



November 2023 Newsletter



COLORADO ANIMAL RESCUE EXPRESS (C.A.R.E.)

For almost 17 years, C.A.R.E. has been providing and funding animal welfare programs that save companion pet lives. We support shelters, rescues and struggling pet owners with compassion and generosity to change animal well-being.

2023 has been rife with economic uncertainty. Inflation of consumer goods and the lack of pet friendly housing have resulted in an enormous number of unwanted animals. This has piggybacked onto 2022 where countless people dropped their pandemic adopted pets off at the shelter on the way back to office work and travel. Record pet intakes, slow adoptions, and higher costs have forced many shelters and rescues to fold because of financial distress.

We remain committed to our core philosophy of "Pets Are Family". Each year, we build new partnerships to expand the reach of our services. C.A.R.E.'s work primarily focuses on remote, rural, underserved and indigenous communities in the western United States. We help all breeds of dogs and cats regardless of size, color, age, health condition or zip code. C.A.R.E.'s mission is to support animal organizations with funding for transport, veterinary care and supplies. Our hope is that each animal under our umbrella has a future filled with belly rubs, full food bowls, a cozy bed, proper medical care, and respect.

Spay and Neuter: Funding pet sterilization procedures is our #1 priority! There are significantly more animals than there are homes to love them. We are in a complete pet-overpopulation crisis! Spay and neuter is the only proven way to turn off the faucet of unwanted animals. Not only will the procedure improve the health, behavior and life expectancy of the animal, it will ultimately reduce shelter euthanasia statistics. In 2009, C.A.R.E. began addressing the pet-overpopulation issue by bringing spay and neuter services to problem communities that were lacking vet services. Through September of this year, C.A.R.E. has funded 49,500 pet surgeries with the financial assistance of other partners. Most programs are offered free to pet owners or at a substantially discounted price. Core vaccines and parasite control are also made available at most clinics.

Approximately a third of our funded sterilization programs are held in Native American communities. Most tribal clinics are conducted on the Navajo Nation, while the others are held on reservations in North and South Dakota and Minnesota where we have warm relationships.

TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return) is the best and most humane way to control feral cat populations. Life is hard for community cats that live outside every day. They fight to stay warm, find food, and defend themselves against predators and cars. Sterilization stops the breeding cycle. We also provide financial assistance to caregivers that feed feral communities.

Jake's Fund: Jake's Fund, our veterinary care program started in memory of a stunning yellow lab named Jake from rural Arkansas who passed from heartworm complications before reaching his Colorado rescue group. Each month, usually 50-65 animals are gifted with a Jake's Fund donation to help offset the cost of their vetting. Contributions are made for both routine wellness care and specialized treatment for diseases and complex surgeries. Through September, C.A.R.E. has disbursed donations to help 9,000 animals with their medical costs since this program began in Fall 2008. These are two brief stories on animals helped in 2023.





Sherman is a mini husky mix puppy whose body was declining by living under his owner's car and drinking out of a ditch in south Texas. Sherman suffered from mange, a popped out knee and a dental overbite at the ripe age of 4 months old. All Mixed Up Dog Rescue in Colorado arranged transport for Sherman, nursed him back to health and adopted him to a wonderful family.

Pringle, a 5 y/o Lab pit mix, is part of a current cruelty case in south Texas. Tightly chained, the sheriff needed bolt cutters to loosen the hold on his neck during a welfare check. Pringles had bleeding masses on his underside, two badly broken legs and was malnourished and heartworm positive. Saving Animal Lives 24/7 rescued him and has been addressing his expensive and complex veterinary needs for over 10 months now.

Transport: In August 2016, C.A.R.E. stopped driving the vans, but we are still actively funding transports that move pets to locations where they will find forever families. Since June 2007, we have driven or sponsored rides for more than 59,000 animals through September of this year.

Donations to Shelters and Rescues: C.A.R.E. gifts monetary donations for pet food, vet bills, and repairs to struggling small groups. Through the years, we have contributed more than \$360,000 to support our partners with their operating expenses.

Helping People Keep Their Pets: Community outreach is very important to C.A.R.E. We support pet food pantries and referred struggling owners with small monetary donations. Our hope is that financially strapped owners do not have to make the heartbreaking decision to surrender their pets. We contribute to programs that assist companion pets of unhoused individuals and educate owners on the necessity and benefits of spay and neuter. Additionally, we lend a helping hand to programs matching senior pets with senior owners and cover vetting and end of life care for the animal, if needed.

Magnificent faces border this newsletter. They are just a small handful of the animals assisted this year. Most were saved without knowing their name or story. C.A.R.E.'s work is to partner with others to make their futures brighter. We wish all rescue stories had happy endings but many days are just heartbreaking and heavy.

Thank you for your continued kind-hearted support of C.A.R.E.'s mission. For so many years, your generosity has truly made a difference in the lives on both ends of the leash. Saving animals is never ending work. The animals need us and we need you. Please consider a year-end, tax deductible donation to C.A.R.E. We do not take any salaries or pay rent. Please visit www.caretransport.org to learn more about our programs and to safely donate online. Checks can also be mailed to C.A.R.E. at 5276 S. Hanover Way Englewood CO 80111.

Enjoy the holiday season! Best wishes for good health, joy and peace in 2024.

Lisa Mendelsberg, Program Administrator



Sherman arriving into rescue



Sherman after rescue



Pringle



Pringle still getting medical

