



Putting our best #pawsforward for 30 years

You helped Jarvis the therapy dog • The changing landscape of animal disaster response • More ways to spread kindness to kids • Make your #pawsforward pledge



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Nicole and Jasper at the vet

Greetings!

WE CONTINUE OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

by sharing ways that RedRover, other animal organizations and compassionate people like you are putting their best #pawsforward to help animals.

Since 1987, we have responded to 180 emergencies involving animals! You can read more about our RedRover Responders history in this issue. We have brought the RedRover Readers

program to more than 50,000 kids since the program began in 2007. In addition to the thousands of animals we've helped over the years through emergency grants and sheltering, we've also provided resources and support to educate, empower and inspire thousands of individuals and agencies to take action. These actions, however small, not only help animals, but help people believe in a more compassionate future.

The RedRover staff and Board of Directors embrace change and innovation. The recent acquisition of the kids' magazine *Kind News*™ is just one example of this. *Kind News* will help the RedRover Readers program expand, as well as show thousands more children why kindness matters. Details about *Kind News* can be found on page 4 of this issue.

And some great news! One of the five-year goals we set this year is to

ensure that there are pet-friendly domestic violence shelters in every state — and as of June, we only have nine more states to go!

Have you made a #pawsforward pledge yet? If not, check out this issue of the *Companion* for ideas. Even the tiniest paw forward counts — like mine to get my dog's heartworm test done.

Thank you for being a part of what we do!



NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

Celebrate with us on September 28

On September 28, RedRover will celebrate our 30th Anniversary at Sactown Union Brewery in Sacramento, CA, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. PST. We'd love to see you there, but if that's not possible, follow us on Facebook to join in celebrating our history, share favorite moments and see live video from the event!



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Three cheers for Jarvis the therapy dog

WHEN JENNIFER DECIDED to dedicate her career to helping disabled and elderly individuals, she wanted to adopt a dog that could join her when working with her clients. Jarvis, a former stray at her local shelter, ended up being her perfect match.

The shelter told Jennifer that Jarvis had been hit by a car while he was a stray, which had resulted in his tail being partly amputated. Jennifer decided to adopt him and began taking Jarvis to work with her. Jarvis thrived as a therapy dog! He loved the attention and cuddles he received from Jennifer's



Jarvis came through the surgery with flying colors and has now completely adjusted to his new life as a three-legged therapy dog.

clients, and they all loved him. Jarvis enjoyed hiking and outdoor adventures with Jennifer, and he even had his own Instagram account.

Not long after adopting Jarvis, Jennifer noticed that he was having trouble using one leg. She immediately took him to her veterinarian, who

informed her that Jarvis's leg was severely damaged, likely from when he had been hit by the car. The vet decided that the best treatment plan for Jarvis's leg was amputation.

Jennifer felt panicked. She was determined to get Jarvis the treatment he needed, but she couldn't afford the entire cost of the surgery. After doing research online and creating a GoFundMe page, Jennifer applied for a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant. A RedRover Relief case manager quickly contacted Jennifer and approved a grant towards Jarvis's surgery.

Jarvis came through the surgery with flying colors and has now completely adjusted to his new life as a three-legged therapy dog. He's still enjoying the attention and cuddles from their clients, and he even loves hiking! Jennifer tells us, "He's loving his new lifestyle and is so confident on hikes now that he is no longer in pain. It is amazing. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

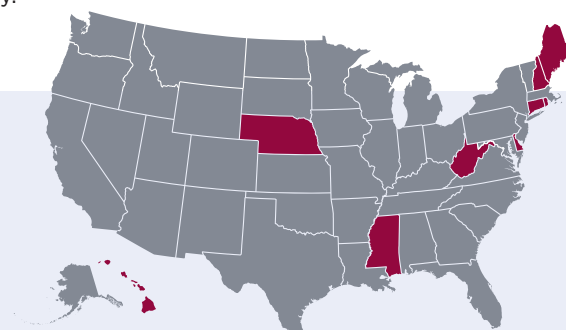
Thank you to our supporters whose donations continue to allow dogs like Jarvis a second chance at a happy life! ♥

Nine more states to go

REMAINING STATES WITHOUT PET-FRIENDLY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Maine
- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- West Virginia

If you have connections with domestic violence shelter advocates or shelters in any of these states, please contact us at Relief@RedRover.org



Be sure to join us in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month by signing up to receive email updates: RedRover.org/email

RedRover Responders looks back on 30 years

By RedRover Director of Programs, Susie Robert

LOOKING BACK OVER THE LAST

THREE DECADES, it's interesting to see how much animal disaster response has changed. Today, there are multiple national animal welfare organizations with disaster response teams, as well as state and community animal response teams, plus other local agencies who have animal disaster plans in place. This is not what the landscape looked like 30 years ago. At that time the plight of animals in disasters was not recognized as an essential part of any disaster planning. Animals were often abandoned — left behind because there was no plan to accommodate them at evacuation shelters.

RedRover (then United Animal Nations), saw the need to help animals

Over the past 30 years, RedRover has been a constant champion for animals in crisis, effectively helping in more than 80 natural disasters.

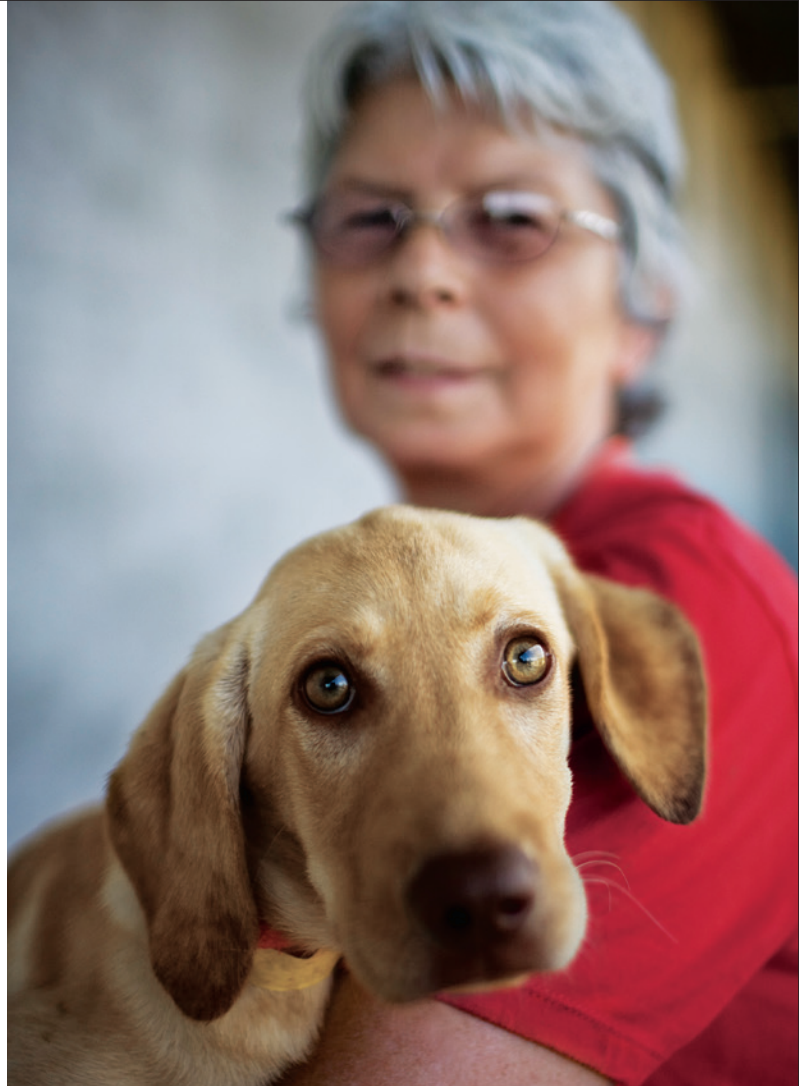
in disasters, and over the past 30 years has been a constant champion for animals in crisis, effectively helping in more than 80 natural disasters. Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, brought the plight of animals in disasters to national awareness. When Katrina struck, there was no plan for the animals, and many people refused to evacuate without them, thereby putting their own lives at risk. Approximately 250,000 dogs and cats were displaced or died as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

At the time, RedRover participated in nightly calls with other agencies to try to coordinate the animal response effort.

These calls evolved into the agency called the National Animal Rescue Sheltering Coalition (NARSC), a collaborative group of organizations that includes government agencies, dedicated to working together to help animals in need. Today, not only is animal disaster planning recognized, it is expected. Although much work still needs to be done, animals are now included in disaster planning, and RedRover has been an integral part of this evolution.

Today, RedRover Responders is very different from the original program. Starting out in a consultancy role,





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the program adopted the current volunteer-based model in the 1990s, holding the very first volunteer training workshop in 1995. Since then, more than 9,000 volunteers have been trained, helping thousands of animals during more than 180 emergencies. Originally, the program was designed to help animal victims of disasters, but has since expanded to also help animal victims of cruelty and neglect. Indeed, in more

recent years we have helped more animals rescued from cruelty cases than from natural disasters. There has been much change in the program, but one thing has remained constant: We remain ready and committed to help animals in crisis. ♥

To see photos from our latest deployments, visit us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/RedRoverOrg](https://www.facebook.com/RedRoverOrg)



Spreading compassion for animals through *Kind News* By Nicole Forsyth

WHEN WE FOUND OUT that the well-established kids' magazine *Kind News*™ needed a new home, we jumped at the opportunity! *Kind News* teaches kids — and often, their parents and teachers — more about the animals who share our world and how best to care for them. The August/September 2017 issue of *Kind News* will be the first issue published by RedRover. Readers can expect to see a lot of the same content and style that has been so well-loved over the years, but with more emphasis on the human-animal bond and strategies used in the RedRover Readers program to help students understand animal behavior and practice the skills necessary for empathy to develop.

The three reading levels of *Kind News* reach kids in kindergarten through sixth grade. The magazine builds awareness about the value of being kind to animals in society and covers a wide range of animal issues, such as pet overpopulation and

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puppy mills. The magazine also helps kids think critically about the animals in the world around us and provides tips to keep pets healthy and happy.



Often, a child's relationship with a companion animal in the home is the first relationship over which they have any control, and setting the stage for a healthy early relationship with pets

will help kids develop stronger bonds with animals throughout their lives.

Kind News will also serve as a powerful

outreach tool to remind teachers how they can access the training and resources provided by our RedRover Readers program and become another

wonderful resource for our continually growing list of schools and teachers already using our RedRover Readers program. RedRover Readers helps kids, educators and parents think deeply about the roles animals play in our lives, how we can learn from them and why empathy for others matters. ♥



FREINDSHIP



YOU CAN “ADOPT A CLASSROOM”

for just \$30 for a one year subscription. Your gift of \$30 provides 28 copies of the magazine, plus a Teacher Guide, to a whole classroom of kids and their parents, five times throughout the year.

Do you want to subscribe or purchase a subscription for a child you know, or help bring this magazine to more classrooms?

Visit RedRover.org/KindNewsFAQ for details on how you can spread this valuable education tool.

Spreading kindness through books

A 2014 STUDY BY THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

demonstrated that reading high-quality fiction increases theory of mind, which is the brain’s ability to imagine the mind of another, a skill necessary for empathy.

RedRover Readers uses high-quality children’s literature to develop this skill in children, especially as it applies to developing empathy for animals. In addition to the 17 books used in the RedRover Readers program (two of which are available in Spanish as well as English), RedRover maintains a growing list of more than 80 recommended books that can help children of various ages understand animals and develop respect and empathy for the animals who share our world.

Kind News will continue to recommend animal books to teachers and parents in the “Book Nook” section of the Teacher and Parent Guides, and will feature many of the books from RedRover’s extensive humane-themed literature list on RedRover.org/Books.

The book list categorizes books under Domestic, Wildlife, Pet Loss and Animal Behavior sections and serves as a valuable resource for educators looking for books that show accurate animal behavior, the value of the human-animal bond

and why kindness matters. Our web page that lists these books is one of our most frequently visited pages.

RedRover is always on the lookout for humane-themed books to add to our list. If you know of a book that fits our criteria of highlighting the human-animal bond and shows accurate animal behavior, please let us know at Readers@RedRover.org.

You can also help us bring animal-friendly books to children’s libraries! Scores of children can benefit from increased availability of these books at local libraries. You can help by writing a letter to your children’s librarian to recommend that the library stock these books. ♥

Find the list of books, along with brief descriptions and a sample letter to send to librarians, at RedRover.org/Books





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Share our stories! Leave *Companion* at your doctor's office, vet clinic, gym, lunch room or coffee shop.
To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

Make your #pawsforward pledge!



In honor of our 30th anniversary, we're celebrating all the inspiring ways people and organizations are putting their best #pawsforward to help animals and spread compassion. ♥

Learn more at
RedRover.org/pawsforward

I pledge to put my best #pawsforward...



"...to have my dog know what it would be like to experience snow."



"...adopt a shelter dog (someday!)."



"...I will visit my Grandcat more."



"...to bring RedRover Readers to my K-6 school."

"...I will play with my dog more."



"...encourage good behavior with treats and ignore bad behavior with patience."



"...foster dogs and cats that are looking for forever homes."