



Robert D. Rohde
President and CEO

How does one define a compassionate life? Perhaps it's through service to those most vulnerable. In the case of Bob Rohde, president and CEO of the Dumb Friends League for nearly 40 years, it has been a life devoted to animals that cannot speak for themselves.

Bob began working at the Dumb Friends League as an animal care technician in 1973 after moving to Colorado from his home state of Iowa. Quickly rising through the ranks, Bob was named executive director of the Dumb Friends League in 1977 and subsequently became president and CEO. Since that time, his strong leadership, emphasis on strategic planning, and visionary program development have helped create one of the nation's most innovative and highly regarded animal welfare organizations. Today, the Dumb Friends League is one of the five largest local, nonprofit humane societies in the United States in terms of programs and number of pets saved each year.

Bob has devoted his career and life to the welfare of animals and is a leading national figure in animal welfare causes. A strong believer that "working together works," he participates locally and nationally in improving animals' lives through collaboration. Bob serves on the boards of the National Council on Pet Population Study and the CATalyst Council, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to changing society's image of cats and working to improve their health and welfare. In the commercial arena, he serves on the advisory boards of Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc., Banfield Pet Hospital, HomeAgain, Merck and Merial.

Bob and his wife share their home with Dudley, a standard poodle mix who was adopted from the Dumb Friends League and is a frequent guest at the Quebec Street shelter.



John Nagy
Vice President of Finance and Administration

As a well-respected nonprofit organization known for its transparency and integrity, the Dumb Friends League strives every day to be a good steward of the resources it receives from the public to make a difference in homeless animals' lives. Critical to that effort is John Nagy.

Our vice president of finance and administration was drawn to the opportunity to work in a community-oriented nonprofit organization in 1991 following 20 years of management, accounting and banking experience at various for-profit organizations. Since then, John's well-honed financial/business perspective has proven invaluable as the Dumb Friends League has grown in size, scope and number of animals served.

John holds a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's in management from Indiana University. He is past president and a current member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA) and a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA), as well as a member of SAWA's Finance and Certification Council committees and the Colorado Society of Association Executives.

John is married with two daughters, three grandchildren, five grand-dogs, two grand-cats and an assortment of small mammals.



Apryl Steele, DVM
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives

The challenges involved in animal welfare, both at the Dumb Friends League and throughout our community and state, are becoming increasingly complex. At the same time, the opportunities for saving more pets' lives are greater than ever. As vice president of strategic initiatives, Apryl Steele is charged with developing and coordinating strategic innovations and solutions along with our team to achieve our mission of ending pet homelessness and animal suffering.

A dynamic leader as well as a practicing veterinarian in Denver for 18 years, Apryl has extensive knowledge of our community and animal welfare. She is a past president of the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society, the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and the Animal Assistance Foundation. Apryl is currently on the board of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, has served on the boards of PetAid Colorado and the Dumb Friends League, and is a veteran of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

Apryl and her partner share their home with two dogs, Mister and Reba, and two cats, Karou and Akiva.



Rick D. Gabrielson

Vice President of Development and Communications

One seemingly minor event can sometimes change the course of a life. In Rick Gabrielson's case, it was his experience volunteering at the Animal Humane Society in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn., that fueled his interest in animal welfare and caused him to trade a career in dentistry for a career in nonprofit management and development.

Rick joined the staff of the Animal Humane Society in 1985 and worked there for 21 years, eventually becoming director of development for the organization. In 2006, Rick came to the Dumb Friends League, where he is responsible for leading, managing and growing the agency's multi-channel fundraising programs, in addition to overseeing its strategic communications, humane education and marketing programs. With nearly 28 years of experience in his second profession, Rick has created, implemented and enhanced numerous development, communications and marketing efforts, including transforming the organization's Furry Scurry® dog walk into the largest walk for animals in the United States, grossing more than \$1 million each year for the past four years and increasing participation to approximately 12,000 people and 5,000 dogs.

Rick holds a bachelor's degree from Augustana College and a doctor of dental surgery degree from Loyola School of Dentistry and the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. He is a member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators, the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable.

Three adopted dogs have found their forever home with Rick: Georgia, a West Highland terrier, from the Animal Humane Society, and Dumb Friends League alums Elliott, an Affenpinscher, and Hunter, a short-haired dachshund.



Duane Adams
Vice President of Field and Equine Services

Abused and neglected animals in Colorado have more hope for better lives, thanks to the 30 years of real-world animal welfare experience Duane Adams brings to the Dumb Friends League. As vice president of field and equine services, Duane oversees animal cruelty investigations at the Dumb Friends League and equine operations at the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center™, a rehabilitation and adoption facility for neglected and abused horses that have been removed from owners by law enforcement authorities.

Prior to joining the Dumb Friends League in 2010, Duane held positions as executive director of the Yavapai Humane Society in Prescott, Ariz., executive director of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society in Santa Fe, N.M., and vice president of operations and animal services at the Arizona Humane Society in Phoenix. He is director of The Colorado Humane Society & SPCA, a commissioned agent of the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Protection, a member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators and of the Colorado Horse Council, and president of the board of the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance.

Duane lives in Denver with his wife, two adopted Chihuahuas, Squirt and Cupid, a step-dog named Pablo and two step-cats, Boo Boo and Luna.



Marta Diffen, CAWA
Director of Development

Having grown up in an animal-friendly family that included hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats, dogs and horses, Marta brings a passion for animals and a lifelong desire to contribute to her community to the Dumb Friends League. As our director of development, Marta oversees the League's fundraising efforts, including annual giving, major gifts, direct mail, planned giving and special events.

Marta's career in animal welfare began in 2000 at Michigan Humane Society in Detroit, Mich., where she worked in community and media relations and operations before joining the development department in 2005. She subsequently held various leadership positions within the department before becoming vice president and chief development officer at the organization. Marta holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in public administration from Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, and is a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator.

Marta shares her home with a cat named Joey and is looking forward to hiking, kayaking, cycling and whitewater rafting in her newly adopted state of Colorado.



Garret Leonard
Director of the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center™

A professional horseman for 20 years, Garret Leonard brings a love of horses, as well as expert riding and training skills, to his position as director of our Harmony Equine Center. Located near Franktown, Colo., the 168-acre center provides relief from suffering, rehabilitation and chances for new lives to abused and neglected horses that have been removed for their owners by law enforcement agencies.

Garret oversees a staff of six, several on-call equine veterinarians and farriers, and approximately 80 volunteers who provide equines at the center with nutritious food, expert veterinary care, clean stalls, loving care and gentle training based on natural horsemanship techniques. Since its opening in 2012, the Harmony Equine Center has received more than 500 abused or neglected horses, ponies, donkeys and mules from throughout Colorado. Once the animals at the Harmony Equine Center are restored to health, they are offered for adoption to responsible new owners through an application and interview process.

Garret holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla. He has two black Labs and four horses that he uses to help train the animals that come to the Harmony Equine Center.



Anna Neubauer
Director of Veterinary Services

At 14 years old, Anna Neubauer started working at a veterinary clinic and volunteering for a local animal welfare organization in northern California. Those early experiences—along with a passion for promoting the human-animal bond—formed the foundation for her career, including her current work as director of veterinary services for the Dumb Friends League.

In that capacity, Anna oversees a staff of three managers, six full-time veterinarians and 23 veterinary technicians, spay/neuter coordinators and foster care coordinators at both of our shelters. The veterinary team provides life-changing—and sometimes lifesaving—care to thousands of cats, dogs and small mammals each year. In fiscal year 2014 alone, the Dumb Friends League veterinary team performed 7,194 spay/neuter surgeries on newly adopted pets, as well as 1,889 dental surgeries and 1,206 orthopedic, soft tissue and wound-repair surgeries on homeless pets at our shelters.

Anna earned her bachelor's degree in biological science from Colorado State University and is currently in her final year at the University of Colorado–Denver, where she is obtaining a master of public administration degree in nonprofit management. Prior to joining the Dumb Friends League in 2010, Anna was clinic director at the Fort Collins Spay/Neuter Clinic in Fort Collins, Colo., as well as co-founder of Fort Collins Cat Rescue.

Anna and her husband have two children, two dogs (Millie and Murdoc) and two cats (Sweet Pea and Mama Kitty).



Matt Levien
Director of the Buddy Center

Our Buddy Center in Castle Rock, Colo., is the only full-service animal shelter in Douglas County, which has a population of more than 305,000 residents. As director of the Buddy Center, Matt Levien oversees all operations, programs and services at the shelter, including adoptions, lost and found, pet intake, animal care, veterinary services and foster care. He is also responsible for managing the Buddy Center's relationships with multiple local and regional shelters and animal control agencies that contract with the Buddy Center to serve as a holding facility for stray and impounded animals from their jurisdictions.

Matt earned his bachelor's degree in zoology from Washington State University and is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), the international testing and certification resource for animal training and behavior professionals. His 10-year career with the Dumb Friends League started with a part-time position at the Buddy Center that turned into a supervisor role, after which Matt transferred to the Behavior department at the Quebec Street Shelter and moved from a technician to the behavior manager there. He was promoted to director of the Buddy Center in April 2015.

Matt and his wife, also a Dumb Friends League employee, have two young boys and share their very full house with two cats and two dogs.



Eva DeTolve
Director of Veterinary Services

Eva DeTolve knew as a child that she wanted to spend her life working to improve animals' lives. She adopted her first shelter dog, a Rottweiler named Max, while in college, and through this exceptional dog, Eva was drawn to being a voice for animals that did not have a family or owner to speak for them.

As director of veterinary services for the Dumb Friends League, Eva's goal is to advocate for every shelter pet's quality of life. She oversees a staff of three managers, eight veterinarians and 23 veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, spay/neuter coordinators and foster care coordinators at both of our shelters. The veterinary team provides life-changing—and often lifesaving—care to thousands of cats, dogs and small mammals each year.

Eva earned her associate of applied science degree in veterinary technology from Bel-Rea and her bachelor's degree in biology/zoology from Metro State University in Denver. Over the past 15 years, she has managed several veterinary hospitals, including two specialty and emergency practices, in addition to serving as executive director of Adams County Animal Shelter for four years.

Eva and her husband share their home with a pack of rescue dogs, led by Small Man, the three-legged Chihuahua.