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

Our Community Commitment
As an organization, the Dumb Friends League is guided by:

Compassion for all animals that come through our doors—whether they are lost, relinquished or suffering, we will give them the treatment and care they need.

Compassion for every person that enters our facilities—whether they are here to adopt, find their lost pet or here because they are unable to care for their pet and trust us to treat it with love and kindness.

Compassion for people and animals in our community—providing spay/neuter services at reduced fees, investigating instances of animal mistreatment and neglect, offering behavior counseling to pet owners and delivering humane education to teach respect for animals.

## Board of Directors, 2016-2017

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Vice President of Development & Communications  
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Vice President of Operations  
Duane Adams

## Locations

**Quebec Street Shelter**  
2080 S. Quebec St.  
Denver, CO 80231

Adoptions  
Monday–Friday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Weekends: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Appointments available

Pet Intake/Lost and Found  
Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Weekends: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Appointments available

**Buddy Center™**  
4556 Castleton Court  
Castle Rock, CO 80109

Adoptions  
Monday–Friday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Weekends: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Pet Intake/Lost and Found  
Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Weekends: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center™**  
5540 E. Hwy. 86  
Franktown, CO 80116

Adoptions  
By appointment and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays:  
11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
All locations are closed on major holidays.

## Partner Adoption Locations

Dumb Friends League Adoption Center at Petco  
4100 E. Mexico Ave.  
Denver, CO 80222

Adoptions  
Daily: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
303.918.1315  
Select Petco and PetSmart stores feature our adoptable cats.  
See ddfl.org for details.

## Contact Us

303.751.5772  
Adoptions, Pet Intake, Donations, Volunteer and Job Information

+6022 Investigations  
+7190 Harmony Equine Center  
+1321 Humane Education  
+1359 Pet Behavior Helpline  
+7272 Spay/Neuter  
+1378 Special Events

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Jenny Herren  
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Director of Development  
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Over the years, I’ve been blessed to see partnerships blossom among animal welfare organizations and animal service providers that are helping all of us move closer to ending pet homelessness and animal suffering. Now, I’m thrilled to announce a new collaboration that demonstrates the commitment of both local and national organizations to addressing one of our greatest challenges: cat overpopulation.

In early 2017, the Dumb Friends League plans to open a spay/neuter clinic for cats that will offer fully subsidized spay/neuter surgeries for any and all cats as another means of reducing pet overpopulation in our community. The clinic will be located at PetAid Colorado on 191 Yuma St. in Denver, which some of you may know as the former Harrison Animal Hospital. We will be leasing a surgical suite at this facility and staffing it with members of our Dumb Friends League veterinary team. Hours and other details are still being finalized.

The new facility and program are being funded for a three-year period by generous grants from the Animal Assistance Foundation, PetSmart Charities and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), as well as by the Dumb Friends League. I am pleased to say that we also have the endorsement of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to undertake this project, and the local veterinary community is standing behind us in agreement that this is the right thing to do for the cats and people of our community.

This program will augment—not replace—our mobile spay/neuter program, and our goal is to spay or neuter 10,000 cats per year at the new clinic. We will perform spay/neuter surgeries on owned cats, feral cats, trap-neuter-return (TNR) cats and community cats (defined as free-roaming cats, whether tame or feral). We will be working closely with other local organizations, including Denver Animal Protection, Metro Denver C.A.T., the Animal Assistance Foundation and a number of rescues and TNR groups, for trapping and transporting services. And all spay/neuter surgeries at our new facility will be 100 percent subsidized with no income qualifications.

Of course, we realize that you can’t just open a spay/neuter clinic and “they will come.” As part of this proactive new program to reduce the number of cats on the streets and in shelters, we will be using our humane education staff to teach the value of spaying and neutering to people in underserved communities that would be most likely to use our services at the clinic.

Your compassion and generosity help make innovative programs like this possible for pets and people right here in our own community. Thank you so very much, and happy holidays.

For the animals,

Robert D. Rohde
President and CEO
A goodbye, a hello

We chose Aldo Raphael, an Italian name, for the Italian greyhound we adopted from you in August. It translates as Aldo = rich and Raphael = God has healed. This little dog and his meaningful name carry even more sentiment for my family now, because we brought Aldo home to a pack of three other small dogs, including a 14-year-old Pomeranian named Lucy, a younger Yorkie and a Yorkie–Pom mix. The girls all welcomed Aldo immediately, but Lucy walked up to him, touched noses as if she had known him all along and laid back down in her bed, where she passed away in her sleep that night. Lucy had a heart defect that we were aware of, but her passing was sudden. Aldo couldn’t have walked into our lives with any better timing. He is the sweetest and most loving dog, and he has been the light we all needed to get through Lucy’s loss.

—Carolyn D., Parker, Colo.

A delightful decision

I can’t tell you the joy and happiness that Oliver has brought to our home. We just had lost our Rocky cat in February, so the thought of opening our hearts and our home again was not a decision made lightly. My daughter, Hannah, convinced me that if we could give a furry creature a great home and happy life, we couldn’t be selfish or be afraid. Thank you, thank you so much.

—Amy M., Denver, Colo.
A honey of a bunny

It’s a little over two months since Mona adopted me. She is well behaved and follows me everywhere. Mona is eating really well, races around and does binkies [a happy bunny dance]! She loves to explore, as you can see.

—Nancy T., Denver, Colo.

Spay hooray

I just wanted to say thank you to the kind and dedicated staff who run the [mobile spay/neuter] clinics that are obviously so desperately needed. I know of many people (myself included) whose financial situations change and leave them in difficult positions in regard to their pets. These clinics help us keep our beloved animals and give them the care and altering surgery needed to keep both the animal and the community happy. I will be sure to make an annual donation to this program and am so grateful my cat was taken care of today!

—Jennifer Y., Denver, Colo.
CONGREGATE, CELEBRATE & CONTRIBUTE!

One-Day Critter Camps
Jan. 3, Jan. 4 and March 22
Our one-day camps for third- through sixth-graders—scheduled during winter and spring school breaks—help children learn lessons of compassion, respect and responsibility while having fun with the pets at our shelters. To register, visit ddfl.org/youth-camps.

Have a Heart for Homeless Pets Telethon
Thursday, Feb. 9
Tune in to 9NEWS all day long for our 19th annual telethon, presented by Hill’s Pet Nutrition. Hear stories of the pets and horses you help through your donations and learn more about our compassionate care for animals and people in our community and beyond.

Wish you could do more? by Rick D. Gabrielson, vice president of development & communications

There’s a phrase we frequently hear from our supporters, whether they donate money or supplies, or donate their time as volunteers. The phrase is this: “I wish I could do more.”

These generous people have two things in common: a desire to help homeless pets and horses at our shelters, and a longing to be able to give more. We understand that circumstances in our lives dictate how much we can donate to our favorite organizations at any point in time. A child needs braces, a furnace goes out, a job is lost, a pet of our own requires surgery. The reasons our funds may be limited are many and varied, and all are valid—but that wish to “do more” remains.

Here are some ways to make a life-changing difference for homeless animals that won’t affect your current financial situation:

- Include the Dumb Friends League in your will. It’s easy, and it will ensure that you’ll be continuing to help homeless animals after your lifetime.
- Name the Dumb Friends League as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance.
- Make a gift of appreciated stocks or securities to receive an immediate charitable deduction and eliminate long-term capital gains tax.
- Designate ownership of your home to the Dumb Friends League but continue to live there during your lifetime.
- Add the Dumb Friends League as a payable-on-death (POD) beneficiary to your checking account, savings account or CDs.

The good news is that doing more for homeless pets and horses is possible regardless of your current situation. To learn more about ways you can give to the Dumb Friends League both today and after your lifetime, please contact me at (720) 241-7083 or rgabrielson@ddfl.org.
Welcome, Petco Castle Rock!

The Petco store located at 6378 Promenade Parkway in Castle Rock, Colo., is now featuring adorable, adoptable cats from our shelters. The pets we place at our 10 partner Petco and PetSmart locations receive the same level of care prior to adoption as the pets at our shelters, including spay/neuter surgery, a microchip ID implant and initial vaccinations, including rabies. Adoption fees and specials are also the same as at our shelters. Since we joined forces with Petco and PetSmart to showcase shelter pets out in the community, more than 5,500 cats and dogs at these locations have found homes.

Annual report online

Our fiscal year 2016 annual report reviews our activities, accomplishments and financials for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. You’re invited to view it online at ddfl.org/publications, or you can request a copy by calling (720) 241-7161.

Give a “paw,” honor a pet

As you’re making your holiday gift list, don’t forget about the hundreds of furry friends without homes that could use a little extra love this time of year. You can help make their holidays brighter through our annual Paws to Give™ shelter giving experience.

From now through Jan. 1, simply stop by one of our three facilities—the Quebec Street Shelter in Denver, the Buddy Center in Castle Rock or the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center in Franktown—to fill out a "paw" decoration with a donation amount and a message that will be displayed on our walls. This is a great time for parents to visit the shelter with their children, write a message in honor or memory of a beloved pet or horse, view the animals in our care and share the spirit of giving.

"It's also a way to help homeless animals if adopting isn't an option," says Bob Rohde, Dumb Friends League president and CEO. "Any amount you can give—whether it's $10, $20, $30 or more—is very much appreciated and can make a big difference for pets right here in our own community."

Donations can be made at our facilities, online at ddfl.org/give or by mailing a check to Dumb Friends League, Paws to Give, 2080 S. Quebec St., Denver, CO 80231.
Juniper, the miracle filly

After being abandoned by her neglectful owner, Hermione—an 11-year-old palomino mare—was lucky to have survived long enough to be rescued by law enforcement authorities in El Paso County, Colo. When they brought her to the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center for rehabilitation last May, Hermione was sickly and rail-thin, with an upper-respiratory illness and a body condition score of 1, the lowest possible rating.

As Hermione gradually began to gain weight and recover from her illness, the Harmony staff noticed with surprise—and concern—that she was pregnant, knowing that mares in such weakened condition rarely carry babies to term. Nevertheless, our veterinarians, staff and volunteers never gave up on Hermione, and in June, she gave birth to a healthy filly named Juniper. The miracle baby began life underweight, but both mom and baby flourished in our care. Juniper was fully weaned in mid-November, and both horses were made available for adoption soon after.

The story of Hermione and Juniper is just one of the many happy endings made possible at the Harmony Equine Center. In the last fiscal year, we found homes for 85 horses and transferred 47 to appropriate healthy living situations—but we are still providing daily care, rehabilitation and training to dozens of horses at the center. If you would like to help vulnerable horses in need, please donate at ddfl.org/helphorses.

Update: Conroe horses

You may recall that in September 2015, we welcomed 59 severely neglected horses to our Harmony Equine Center. Weak, emaciated and, in many cases, suffering from open wounds and hoof problems, they were among more than 200 horses rescued from horrific cruelty at a facility in Conroe, Texas, by the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in one of the nation’s largest recorded horse seizures.

The distressed horses were transferred to the Harmony Equine Center for care, rehabilitation and training. In addition to their serious medical issues, the horses presented another challenge for our team at Harmony: They had rarely, and in some cases never, been touched by humans.

True to our mission, we determined to do everything we could to relieve their suffering, nurture them and give them the full, healthy lives they deserved. At press time in mid-November, 41 of the horses had been adopted into new, loving homes.
Working cats program is working

Finding a job can be a challenging and stressful process, even for people who are talented and personable. For hundreds of highly skilled but unsociable cats that have come to the Dumb Friends League, finding a job has been a lifesaver—literally.

Since 2013, more than 600 feral and semi-feral cats from our shelters have found “employment” at barns, stables and other outdoor settings through our working cats program. We receive these types of cats from various sources, including investigations cases or as transfers from partner shelters that cannot place them due to their behavior. Upon evaluation, if these cats show no desire to associate with people, we enroll them in our working cats program.

Like most shelters, the Dumb Friends League has for years advocated an indoor lifestyle for the majority of cats because it is safer and healthier than living outdoors. However, more shelters like ours are seeing the benefits of adopting out unsocialized cats to caring owners who can give them a job.

“Not that long ago, unsocialized cats at our shelters would not have been candidates for adoption,” says Apryl Steele, chief operating officer of the Dumb Friends League. “There has been a sea change in the mentality among both shelters and communities when they realize that these cats are stressed and uncomfortable living indoors but can thrive in the world outside.”

Cats in our working cats program receive a general health exam, spay/neuter surgery, microchip ID, Felv/FIV testing, age-appropriate vaccinations and a rabies vaccination prior to adoption. Patrons adopting working cats must complete our standard adoption application and meet with an adoption counselor to find a good match. Adopters must also agree to provide warm shelter, adequate food and water, and regular veterinary care to their working cats.

In fiscal year 2016, we adopted out 406 working cats—an increase of more than 250 cats over the previous year. Says Customer Care Manager Kristin Elliott, “Interest in our program is growing from adopters who prefer a healthy, well-cared-for cat that has been sterilized and vaccinated over a kitten born in a neighbor’s barn. We’ve even had people drive down from Wyoming to adopt our working cats. This program is a win–win for everyone.”

Want to adopt a working cat? Learn more and complete our online application at ddfl.org/workingcats or call us at (303) 751-5772.

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“Clyde stays in the tack room and sits in the window sunning himself. Bonnie has adopted the hay room as her own and loves watching the chickens. I like the idea of helping them, and they are definitely helping me too.”

—Renee G., working cat adopter
Holiday gifts for pet lovers

If you love animals (or know people who do), you’ll love shopping for holiday gifts at the Dumb Friends League. Every purchase you make shows how much you care, not only for your family and friends, but also for the homeless pets and horses that need your help.

TRIBUTE DONATIONS
For pets or people who have everything, consider a donation in their honor. They will receive a prompt acknowledgment of your generosity. Call (720) 241-7127 or make a secure donation at ddfl.org/remember.

2017 CALENDAR
Want to start every day next year with a smile? Hang our 2017 Pet Photo Calendar in your home or office! You can purchase it for $15 at the Sit ... Stay ... Shops at both of our shelters, order it online at ddfl.org or place a phone order Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (303) 671-5212.

HOLIDAY CARDS & ECARDS
Send our heartwarming holiday greetings to everyone on your list. Make a donation and choose a cheery eCard at ddfl.org/ecards, or purchase a package of 10 adorable holiday cards and envelopes for only $10. Cards are available at our shops, or you may purchase them online at ddfl.org. Phone orders are gladly accepted Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (303) 671-5212.

GIFT CARDS
Is someone on your list wishing for a new pet? A gift card is the best way to give one as a gift. The recipient can visit our shelters or contact our Personal Pet Shoppers to pick out a pet, and then use the gift card for the pet adoption fee and pet supplies. Gift cards are available for purchase at our shops.

PET ACCESSORIES
Check out the fun selection of collars, leashes, toys, treats, supplies, Hill’s Science Diet® pet foods and pet treats, and more at our shops.

What a Wag ‘n Trail!

Colorado’s early-autumn splendor was on full display at our 12th annual Wag ‘n Trail on Sept. 17. The 1.6-mile hike attracted more than 1,000 animal lovers and 500 dogs to beautiful Glendale Farm Open Space north of Castle Rock and raised over $150,000 for homeless pets at the Buddy Center. Thanks to our sponsors, friends and participants!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources and Jackie Sanderson, natural resource specialist for Douglas County
Treating transfers responsibly

As a community-based, nonprofit organization, the number-one priority of the Dumb Friends League has always been—and always will be—serving homeless pets in the Denver metro area, followed by those in the Front Range and then those throughout the rest of Colorado.

For that reason, we put a great deal of thought into the issue of helping out-of-state pets before starting a limited, carefully monitored transfer program several years ago. As a result, only when we have the capacity and resources to serve additional pets will we consider accepting transfers of pets upon request by a select group of transfer partners outside Colorado. These pets come from shelters where they had little chance of adoption prior to being transferred to us, so we are truly giving them a second chance—their only chance—for a new life.

In our last fiscal year, we transferred 3,626 pets into our shelters from both Colorado and outside Colorado—and 106 of those out-of-state dogs were diagnosed with heartworm after their arrival. Most of those transfers were dogs that came from our partners in Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska or New Mexico—places where heartworm is common. We request that only healthy, vaccinated animals that have been carefully evaluated, both medically and behaviorally, be sent to our shelters so that we do not put any dogs in our community at risk. However, because heartworm may not be detectable for up to six months after infection, we sometimes receive dogs transferred from these areas that are carrying heartworm.

To that end, we have made a commitment to treat all transfer dogs in the most responsible and ethical manner possible. First, we test every dog that is transferred from outside Colorado for heartworm. If a dog tests positive, it is treated according to American Heartworm Society guidelines, a stringent, nine-month protocol that includes oral and injectable medications, strict cage rest and periodic veterinary exams and testing. If the dog tests negative, it could still be a heartworm carrier but has not yet developed the disease, so we place the dog on Heartgard®, a heartworm prevention medication, for six months so it will not infect any other animals in the home or the community, even if it develops the disease. In both cases, we ensure that all potential adopters understand the risks of heartworm, what we have done to mitigate those risks at our shelter and what the continued treatment entails. The Dumb Friends League provides the full course of heartworm treatment for dogs that test positive at no cost to adopters, and we provide six months’ worth of Heartgard free of charge to patrons who adopt transfer dogs that test negative.

We take the health of dogs in our own community—both inside and outside our shelters—very seriously, and we believe the protocol we have established is protecting animals in both places, as well as helping pets in neighboring states that have nowhere else to turn. Thanks to the generous support of Merial Limited, the manufacturer of Heartgard and Immiticide® (a medication used to treat dogs infected with heartworm), we are able to provide best practices for heartworm prevention and treatment to every dog transferred to us from outside Colorado.

DOLLAR WINS THE JACKPOT

Dollar, a 4-year-old red Lab—so named because he was found living outside an abandoned dollar store in Houston—was transferred to the Dumb Friends League last April. He was tested for heartworm and found to be heartworm positive, so Dollar was started on our heartworm treatment protocol. After two weeks at our shelter, Dollar was adopted by Jennifer B., who dubbed him Rockie in honor of his new home state. Jennifer continued Rockie’s treatment and wrote us in May to say he was doing well on his heartworm medications, but that she was looking forward to the end of his treatment so he could go hiking. In August, she sent us photos of Rockie on his first hike on Crosier Mountain near Estes Park, Colo.
MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Lights, camera ... wiggle!

Last year, adoptable pets from the Dumb Friends League made guest appearances on local TV news shows, in print publications and online nearly 7,500 times. Why do our communications staff and dedicated volunteers venture out at the crack of dawn (and throughout the day) with cats, dogs, small mammals and even horses to make sure Dumb Friends League pets are on the air virtually every day of the week?

According to Public Relations Manager (and chief early riser) Megan Rees, “We feature pets in the media not only to help that one pet that happens to be on TV get adopted, but also to increase visibility for the organization and all the animals we serve. We want people to think of the Dumb Friends League when it comes to adopting, donating and volunteering, and we want to educate viewers about all the programs, services and resources we offer.”

Last summer, we launched a new program specifically to promote some of our longest-stay pets in social media and on our website. These pets are chosen because they have been more challenging to place in homes, either because of manageable health issues or behavior issues such as extreme shyness, causing them to be passed over by potential adopters for weeks or even months.

Happily, these longest-stay pets are finding their forever families in record time—often within days—after being showcased on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram along with links to their full, heartstring-tugging stories on our website. Says Rees: “We are lucky to be part of such a pet-friendly community that is so supportive of homeless pets’ needs. When we put a call out to the public on social media for help with our longest-stay pets, the response is really positive. So many people are willing to help spread the word about our adoptable pets that need a little extra attention, and it’s incredibly rewarding when someone adopts one of them because they read the story and simply had to give that pet a home.”
HELPING PETS FIND HOMES

Here are some longest-stay pets that have benefited from being social media stars:

Maxim
Maxim, a lovable, 8-year-old red tabby with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and a mild heart murmur, was at our shelter for nearly three months before being adopted by Hilary and Tyler C. The kind couple saw Maxim’s story on our website and decided he needed to join their family, which includes another FIV-positive cat adopted from our shelter.

Charlie
Fifteen-year-old Charlie the chinchilla had been at our shelter for over a month when we posted his photo on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, along with a plea for an experienced chinchilla owner to give him a new home. Fortunately, Julie G.—who has owned four chinchillas—saw Charlie on Facebook and decided he would be a perfect pal for her solitary chinchilla, Ike. Julie reports that Charlie and Ike are getting along nicely, and that Charlie likes raisins, dust baths and pushing toys down the ramp of his cage.

Patton
After having lived most of his four years in a rural shelter, Patton, a foxhound mix, was understandably fearful and painfully shy when he was transferred to us for a better chance for adoption. This lonely introvert was profiled on Facebook and our website, and it wasn’t long before Danette and Charlie B. read his story. Says Danette, “It’s what drew us in to meet him, as we had been looking to adopt a new pup that needed us.” Soon after the adoption, Danette wrote us to say, “Patton—now Ozlo—is doing terrific. He is learning his way around the house, constantly investigating and getting along with his adopted sister wonderfully. Ozlo has a new forever home.”
From volunteer, to vet, to savior of starving pet

Dr. Melissa Ward had been preparing to save a starved and paralyzed puppy named Izzy from the brink of death since she was a little girl—she just didn’t know it. But looking back, it’s easy to see that her childhood habit of bringing home stray animals was the start of a long journey toward a career as a veterinarian that would include many side trips to the Dumb Friends League.

Ward began volunteering at our Quebec Street Shelter in 2000 when she was 14 years old. Working in virtually every department, including intake, customer care, veterinary services, maintenance, foster care and animal care, she got a taste of the many different aspects of shelter life and won our Young Volunteer of the Year Award in 2001. In high school, she did a six-month internship with our investigations team, and following graduation, Ward worked at our Buddy Center shelter in Castle Rock, Colo., and volunteered on our Meow Mobile spay/neuter clinic, all while attending school to become a veterinary technician.

After graduating, Ward became our Meow Mobile coordinator until 2009, when she took a break before moving to Fort Collins, Colo., to attend veterinary school at Colorado State University. In 2015, she applied for an externship program with Dumb Friends League Chief Veterinarian Jeff Fankhauser and recalls, “It was like coming home again.”

After graduating veterinary school in May 2016, Ward began a one-year shelter medicine internship at our Quebec Street Shelter to receive additional mentoring and put her skills to work. So it was that in July, with her newly minted Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, she encountered one of the most heartbreaking cases we’ve seen in a long time: Izzy.

Izzy, a 5-month old Lab mix, was found in our after-hours kennels—a horrifically emaciated puppy who couldn’t even stand because of her weakened state. She appeared to be paralyzed due to her skin-and-bones condition, although Izzy never failed to wag her tail feebly at anyone caring for her.

For 10 days, Izzy stayed at our shelter to receive constant care, multiple antibiotics and feedings of Hill’s® Prescription Diet® i/d® Canine food for easy digestibility. Although there were times when we weren’t sure Izzy was going to pull through, she survived and strengthened enough for Ward to take her home as a foster.

There, Izzy was surrounded by the love of Ward and her husband, Matt, as well as their Dalmatian, Eva, and 14-year-old cat, Frankie. Izzy began playing with Eva and slowly regaining her motor function. She continued on a diet of small, frequent meals of Hill’s Science Diet® Healthy Development puppy food until she could handle having more food in her stomach. After a month, the Wards decided they couldn’t say goodbye to this scrappy little fighter, and so they adopted her as their own. Today, Izzy has gone from 11 pounds to over 25 pounds—and from near death to a life of health, love and happiness.
Fun, fuzzy facts

Every picture tells a story—but we have some pretty illustrative numbers too! Here are some fun facts about what it takes to care for more than 22,000 cats, dogs, small mammals and horses each year at the Dumb Friends League:

- The Dumb Friends League welcomes an average of 60 homeless pets a day, 358 days a year—we turn none away regardless of age, condition or temperament.
  - In the past year, we have received a hedgehog, a macaw, a caiman (small crocodile), tortoises, frogs, a tarantula, a scorpion and hermit crabs. (Because we do not care for or adopt out exotic pets, we transfer these animals to appropriate rescue groups.)
- Veterinarians at the Dumb Friends League removed approximately 9,000 teeth from the homeless pets at our shelters in 2016, helping to relieve pain associated with dental disease and make eating more comfortable.
- The formerly abused and neglected horses and other equines at our Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center eat approximately 150 tons of hay and drink about 109,000 gallons of water each year.
- The Dumb Friends League uses approximately 195,000 pounds of cat litter each year.
- More than 10,000 dog-poop bags were used last year at the Dumb Friends League.
- Our Call Center team took more than 84,000 calls last year and provided responses in six languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Italian and Russian.
- Our maintenance team changed 892 air filters at our two shelters, maintained 48 acres of lawn and raised and lowered the American flag 608 times last year.
- The Harmony Equine Center has provided care for more than 830 formerly abused and neglected horses and other equines since it opened in 2012.
- Collectively, volunteers walk or run the dogs at the Dumb Friends League more than 260 miles per week.
- The pets at our shelters eat more than 79,000 pounds of pet food each year, all of which is generously donated by Hill's Pet Nutrition.

Want to help us provide loving care and vital services to homeless animals? Your donation of any amount is greatly appreciated; just send your gift in the enclosed envelope or give online at ddfl.org/donate.
Jack

On Jan. 3, 2003, we adopted Jack from the Dumb Friends League. He was a loyal companion to us for over 13 years. He went everywhere with us, and he especially liked to go camping with us. On April 14, 2016, we lost our beloved Jack. We will miss him very much forever. There will never be another dog like our Jack. We want to thank you for helping us adopt our longtime companion, and we will never forget all of you and your help and kindness to us and Jack on that wonderful day in January so long ago when he came home with us and became part of our family.

—Cindy L. and Linda S. Westminster, Colo.

Hopi

It is with a sad heart that I tell you that we had to put our sweet girl, Hopi, down on Friday morning. We adopted her from you around 14 years ago. She was a great dog, and we are so thankful to have had her as a part of our family for so long. She will remain in our hearts forever. Thank you for the work that you do and for providing us with such a loving family member. Her brother, Charlie, will miss her. We adopted him from the Buddy Center. You have provided our family with so much love. When we are ready, we will surely be back.

—The Robles Family Aurora, Colo.
We adopted Jack from the Dumb Friends League in 2003. He had been found wandering the streets with no collar or chip and was guessed to be between 2 and 3 years old. His weight at the time was 27½ pounds. Our vet later placed his ideal weight in the mid-40s range. Jack was a golden retriever/border collie mix and very smart. He loved people and other dogs. Many of our friends commented that he was such a happy dog, always smiling.

He travelled with us many times to Phoenix, Vail, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Jack loved car rides and different adventures. When we moved to Las Cruces in 2006, he adapted wonderfully. We lost him this past September to lung cancer at the age of 15. We’ll always remember the joy and love he brought into our lives. See you at Rainbow Bridge, Baby Boy! We miss you so much!

—Noreen and Werner Lehmann
Las Cruces, N.M.
Making a memorial/honor gift helps us serve animals and is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a special person or pet. You are invited to submit a pet photo along with your donation. Please mark it “Pet Tales tribute photo” and mail it to our Quebec Street Shelter or email it to Tales@ddfl.org. Thank you.

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