



What animals teach us

A dragon's Happy Tail • Puppy mill dogs find peace • Safety for the whole family



Happy New Year!

THERE ARE SO MANY LESSONS we can learn from animals. One that really stands out to me is resiliency, the ability to recover quickly from difficulty. We see and practice resiliency almost daily at RedRover.

During nearly every RedRover Responders deployment, we hear from volunteers about the resiliency of animals who have been through trauma or neglect. With the loving support from our volunteers, most animals quickly

rebound and are so ready to love and be loved. In this issue, you'll read about how much this resiliency and willingness to trust deeply moved a RedRover Responders volunteer.

The resiliency of our RedRover staff is apparent every day — and it's paying off! While it may be disappointing that not every domestic violence shelter is ready to start housing pets, or that some overwhelmed teachers are not yet open to incorporating empathy for animals in their classrooms, we keep going and focus on successes.

The result of our positive persistence? There are only five states left that do not have at least one domestic violence shelter that houses pets on-site. The number of shelters across the U.S. that do house pets has gone up from 10% last year to 17%. Plus, we have now helped



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more than 100,000 kids develop empathy for animals!

Feeling connected and supported is a huge part of resiliency, and your support as a donor is a BIG part of this. Please join us in 2020 in celebrating all we have accomplished, and all we will continue to accomplish together. Thank you.

NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

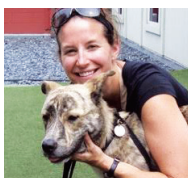
Ballot for election of board directors

Anna Straus, CHAIR*



Anna was raised by a generation of animal lovers with a shared passion and commitment to volunteer time, energy and resources to continue the family legacy that is so dear to her heart. Anna has more than 15 years of experience in sales, business development and leadership positions with a degree in Business Management and a certification in leadership coaching.

Kasey Miller, SECRETARY*



Kasey is a passionate animal-welfare advocate from Chicago, Illinois. In addition to being a RedRover Responders volunteer and an On-Call Angel donor, Kasey volunteers for her local animal rescue and welfare organization. Kasey is a Licensed Social Worker and serves as the Vice President of Talent & Engagement for a national non-profit association.

Make your vote count

For your vote to be counted, please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it by March 7. For a director to be elected by written ballot, he or she must receive a majority of affirmative votes. 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.

**To start their second three-year terms on RedRover's Board of Directors*



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What makes RedRover Readers so unique?

By Tara Lenehan, RedRover Education Coordinator

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

(SEL) is the process of developing self-awareness and empathy, to help kids foster positive relationships and make responsible decisions. At a recent conference, RedRover stood out among 50 other exhibitors as the only SEL program that focuses its standards-aligned curriculum on the human-animal bond.

While many programs focus on the relationships students have with their peers, RedRover Readers focuses on the relationship students have with their peers *and* with animals. Animals are safe to talk about: they are neutral, non-judgmental and love unconditionally. Animals are also familiar, as most students have had at least one experience with an animal.

The RedRover Readers program uses each of the 20 books and teaching guides to explore the human-animal bond in a way that allows students to practice taking the perspective of others. We ask open-ended questions, so there are no right or wrong answers.



This method creates a safe place for students to think, feel and speak freely. Without the fear of judgment in their learning environment, conversations and discussions flourish!

The RedRover Readers program is unique, and there is a clear need for SEL-based humane education in our school systems. Not only can

a humane education program like RedRover Readers help students practice self-awareness, responsibility and relationship skills, it's also a program that can benefit the whole family — paws and all. ♥

Learn more at
RedRover.org/Readers.

The gift of awareness

“Now I understand it. As educators, we can also be more aware of how we teach so we can show the kids how to be more in tune with themselves and others [including animals] around them.”

♥ REDROVER READERS TRAINED TEACHER
December 2019



RedRover
Readers
Online Course

APRIL 14

Sign up at RedRover.org/readerstraining.

Dragons deserve Happy Tails, too



WHEN KARA RESCUED ARES the bearded dragon, he had already spent the first five months of his life as an impulse purchase in a neglectful environment. Kara was prepared to give him a proper, loving home and nurse him to health with the right diet, but she wasn't expecting that Ares had developed necrosis (tissue death) in his toe and tail.

Being a working college student on a limited budget, Kara considered her options for helping Ares. She got him on antibiotics and started giving him regular baths to help with dehydration. But she knew eventually he would need surgery to remove dying tissue before the necrosis spread. She had already put all the money she had toward getting a diagnosis.

"Even though I haven't had him long, he's already got my heart. The thought of not being able to help him kills me. I thought I was just getting him out of a bad place, but it was so much more than that."

"Even though I haven't had him long, he's already got my heart."

Kara was committed to giving Ares a full, happy life. With the help of a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant made possible by a generous On-Call Angel, she was able to have a veterinarian remove the dying tissue before it spread.

Now that Ares is recovered from his surgery and enjoying a loving home for the first time, Kara wanted to share how much RedRover's help means to her: "I am blown away by the help and kindness you guys have given! Ares and I can't thank you enough. We are forever grateful for the wonderful help you all have given us!" ♥

Thank you for making Happy Tails like this possible!

Better With Pets

In November, Nicole Forsyth received Purina's Better With Pets Award! This honor recognizes individuals and organizations dedicated to improving the lives of both pets and people. Nicole said, "In working with Purina on the Purple Leash Project, we have seen firsthand the positive impact that pets have on the lives of domestic abuse survivors."

Learn more about the Purple Leash Project at purpleleashproject.com.



Puppy mill dogs find peace

WHEN HEATHER ARRIVED in Florida to help care for more than 350 dogs rescued from a puppy mill, she knew this would be more than just a “volunteer job.” As a RedRover Responders volunteer, she understands that life-changing connections happen when you’re working with animals in crisis.

But she didn’t realize that by the end of the deployment, three “old grandmas” would teach her about love.

In Hillsborough County, Florida, Heather and the rest of the RedRover Responders team immediately went to work preparing to care for the 350+ dogs.

Dogs rescued from puppy mills are typically slow to trust after enduring such terrible conditions and chronic neglect. That’s why the role of the RedRover Responders volunteers goes beyond giving animals daily care and comfort in the form of food and shelter. They also help these often frightened animals learn to trust humans, perhaps for the first time.

Heather had immediately noticed three senior dogs — “toothless old gals” all six years and older. The oldest was a white poodle who looked yellow because she had been covered in urine. Another was a tiny grey poodle, and the third was a Havanese.

On the sixth day of the deployment, when the senior dogs’ time for enrichment came, Heather brought plushy toys and sat on the floor of their kennel. To Heather’s surprise, the yellowish-white poodle immediately

came over and plastered herself “like Velcro” against her chest, tucking her head under Heather’s chin.

The little grey poodle was running frantically back and forth. The Havanese — the biggest and most skittish of the bunch — was pacing the kennel. Heather

sat quietly petting the yellow-white poodle (whom she called “Mama”), and the next thing she knew... the grey poodle was pressed against her side. Shortly after, the Havanese climbed into her lap.

Heather sat with all three

senior dogs pressed against her — one under each arm, one cuddled into her chest — and thought:

“You’re the oldest gals, the ones who have been neglected the longest, have

“The ones who have been neglected the longest, have been bred and bred, and still... It just blew my mind that they could still trust a human.”

been bred and bred, and still...”

Heather gets choked up, recalling that moment. “It just blew my mind that they could still trust a human.”

Speaking through tears, Heather is filled with awe, knowing what these old dogs had been through... and so grateful that they were able to finally find peace in her arms.

“The look in their eyes changed,” Heather tells us. “They were so still and so content — it just broke my heart. It was so beautiful.”

Because of your support and the devotion of our RedRover Responders volunteers, these puppy mill survivors now have a second chance to live happy, healthy lives with families who love them.

Thank you so much for being a part of our lifesaving work and making stories like this possible! ♥

Read the full story at
RedRover.org/pupmystory.



Can four walls save lives?

By Katie Campbell, RedRover Outreach Manager

IN 2019, our team provided 12 volunteer training workshops and deployed a total of 16 times to assist animals and people in crisis. Five of these deployments were special projects in partnership with GreaterGood.org's Rescue Rebuild shelter renovation program to help domestic violence shelters around the U.S. become pet-friendly.

On shelter build deployments, our volunteers trade in their slip leads and litter scoops for hammers and nails, but

the work is just as rewarding. Instead of providing daily walks, nourishment and TLC to rescued animals, our volunteers help build "catios," paint walls and create enriching and comfortable spaces for domestic violence survivors and their pets.

While these are not our usual deployments, I tell our volunteers that their efforts will change lives for years to come. In the words of a donor:

"I can understand staying in a situation because you won't leave your animals.

It's like leaving your children. Most of us can't do it. Having a safe place to go with our animals can make all the difference."

Can four walls save lives? For domestic violence survivors and their pets, they most certainly can—when the space is filled with love, compassion and, in this case, a little bit of fur. ♥

Learn how you can get involved at RedRover.org/volunteer.



Our volunteers help build "catios," paint walls and create enriching and comfortable spaces for domestic violence survivors and their pets.



For survivors and their pets, these spaces can make all the difference on their road to healing.



Fall 2019 Safe Housing grant recipients

WE'VE REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE! Since 2012, RedRover has given 109 Safe Housing grants to domestic violence shelters in 37 states, totaling more than one million dollars! We will continue to work diligently to ensure that every state has at least one pet-friendly shelter.

Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
Saline County, KS

Wayne County Protective Agency, Inc. dba Fair Haven
Wayne County, GA

L.I. Against Domestic Violence
Suffolk County, NY

Colorado River Regional Crisis Services
La Paz County, AZ

Center for Family Services
Camden County, NJ

2019 Purple Leash Project grant recipients

Safe Voices
Androscoggin County, ME

Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence, Inc.
Hart County, GA

OhioGuidestone, Personal and Family Counseling Services
Cuyahoga County, OH

Victor Valley Domestic Violence, Inc.
San Bernardino County, CA

Survivor Resource Network
Kay County, OK

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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.

Celebrating Board Director, Don Garlit, for Completing Four 3-Year Board Terms



"I am immensely grateful for Donald Garlit, who has not only served on the RedRover Board a total of 12 years, but is also a generous donor and RedRover Responders volunteer. His financial knowledge as an Executive for General Motors, commitment to the highest level of integrity and transparency, compassion for animals and education in law were put to excellent use leading RedRover through dozens of strategic conversations and difficult decisions. Don has always been a huge support to RedRover and me personally. I will really miss seeing him each quarter at Board meetings, but very grateful he will continue to help us on the Internal Affairs Committee!"

♥ **NICOLE FORSYTH**
RedRover President and CEO