



Since 2006, Nicole Forsyth has been President and CEO of RedRover, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that brings animals from crisis to care and strengthens the bond between people and pets. To better reflect its work and expanding programs, she led the organization through a major re-branding effort in 2011, which successfully laid the ground work for current growth initiatives. RedRover now has a staff of 22 and a budget of \$4.2 million, its largest to date.

The organization is focused on three main programs, all growing in size and impact: RedRover Relief, RedRover Responders and RedRover Readers. RedRover believes pets are family, and RedRover Responders and RedRover Relief help people and animals in crisis -- whether facing a natural disaster, emergency veterinary expense or difficulty escaping a domestic violence situation -- and work to keep people with their pets during a crisis whenever possible.

RedRover Readers works to further strengthen the human-animal bond by helping children, ages 5 - 11, develop the steps necessary for empathy: recognize human and animal emotions, share emotions and regulate emotions in order to connect in positive ways with others. In 2007, Nicole created RedRover Readers and its curriculum that educators and volunteers are taught to implement in elementary schools throughout the United States and Canada. She later co-wrote and directed the development of an interactive, bilingual digital book and game series as part of the program. In addition, she now serves as Editor for the *Kind News*TM magazine for kids, recently acquired from the Humane Society of the United States.

Nicole's combined experience in non-profit management, scientific research, education and hands-on animal care has helped develop the strategic focus of the organization which seeks positive, innovative solutions to ameliorate suffering, prevent animal abuse and create a more compassionate society for all. Committed to applying research and data to her work, she holds a master of science degree in animal biology/welfare from the University of California, Davis. She also holds a master's degree in Communication from the University of Maine and a bachelor's degree in English and Education from the University of Colorado. Nicole previously worked in fund development for the Placer SPCA in Roseville, California and was the development director for a habitat conservation organization. She has also worked as a classroom teacher of middle-school and at-risk high-school students.