

*At the Dumb Friends League, we work collaboratively with partners who support our mission, programs and events, creating a community of compassion to help the more than 21,000 homeless pets and horses who come through our shelter doors each year. In this bi-annual Impact at a Glance report, we're sharing some of the stories and programs that are made possible with the support of our partners.*

## A lifetime more of love...

Lucky, an adult retriever mix, came to the Dumb Friend League Solutions – Veterinary Hospital with a mass on his back that was making it difficult and painful for him to walk. Our



veterinarians discovered through diagnostic testing that the large mass was pulling on Lucky's spine. Immediately taking Lucky to surgery,

veterinarians were able to safely remove a 20-pound growth! Lucky's care, including neuter surgery, cost his family just \$700.00.

Lucky's story is an amazing example of the cases seen at Solutions – Veterinary Hospital each day. There are thousands of pets in the Denver metropolitan area suffering from illnesses and injuries. Many concerned owners, like Lucky's family, know that something is wrong, but unfortunately carry on without seeking treatment because they simply cannot afford the care their pet desperately needs.

While some believe those who cannot afford pets should not have them, it is important to acknowledge the incredible value these relationships have for both people and their pets. An owner's inability to treat a debilitating condition should not result in the suffering or death of that



pet. Solutions – Veterinary Hospital's purpose is to help people struggling to care for their pets, ensure that pets don't suffer because care is unattainable and allow people and pets to stay together.

We thank our compassionate partners for supporting Solutions – Veterinary Hospital with the resources necessary to help pets like Lucky and his family have a lifetime more of love together.

## Verdict reached in Morgan County animal abuse case

March 27, 2018 was the first day of new lives for 11 horses and several other animals. After receiving complaints from neighboring properties, the Dumb Friends League Colorado Humane Society, with support from the Morgan County Sheriff's Office, discovered these animals living in dire conditions. Starving, emaciated and near-death without access to food or water, the animals were removed from the property, and the 11 horses were taken to the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center where they received the compassionate care necessary to save their lives.



Garret Leonard, director of the Harmony Equine Center, testified for a staggering four hours at the trial on behalf of these horses. Leonard noted their poor body conditions, presenting heart-wrenching before and after photos, weight gain reports, hoof conditions and veterinary reports as

evidence that the horses likely would not have survived without intervention. On Thursday, October 10, 2019, a verdict was reached. Thanks to Leonard's testimony and collaboration with other agencies, the property owner was found guilty of animal cruelty, and on January 15, 2020, she was

sentenced to six years in prison.

Support from our partners helps Colorado Humane Society protect suffering animals as we investigate, prosecute and monitor cases of animal mistreatment and neglect in 45 of the state's 64 counties.

## Pet Assist:

### helping people and pets in crisis

Imagine a fire destroys a person's home, someone is temporarily hospitalized, or another is struggling in a domestic violence situation and must leave quickly. If that person has a pet, they could be faced with a choice to give up their furry companion because they can't afford to board their animal and they don't know anyone who can help. Or, these pet owners may be faced a choice between refusing vital care or leaving their pet in a dangerous environment. Thanks to the Dumb Friends League Pet Assist program, people and pets in crisis have an alternative.

In 2016, the Pet Assist program became formalized to support pets and their owners in domestic violence situations. Over the years, the program has transformed and expanded to help those in need of a safe place for their pet to live due to factors that leave them temporarily unable to care for their animals.

Anyone can contact the League about the Pet Assist program, and community caseworkers can reach out on a pet owner's behalf. The League's foster team assesses the person's situation and the animal to ensure they are a fit for the program.

As part of the program, the owner must temporarily relinquish their pet to the League, which allows us to provide veterinary



care and place the pet in a foster home or shelter foster kennel. However, the pet's owner is the only person that can claim the animal within the agreed upon timeframe. The animals in the Pet Assist program are held initially for three weeks, and the duration can be extended as needed based on an owner's specific circumstances and the resources of the shelter. All animals accepted into the program are vaccinated and receive an evaluation by one of our veterinarians.

"The Pet Assist program is one that touches our community members, and we are all so very proud of the help we can provide," said Tori Williams, veterinary services manager. "Our goal is to keep these pets with the loving owners they already have, instead of trying to find new ones. We all fall on hard times, and I am so glad we are able to provide this resource."

*For the story of one community member who was supported by Pet Assist in a time of crisis, visit [ddfl.org/news/tails-of-redemption](http://ddfl.org/news/tails-of-redemption).*

#### Corporate partnerships & sponsorship opportunities

Rebecca Orozco  
Corporate Partnership Manager  
720.241.7085  
[rorozco@ddfl.org](mailto:rorozco@ddfl.org)

#### Grants & foundation opportunities

Kelly Beals  
Foundation Partnership Manager  
720.241.7151  
[kbeals@ddfl.org](mailto:kbeals@ddfl.org)

#### Our mission

Working with our compassionate community, we will end pet homelessness and animal suffering.