

Rescues, reunions and fresh starts

Hogan's Happy Tail • *Kind News* goes digital
More progress for pets escaping abuse



Nicole, with superstar Punky and a team from the PAWS Act Coalition, visited legislators on The Hill last spring to speak about the power of the human-animal bond and to ensure the PAWS Act — which provides funding for domestic violence shelters to become pet-friendly — received funding. And great news! The PAWS Act was funded, and domestic violence shelters were invited to apply this spring.

DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED

TIMES, I am grateful to all of our supporters. Because of you, we can be there for people and animals in crisis.

As circumstances changed, so have our programs: We've seen a 40% increase in our Urgent Care veterinary grants due to COVID-19-related unemployment; our RedRover Readers program and *Kind News* magazine went digital; and our RedRover Responders program is launching the first online volunteer training in August!

Given that domestic violence has increased as more people are isolated at home, we are offering more Safe Escape grant extensions. These grant extensions help board pets of survivors who are facing delays in leaving shelters during the pandemic.

Lastly, we continue to provide Emergency Boarding grants for people too ill with COVID-19 to care for their pets. We were thrilled to receive coverage of these vital grants in the *New York Times*. You can help spread



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the word even further by sharing the resources on our website with your local animal shelter, veterinary office, neighborhood associations and other places where you see people turning for help. Visit RedRover.org/coronavirus.

I encourage you to visit our website to learn more about how we are pivoting our programs and to learn about how you can help.

Nicole

NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

You helped Xena play again

WHEN XENA'S family needed help paying for emergency surgery in the wake of COVID-19 work shortages, RedRover was there to help.

"[Xena] is the base of our family! She loves us all and enjoys spending her time cheering us up, lounging around or going for a walk!"

Thanks to your support, Xena was able to get the care she needed. Her family says:

"Thank you for the assistance on behalf of myself, my wife and Xena! She is back to herself and acting as if nothing ever happened! She is still playful, joyful and loving!"

Thank you for keeping pets and families together. ❤️



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 2020 Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits!

Read inspiring stories about us and add your own at greatnonprofits.org/org/redrover.



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Companion is published quarterly by RedRover and is distributed to its members.
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RedRover Readers goes virtual

REDROVER READERS IS PILOTING a unique, interactive, virtual reading experience for K-6 students using Zoom! Below are testimonials from some of the parents and educators who have participated. ♥

Learn more at RedRover.org/VirtualReadings.

LEARN ABOUT all the ways RedRover has pivoted, adapted our programs and added resources for helping people and pets during the COVID-19 pandemic at RedRover.org/coronavirus.

"Focus is something we struggle with at home. Watching my 6-year-old be so engaged in the discussion was amazing!"



"I liked watching the kids interact. You could tell that they were learning, enjoying sharing and having fun! I liked the bunny enclosure drawings and the kids sharing what they drew."

"My students loved hearing a story about someone who was different from them! We learned so much and the discussions were great!"

"Our family enjoyed hearing the read aloud books and learning about the real life animals featured in the stories."



Bring kindness back to school

To ensure educators and students still had access to *Kind News* after schools closed due to COVID-19, we sent out a digital flipbook version of the latest issue!

Get a free download at KindNews.org.



Rescued dog finds happiness

by Devon Krusko, RedRover Field Services and Outreach Coordinator

YOU MAY REMEMBER a favorite dog of mine from a past *Companion* story — a sweet, stocky pup I met on our last RedRover deployment. In February 2020, I led the RedRover Responders volunteer team in Florida, assisting our friends at the Humane Society of the United States with a hoarding case of 145 dogs.

At the time this pup had no name, only an identification number, but for this story we'll call her "E." Knowing that she would be transported to one of the many rescue partners around the country once ready for adoption, I decided to follow her story after we wrapped up the deployment.



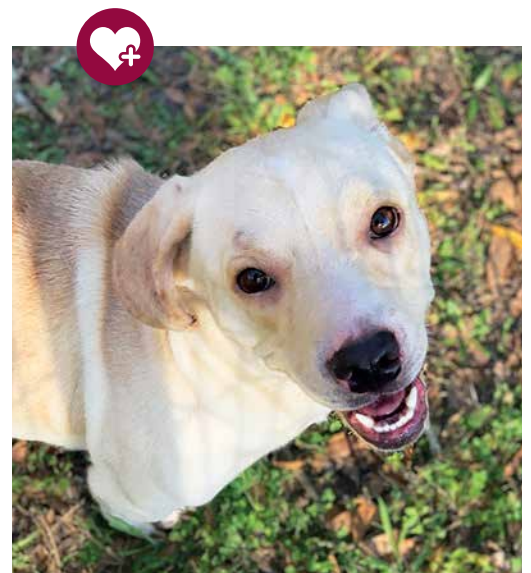
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, transport of animals was understandably put on hold. Days became weeks, and in May I received an update on my favorite pup: E was well-loved by staff, playing in dog playgroups, and had even met a few felines. And the best news? She was headed to a rescue partner local to me! Which meant I could see her.

It's rare that I'm able to see an animal I met on deployment after my time on a case. The drive to E was four hours each way, but I knew seeing her would be worth every mile.

I arrived at a different scene than my last visit to an animal shelter — a line of people waiting in masks and standing on social distancing markers. But what wasn't different was the energy. Families, children, laughter and the anticipation of a new family member—in short, a room full of excitement and love.

I found E easily, sitting in her kennel, looking up at me. I knelt down and spoke softly to her. Her tail started thumping, her little tushy began wiggling, and she jumped up giving kisses to my fingers through the chainlink. I like to think she remembered me.

I was able to take E into the shelter's play yard where she sprinted in delight, and I snuggled her as I had months before. She bounded along, with her cream-colored rolls jiggling, her tongue hanging and a big smile. She had gained a good amount of



Our RedRover Responders Volunteer Training is now available online! Visit RedRover.org/joinresponders for more details.

weight, her coat shined and her eyes were bright. We spent an hour together just enjoying each other's company.

And yes, I cried.

I cried because E has made it to the finish line. She has survived a life of cruelty and neglect. She had been forgotten, quite

E was now wanted, with a line of adopters waiting to choose her.

literally, boarded up in an outdoor wooden structure. But here she was — a survivor. An animal yet again

showing resilience. E was now wanted, with a line of adopters waiting to choose her.

You can probably guess the ending. It's a happy one, with a most deserving dog finally receiving what she deserves. I am glad to have played a small role in her story. May we all show kindness to the creatures who rely on us. ♥

Read the complete story at RedRover.org/finishline.

Hogan's "Angels"

THERE IS NO MISTAKING the special bond between Christine and her 14-year-old cat, Hogan:

Hogan is the love of my life, my companion. He reached out through the cage at the rescue and touched my leg back in 2009, and I knew I had to bring him home. Hogan has been my companion through the hardest times of my life; through my five years as a military spouse and the eight years my military husband abused me. Hogan's moved with me, consoled me, sleeps with me every night and loves me. Always, and especially during these unusual and difficult times, he is my constant companion.

Hogan's charming personality and loving companionship were an incredible comfort to Christine when she lost her job due to COVID-19.

Like so many cats, Hogan was an expert at hiding his pain. Christine was taken completely by surprise



when she noticed that he had a large open wound on his right hindquarters. She rushed him to the emergency veterinarian, who suspected that every time Hogan used the litter box, urine would soak into his fur and irritate his skin. Now the wound was nearly two inches wide and almost as deep. With his fur covering most of the wound and his reluctance to show his pain, it was a miracle that Christine noticed the wound when she did.

Hogan was sent home from the emergency veterinarian's office with two medications and a bill greater than two weeks' worth of Christine's unemployment benefits. She was devastated that her savings were now gone, but at least the worst was behind them.

At their next check-up, the vet recommended Hogan go under anesthesia again in a surgical attempt to close the wound.

With no savings and no other income, she had no idea how she would afford

his second round of urgent care. But thinking back on all the years he had soothed her through her difficult and abusive marriage, she committed herself to finding help with the cost.

Christine was thrilled upon discovering RedRover Relief Urgent Care grants online. We paired her application for a grant with an On-Call Angel ready to make a generous donation and guarantee that Hogan would receive the care he needed as soon as possible. The call from RedRover notifying her that her grant was approved brought tears to Christine's eyes.

Compassion is at the heart of RedRover's mission, and it is because of compassionate supporters like you that so many families have a Happy Tail of their own to share. Now that Hogan is home from the hospital, Christine shared this update with RedRover:

I'm still beside myself with gratitude to you and RedRover. I don't know what I would have done. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.



If you are interested in becoming an On-Call Angel and making a direct, lifesaving difference for individual pets and families in crisis, please visit RedRover.org/angel.

Purple Leash Project highlights

BECAUSE OF our Purple Leash Project partnership with Purina, we're helping more and more domestic violence shelters become pet-friendly.

According to our database on SafePlaceforPets.org, only 17% of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. accept pets of survivors. The Purple Leash Project partnership enables us to bring greater awareness to this vital issue.

Over the last 18 months, we have brought this message about the need for more pet-friendly shelters to legislators on Capitol Hill and at the annual Congressional baseball game. We have delivered this message to millions who viewed the National and Westminster

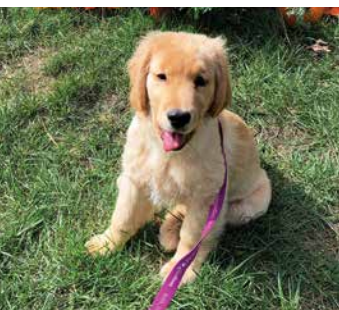
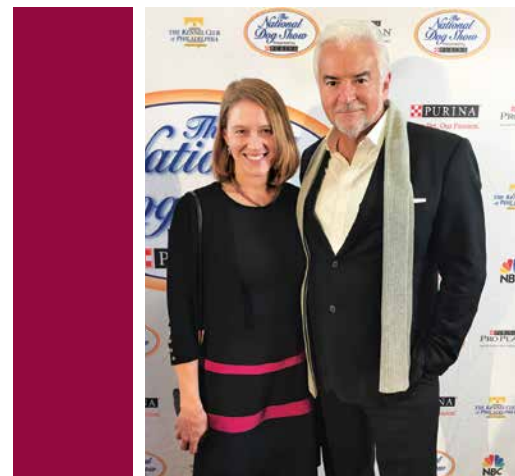
Dog Shows, and through nationally televised commercials and trade shows. And thanks to our Purple Leash Project grants, we have enabled nine domestic violence shelters to become pet-friendly.

We were on site helping to transform three of these shelters into pet-friendly safe havens. Additionally, we have partnered with national spokespersons

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and social media influencers, Purina's Tidy Cats and Beggin' Strips brands, and created successful social media


campaigns such as our "Take the Lead" Challenge. Here are some highlights and milestones! ♥





Be sure to join us in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and learn about ways you can help by signing up to receive email updates: RedRover.org/email.



 *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.

After 100 days, a happy reunion and a fresh start

Sarah* was trapped in an abusive relationship, unable to even leave her home. Her loving pup Teddy* was always by her side, a constant source of comfort and love. He'd gaze at her with

his mismatched eyes — one brown and one blue — with a tenderness and devotion she didn't see anywhere else.

After a particularly violent episode forced Sarah from the home and

into a domestic violence shelter, she was worried about Teddy and desperate to be reunited with him, but the shelter did not allow pets.

Domestic violence survivors are often faced with this heartbreaking decision — forced to choose between safety and their beloved pet.

Luckily, Sarah's advocate at the shelter knew about RedRover and applied for a Safe Escape grant. It was an urgent

request, as Sarah had reason to believe Teddy was not being fed or cared for in the home. We quickly approved funding to board Teddy while Sarah stayed in the domestic violence shelter and rebuilt her life. After more than

100 days of boarding, Sarah and Teddy were happily reunited, both safe and healthy, and ready to start their new life together. Sarah's advocate told us, "I just don't know

what we'd do without RedRover. As an advocate, I feel stuck when animals are involved and have the need to find their safety...Thank you!"

Learn more about how you can help domestic violence survivors and their pets at [RedRover.org/dvhelp](https://www.redrover.org/dvhelp).



*Names have been changed