



RedRover®  
SUMMER 2019

# companion



## **One Welfare: Helping animals and people together**

Helping kids connect with animals and each other • Compassion in action with RedRover Responders • From homeless to Happy Tail • Freedom and safety for the whole family





## Greetings!

**MANY ANIMAL WELFARE** issues are inextricably linked to human social issues, like poverty. Understanding and addressing both can serve as a more effective way to improve animal welfare.

The “One Welfare” concept underlies RedRover’s approach in much of our work, as you can see throughout this issue of *Companion*. In helping animals and people in crisis, we practice a non-judgmental,

empathetic approach that helps people open up and trust us. The trust and support we have earned from members like you have helped us grow and expand our programs, and we are extremely grateful.

The link between human and animal welfare was particularly vivid on my recent trip to a remote area of British Columbia, Canada, where I visited hundreds of students in classrooms. The community comprises a diverse mix of wealth and poverty, and the attitudes and behaviors toward animals were equally diverse. The students described animals as cute, interesting, amazing, scary, fierce and lovable. I heard about bears on trampolines, squirrels storing nuts in houses, best friends that slept on beds and dogs chained outside all year long.

Those who had strong friendships with pets talked about why they loved

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them and trusted them, some more so than people. Why? Because their pets were fun to play with, didn’t judge them and were always there for them. Maybe a good reminder for us all?

Warmly,

**NICOLE FORSYTH**  
President and CEO

## We’re a Top-Rated Nonprofit (again)!



Thanks to our supporters and the families we’ve helped, we are one of the first winners of a 2019 Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits!

**Read inspiring stories about us and add your own at [greatnonprofits.org/org/redrover](https://greatnonprofits.org/org/redrover).**

### “This is a truly excellent organization!

I have worked in and volunteered for several non-profits, and RedRover is the best one I have encountered. They even have awareness and problem prevention programs! RedRover made a profound difference in our lives—in the life of my cat, Charlotte, and in mine.”

♥ REDROVER RELIEF  
URGENT CARE GRANT RECIPIENT



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**Update!** Please note a typo in our 2018 Annual Report numbers. On page 6, the numbers for our money spent on programs vs. supporting services were reversed. We are pleased to report that 82 cents out of every dollar was spent on programs serving animals, and only 18 cents was spent on supporting services.

# Honoring librarians who build connection

By Tara Lenehan, Education Coordinator

**IF YOU'VE EVER** spent time with librarians — also known as Library Media Specialists — or benefited from their knowledge and services, you know that they are champions of connection.

Whether researching on a public computer or flipping the pages of a book, librarians are equipped to help students understand our future while staying connected to our past.

For schools that see an underserved population, their library provides inclusive access to information. A librarian can help students develop media-literacy, media-creation and communication skills that they might not receive elsewhere. It's no wonder librarians are recognized as champions of the RedRover Readers program.



We believe that if we can help students connect in positive ways with animals, they will be more likely to connect in positive ways with each other.

The RedRover Readers program is all about connection. Using books about animals, the program is designed to reach educators to help their students develop the steps necessary for empathy. Those steps are:

1

**Recognize human and animal emotions**

2

**Share emotions**

3

**Regulate emotions in order to connect in positive ways with others**

Soon, the RedRover Readers program will be made available to librarians in Kentucky — the state rated the worst for animal protection laws 12 years in a row. We believe that if we can help students connect in positive ways with animals, they will be more likely to connect in positive ways with each other. What better way to leverage connection than by involving the experts themselves?

Thank you to all our librarians! You are truly making this world a kinder, more connected place. ♥

Learn more about the impact of the RedRover Readers program and how you can get involved at [RedRover.org/Readers](http://RedRover.org/Readers).

## Bring kindness back to school

Gift a subscription of *Kind News* for a child or teacher you know. Use the code **RRTEACH** for a \$25 discounted classroom subscription.





# Care without limits

By Devon Krusko, RedRover Field Services and Outreach Coordinator

**ROCHELLE ARRIVED** in the middle of the night, eager to receive veterinary service for her three cats. It was surprisingly chilly in Tennessee the spring weekend when our RedRover Responders assisted at the Remote Area Medical Clinic, caring for the animals who came to receive free vet treatment. But folks lined up as early as midnight in order to receive free medical care for themselves and their pets.

Rochelle waited patiently for her turn at the check-in table and then began going over each cat's name, their personality, and the story of how she came to care for them. Check-in was almost complete when she asked, almost shyly, "Is there a limit to how many animals I can bring?"

"No," we told her with a smile. "Bring as many as you can, we're here to help." We loaded up her car with carriers and crates and hoped to see her soon.



And we did. Rochelle lives almost an hour from the clinic, and she drove back and forth repeatedly to transport animals in her care. Living at the end of a dirt road has made her neighborhood, and her home, a common place for folks to drop off animals or for strays to find their way to her. One dog she had only been feeding for two days. Many of the animals in her care had arrived pregnant, and Rochelle does not have the resources to care for the number of stray animals who need help.

In between trips, she was able to have her eyes examined and was looking forward to receiving her new glasses—a small moment for herself.

I was humbled to spend the day working with Rochelle. Over her multiple trips to the clinic transporting the animals, she arrived with a car—and a heart—full of love. She'd arrive with a smile. She'd arrive with a sigh of relief and a "Thank you" constantly between her lips. She was simply the embodiment of gratitude, as the animals in her care were gradually prepped to be altered and vaccinated.

At the end of the day, Rochelle told us, "It meant everything to me to be



"It meant everything to me to be here today. These are just babies. Now they'll be healthy and they can enjoy life."

here today. These are just babies. Now they'll be healthy and they can enjoy life."

So, is there a limit? A limit of love? Of compassion? A limit to how much one person cares and how much of themselves they put into something? I think it's limitless. Rochelle showed me this front and center. I was reminded over and over again that weekend that compassion is kindness. That people are good. That people and pets belong together. ♥

Follow us on Facebook for updates on RedRover Responders deployments: [Facebook.com/RedRover.org](https://www.facebook.com/RedRover.org).



# Helping animals and their people across the nation

By Beth Gammie, RedRover Director of Field Services

## THE REDROVER RESPONDERS

have been busy! We've been needed all over the country — showing up for animals and their people, and for communities in need.

At the same time that we were assisting at the Remote Area Medical Clinic in Tennessee, the City of Tulsa was facing dangerous flooding. So, one of our teams helped the Humane Society of Tulsa care for evacuated pets at an emergency shelter, where we got to witness many happy reunions as owners came to pick up their beloved animals.

Since then, we have deployed to four more emergency situations — many happening simultaneously. We helped care for cats rescued from a hoarding situation in Texas, took care of cats and dogs from another neglect case, and sent yet another team to care for almost 200 Parson Russell terriers rescued from an alleged neglect situation in New Jersey.

Our volunteer base is strong and spreads across the nation and Canada — and the need for this wide reach is readily apparent when we have multiple teams deployed at the same time bringing so many animals from crisis to care. ♥

**Become a RedRover Responders volunteer**

Learn how you can get involved at [RedRover.org/joinresponders](https://RedRover.org/joinresponders).



We've been needed all over the country — showing up for animals and their people, and for communities in need.



## From homeless to Happy Tail: Baker's story



**BAKER WAS LIVING** on the streets when Good Samaritans found her and saved her from getting hit by a car. When the sweet pup's rescuer, Desiree, tried to find her owners, no one came forward. So, Desiree took Baker in and made her a part of her family.

Shortly after getting her routine shots, the veterinarian delivered some bad news: Baker had a hernia and needed urgent surgery.

Desiree was in a tough spot. She had just been laid off from her job and was struggling financially, but there was no way she could let Baker suffer. So she turned to RedRover for help.

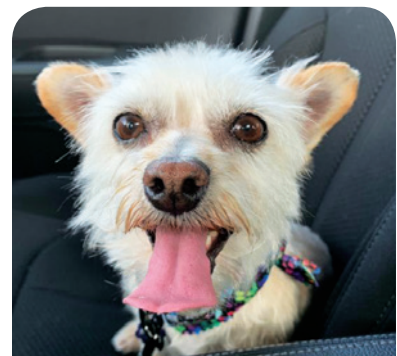
"This animal means the world to us," Desiree told us. "She is so sweet and kind and deserving of the love we can give her. She gets so excited to see us if we leave the house and come back that she almost hyperventilates with excitement. She loves it with us."

Luckily for Baker and her new adopted family, we were able to award Desiree a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant to help cover the cost of Baker's treatment—all thanks to supportive animal lovers like you.

Desiree and her family were so grateful for the assistance. Desiree sent us an update that Baker's surgery went great and she was now resting at home with her two canine siblings, surrounded by love and comfort. Thank you for making this Happy Tail possible!



"Baker means the world to us. She is so sweet and kind and deserving of the love we can give her."



Read more Happy Tail stories at [RedRover.org/happytails](https://RedRover.org/happytails).

## 2019 Safe Housing grant recipients

Round 1



Sojourner Center, AZ

Family Assistance  
Program, CA

Friends of  
the Family, IA

Hubbard  
House, Inc., FL

Refuge House, FL

The Spring of  
Tampa Bay, FL

Family Violence  
Prevention  
Service, Inc., TX

Women's Crisis  
Center, KY

YWCA West  
Central Michigan, MI

Hope Haven of  
Cass County, MO

Lydia's House, MO

Newhouse Shelter, MO

Abused Adult  
Resource Center, ND

Center for Hope  
and Safety, OR

Southside Center  
for Violence  
Prevention, Inc., VA

Converse Hope  
Center, WY

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

● past locations



### Six more states to go

Remaining states without pet-friendly domestic violence shelters



Hawaii



Maine



Mississippi



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](mailto:Relief@RedRover.org).



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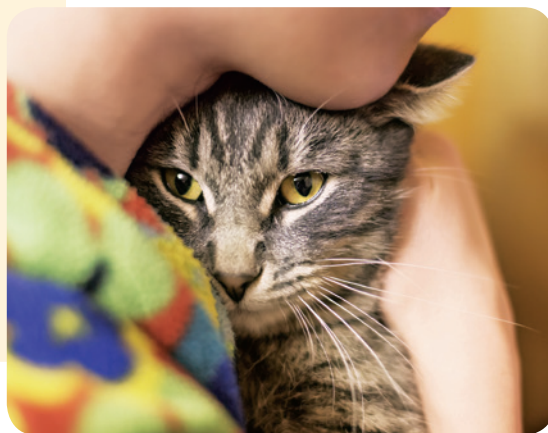
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Share our stories! Leave *Companion* at your doctor's office, vet clinic, gym, lunch room or coffee shop.  
To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

## Helping the whole family find safety

**"This program addresses a huge barrier** that so many people face—whether they choose not to leave because they depend on the relationship with their animal(s) for comfort and emotional support, or if they are worried for their pet's safety due to threats or prior acts of violence toward the pet—many people stay in violent and abusive circumstances out of concern for their pets. Allowing them the choice to provide a safe haven for their animals gives people experiencing violence an opportunity to choose freedom and safety. We appreciate everything you do at RedRover."

♥ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER ADVOCATE



**"Basically [the RedRover Safe Escape grant] meant that it was saving a family member.**

It meant that everything would be ok. It meant that not everything has to get left behind. It helped me sleep at night knowing that I wouldn't have to worry about him being safe. It made me feel like I didn't have to go back to the abuser because I left my dog behind."

♥ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR

**"It meant the world to my client.** Sterling is like family to her and she was so appreciative knowing he was safe while she was getting herself and her children to safety."

♥ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
SHELTER ADVOCATE

Learn more at  
[RedRover.org/dvhelp](https://RedRover.org/dvhelp).