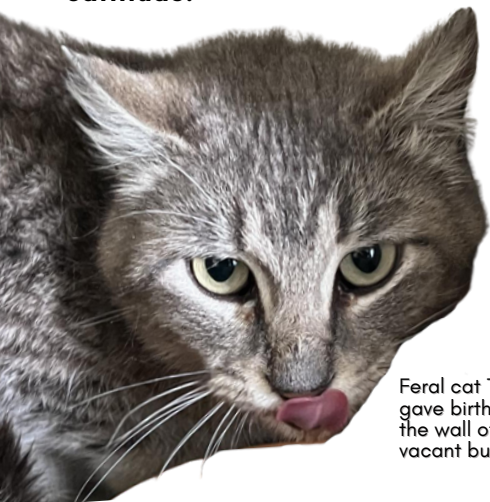
"Fostering them was an interesting experience and I am glad we did it," Temple's foster, Brooke, said. "We kept things calm around her to keep her stress low, and we focused on socializing the kittens."

This adorable crew are just a few of more than 300 kittens we've welcomed to Roice-Hurst so far this kitten season.

Caring for so many kittens would not be possible without fosters like Brooke and her family.

After successfully raising her kittens, Temple was spayed and **landed her dream job as a mouser at farm in Fruita!**

Feral cat Temple gave birth inside the wall of a vacant building.



ASK CORALINE

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

Dear Coraline, What kinds of enrichment opportunities are shelter pets given at Roice-Hurst?

I'm glad you asked! As a socially conscious shelter, Roice-Hurst is proud to provide individualized behavioral and medical care for each pet that comes through its doors – including me!

After participating in Jackson Galaxy's prestigious Cat Pawsitive Pro program in 2021, the team created our own daily enrichment program called Shelter Pawsitive.

In addition to routine exercise and play time, staff and volunteers use various enrichment tools that engage shelter pets' senses – classical tunes, tasty treats, interactive puzzles, fun games, play groups, and calming scents.

My favorite enrichment tool of all is clicker training. My coworkers taught me fun tricks like high five, spin, and more!

Enrichment reduces stress and boredom and improves a pet's mental health and behavior – even your pets at home could benefit from enrichment activities.

Some of the top items on our wish list are enrichment supplies, like snuffle mats, feeding mats, Kongs, various toys – and don't forget an extra bag of treats for me!

You can find our full wish list at RHhumanesociety.org/wishlist.

CORALINE

