



Building a kinder future

Figaro's Happy Tail • Helping communities rebuild after Hurricane Harvey • Learning from the next generation
A better future for community cats



Greetings!

REDROVER'S VIGILANCE in finding ways to strengthen, support or save the human-animal bond when it is most at risk is a strategy connected to a greater and growing movement.

This international movement is called One Welfare. By simultaneously addressing animal and human abuse, poverty and community support, socioeconomic issues and sustainability, we can build more

efficient and effective solutions that lead to a healthier environment and better welfare for all.

RedRover supports the One Welfare concept in particular because it brings a better understanding of the benefits of animal welfare to a wider society. For example, domestic violence shelters are more likely to initiate programs that support the pets of domestic violence victims if they're aware of the proven link between animal abuse and human abuse.

And this is just one example; we also see how integrating human and animal welfare increases a community's readiness to include animals in disaster planning or to incorporate humane education about animals into schools.

With your support, we will continue to help where humans and animals are at their most vulnerable. In addition, by working with children early on, we can



facebook.com/RedRoverOrg

twitter.com/RedRoverOrg

youtube.com/RedRoverOrg

instagram.com/RedRoverOrg

pinterest.com/RedRoverOrg

help the next generation understand — and feel — the importance of animal welfare in society and the benefits of a strong human-animal bond. Together, we can create a more compassionate future with less suffering for all.

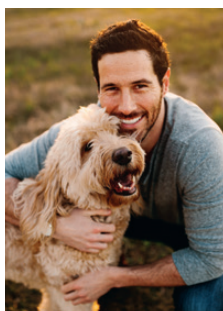
Warmly,

NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

Ballot for election of board directors

JACK STONE'S pride and joy is his dog Addie. He's also very passionate about the humane treatment of animals and believes that no owner should have to choose between keeping their pet and putting food on the table.

Jack attended The University of Texas at Austin and worked at two international law firms in Dallas, Texas. After a brief stint on reality television, Jack returned to Dallas where he launched several business ventures and is very involved in the philanthropic community.



Make your vote count

FOR YOUR VOTE TO BE COUNTED,



please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail

it by September 15, 2018. For a director to be elected by written ballot, he or she must receive a majority of affirmative votes, with at least six percent of members voting. Votes withheld are not counted for or against a director. The board of directors will vote for directors if members do not return a quorum of ballots.



P.O. Box 188890 Sacramento, CA 95818

TEL 916.429.2457

WEB RedRover.org

FAX 916.378.5098

EMAIL info@RedRover.org

TAX ID # 68-0124097

Companion is published quarterly by RedRover and is distributed to its members.
© 2018 RedRover

Cover photo: Tara Lenehan

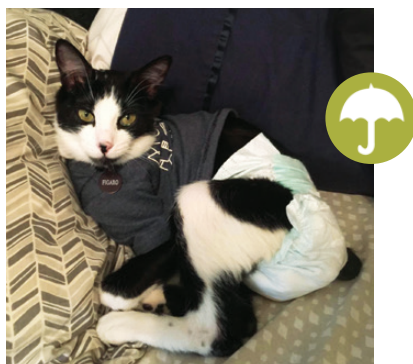
On the cover: RedRover visited Sacramento SPCA's Camp Kindness, where kids bonded with adoptable animals.

Figaro showed them how to love again

CHRISTIAN FOUND FIGARO in November 2016, in a horrible situation. The sweet feline had a long list of ailments that would easily have overcome a less determined cat.

But despite his many health issues, “Figaro was so thankful we found him,” Christian told us. “He showed us that no matter what, we can learn to love again.”

Because of his ailments, Figaro depends on diapers, but Christian says that other than that, “he is a ‘normal’ happy kitty who loves to play hide and seek, loves car rides and



“We are so thankful for the amazing help we received for Figaro. Thank you!”

enjoys his catnip kickers.” Everyone who has followed Figaro’s story, from Christian’s family to loyal Instagram followers, has been touched by how strong he is.

But last spring, due to his previous health issues and scar tissue build-up, Figaro developed a urinary blockage. Christian was able to pay to get him the initial treatment needed to unblock him, but Figaro needed a perineal urethrostomy surgery to ensure he never blocks again.

That’s when Christian reached out to us. Thanks to a RedRover Relief grant, Figaro was able to get the surgery he needed — and after the initial recovery time, he was back to his happy, energetic self.



Christian says, “To this day, we monitor for UTIs — more so now that he can easily get them after the PU — but to think we were ready to say goodbye to him, and seeing how he bounced back has been amazing! He’s been through so much and he’s still with us...even in a diaper. ♥



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

RedRover.org/email

Safe Escape for pets escaping violence



“Our pet boarding business is grateful to RedRover and its wonderful staff of heroes for helping us facilitate the care of pets whose families are desperately trying to escape dangerous abusive situations. We have always offered to help these families when space allows, but with RedRover’s support, we can now help these families year-round. An organization worthy of support!”

Read more inspiring stories at greatnonprofits.org/org/redrover.

Hurricane Harvey one year later: Supporting ongoing recovery and improving future responses

By Beth Gammie, RedRover Director of Field Services

ON AUGUST 25, 2017, the catastrophic storm Hurricane Harvey hit the Middle Texas coast and caused immense damage to the people and animals of Texas and surrounding states. RedRover Responders partnered with the SPCA of Texas to care for nearly 150 pets of evacuees who fled the impacted areas. We'll never forget the gratitude of the people we helped — many of whom had lost everything but their beloved pets — for our volunteers' daily care of their animals.

Thanks to our generous supporters, RedRover is still helping the people and animals of Texas, both to recover from Harvey's impacts and to help communities gain better footing for the next round of storms this year.

RedRover is still helping the people and animals of Texas, both to recover from Harvey's impacts and to help communities get on a better footing for the next round of storms this year.

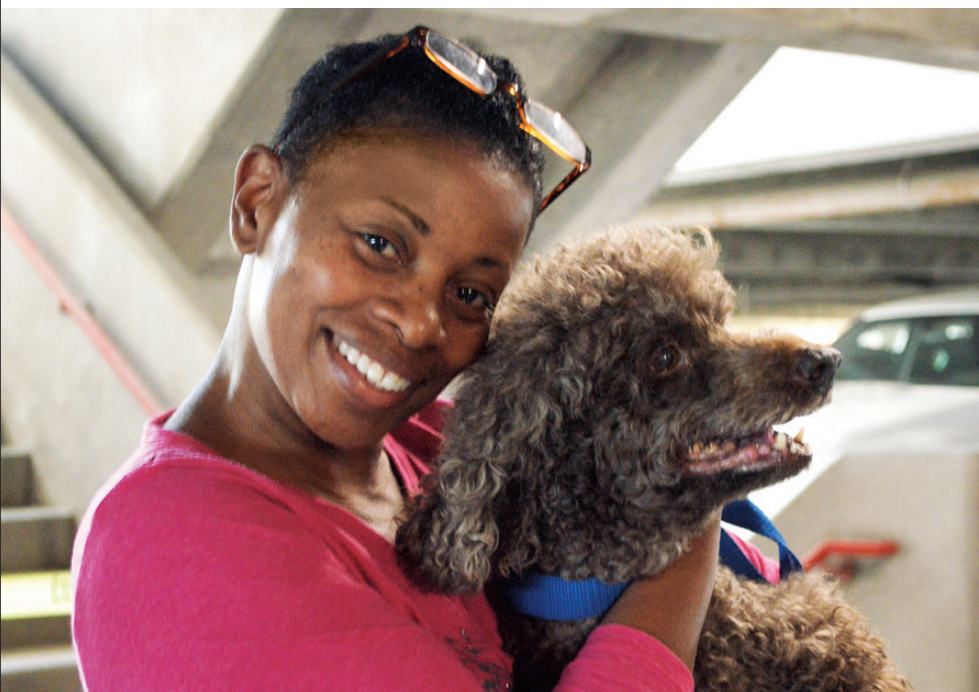
In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the animal surrender rate in Houston shelters has increased 25 percent. Many residents are still not in homes and cannot find pet-friendly rentals so are forced to surrender their pets, and the number of homeless animals on the streets is at an all-time high.

RedRover is supporting Houston PetSet (HPS) with two transports of cats and dogs from crowded Houston

shelters to placement partners in the Midwest, helping approximately 175 to 200 animals find forever homes and relieving the burden on Houston area shelters and their staff. Tama Lundquist, HPS Co-President, said, "We saw the rescues and shelters bursting at the seams, and worked with partners to move busloads and planeloads of animals out [to responsible placement partners]. We saw an emergency (Hurricane Harvey) on top of the existing crisis of animal homelessness in Houston."

RedRover is also supporting The Empty Shelter Project's free large-scale spay/neuter, vaccination and microchip clinics in low-income areas of Houston where there are no veterinary services. Spay/neuter, vaccination and microchipping are essential to help the community be better prepared for the next storm and ensure more animals are healthy, can be safely transported and sheltered, and of course reunited with their families.

With RedRover's support, The Empty Shelter Project (TESP) can spay/neuter, vaccinate and microchip an additional 450–500 animals.





Through the generosity of our supporters, we are able to continue helping the communities that need it...

Lastly, RedRover is supporting Animal Investigation and Response (AIR) to double their capacity to evacuate animals in disasters through an additional truck and animal transport trailer, as well as increasing their stock of wire cages and transport crates. Monica Ailey, AIR's president, said, "Our Transportation Outreach program assists large-scale evacuation of animals in disaster, and we focus strongly on the Texas coastline. We're thrilled that with RedRover's help we'll be able to rescue and transport even more animals when disaster strikes."

RedRover Responders put their hearts and souls into helping the animals evacuated from Hurricane Harvey. Through the generosity of our supporters, we are able to continue helping the communities that need it most by supporting the great work of Houston PetSet, The Empty Shelter Project and Animal Investigation and Response.

This means that up to 200 animals will be transported to forever homes;

about 425 animals in low-incomes areas of Houston will receive spaying/neutering, vaccinating and microchipping; and twice the number of affected animals will be evacuated during the next disaster. Thank you for helping to make this vital work possible! ♥

Read the full story at
redrover.org/harveyrebuild.



Houston PetSet (HPS) is an animal welfare collaborative that supports animal welfare organizations working on the ground to alleviate animal suffering and homelessness.



Animal Investigation and Response (AIR) is an animal protection organization that assists law enforcement, animal control agencies and communities with animal abuse related issues as well as with disaster relief.



The Empty Shelter Project (TESP) sets up MASH-style clinics in areas of Houston and Harris County where they are needed most.

Reaching our next generation: What I'm learning from the kids

By Tara Lenehan, Education Coordinator

I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED TEACHING CHILDREN.

Not only because I get to be a part of their “ah-ha!” moments, but because I find that I learn so much from them.

RedRover recently started a Junior Advisory Board made up of students aged 7–13 who meet once a quarter to help generate *Kind News* content, test digital apps and provide valuable feedback about RedRover's programs.

Throughout our conversations, I've come to realize that these students have access to tools and information that seem daunting to me even as an adult. When I was their age, I was proud that I taught myself basic html to create simple websites, all the while working with a dial-up internet connection and sub-par search functions. Technology has moved so quickly since I was in elementary school nearly 20 years ago, and I've lost touch with just how much students know these days.



I find it absolutely necessary to accept this fast-paced age of information by learning with a humble and open heart.

Since starting the Junior Advisory Board, I have been blown away. These students are teaching me how to utilize AdWords, access non-copy-righted music for YouTube and easily

edit videos online. They've also shown me complex tablet functions and guided me in discovering where they access information and why.

The avenues through which they are learning are so different from my experience at their age. And while this can be intimidating and oftentimes confusing for older generations, I find it absolutely necessary to accept this fast-paced age of information by learning with a humble and open heart, so everyone — no matter the age — has a chance to be the teacher and the student. ♥



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

Visit kindnews.org for details on how you can spread this valuable education tool.



Hands-on learning for kids helping community cats

WHEN PETS ALIVE KIDS TEAM,

a humane education program in Middleton, New York, finished reading the RedRover Readers program book *Nobody's Cats*, they felt inspired to make a difference. The team decided to partner with Glen Arden, a local assisted living facility, for a special activity designed to explore the book's theme: helping community cats.

Glen Arden was the perfect setting for their project, since the facility has a feral cat colony on their premises that is looked after by one of the employees, along with several other residents. After learning about what community cats need to be happy and healthy, the children learned how to make feral cat houses out of large Styrofoam coolers, with two holes for an entrance and exit, lined with Mylar blankets, duct tape and a closed lid. Students then waterproofed the feral

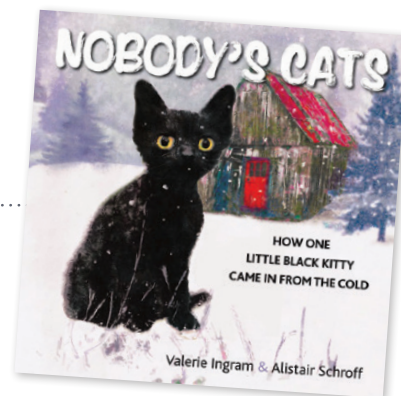


cat homes with heavy-duty garbage bags and decorated each home with personalized decals.

Pets Alive encourages the community to talk about and care for the many feral cat communities in the Middleton area. The TNT program tries to trap mothers with kittens in hopes of adopting out the whole family. If the mother is too feral once the kittens are weaned, she will be spayed, her ear clipped and returned

to the community. When they trap adult males, they too will be identified as adoptable or not and returned to their colony once neutered if they are too feral to be adopted.

Lauren Jones from Pets Alive explained that not only did children get a chance to see some of the cats on the Glen Arden property, she believes the program has “changed their attitudes about community cats.” Some may have viewed the cats as “pests,” but now they appreciate



that the cats “did not choose to be where they live and it’s up to [people] to help them.” ♥

Learn more about the impact of the RedRover Readers program and how you can get involved at RedRover.org/Readers.



After learning about what community cats need to be happy and healthy, the children learned how to make feral cat houses out of large Styrofoam coolers.



P.O. Box 188890 • Sacramento, CA 95818

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit No. 421

Companion is printed using vegetable-based inks on paper made entirely from recovered fiber.

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.



Cheers to new beginnings!

REDROVER IS MOVING! We've outgrown our current space and are moving into our new, larger space in Midtown Sacramento in the fall. Our staff had a champagne toast at the new building to celebrate the transition. Cheers to growth and new beginnings! ♥