



Red Rover®

SUMMER 2022

# companion



## The joy of connection

Overcoming barriers to safety • A Happy Tail  
for Jenny the Cattle Dog • Collaborating for change  
in Texas • How fostering kittens teaches kindness



## GREETINGS AND HAPPY SUMMER!

I recently had to say goodbye to my dog, Jasper. I miss him terribly, but I am also incredibly grateful to have known him. Every relationship with an animal, whether a pet who shares my home or the briefest outdoor encounter with a toad or bird, brings me pure joy. The first time I felt that joy as a child, I became forever committed to animals and helping people understand, connect with, and feel that joy as well — with the hope that it inspires people to not only help animals when they need us most, but also connect better with each other. And that is exactly what RedRover is all about.

RedRover Readers and *Kind News* magazine are inspiring compassion in the next generation. You can learn how you can help grow this program and reach more kids in this issue of *Companion* and at [RedRover.org/Readers](https://RedRover.org/Readers).

RedRover Relief keeps people and pets together through crisis, and we have set an ambitious goal of seeing 25% of domestic violence shelters become pet-friendly by 2025.

Lastly, RedRover Responders provides temporary emergency animal sheltering and other support for people and communities in need. We are seeking 307 more animal lovers to join our volunteer team and bring us to our goal of 5,000 strong, ensuring that we can be there for animals anytime we're called. Becoming a trained RedRover Responders volunteer not only helps animals in crisis but provides learning opportunities and a way to build positive connections



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with like-minded people. Learn more at [RedRover.org/Responders](https://RedRover.org/Responders) and share this issue of *Companion* with others who may want to help.

Thank you for supporting our mission and for the compassion you add to the world!

Warmly,

**NICOLE FORSYTH**  
President and CEO

## Join us in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**, and you can join us in helping more survivors and pets find safety together.

Learn how you can make a difference at [RedRover.org/DVhelp](https://RedRover.org/DVhelp).



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**Correction:** Please note a typo in our Spring 2021 Annual Report issue. On page 8, the number of children who learned skills to develop empathy for animals in 2021 is 5,634, not 10,454.

Cover: Staff foster kitten Cole gets lots of love as he prepares for his forever home. Photo by Erin Bialecki.



# Overcoming barriers to housing survivors' pets



By Katie Campbell, RedRover Director of Collaboration and Outreach

Our Don't Forget the Pets website, launched in 2021 with Greater Good Charities' Rescue Rebuild program, assists human and animal welfare organizations working to support survivors of domestic violence and unhoused individuals with pets. This has proven to be an invaluable resource in guiding organizations step-by-step through the process of creating their own pet housing programs.

Along the way, we hear a few common concerns. Through our in-depth workshops and training presentations, we've compiled the **top three barriers that shelters and organizations say they face when considering pet-friendly housing:**



**Space**



**Allergies**



**Funding/cost**

While these challenges can seem daunting, our goal with Don't Forget the Pets is to work with shelters to find viable solutions for their individual needs. Our specialized training and coaching program offers hands-on support to overcome these barriers, so organizations can create effective, sustainable programs that provide shelter for people and pets in need.

**Here are just a few testimonials from participants:**

**"This was fabulous** and I want additional people to know more about this subject."



**"I cannot believe an organization like yours exists.** This training, the resources on your website, and the free coaching are amazing. Thank you for doing this for both the animals and humans."

**"I love the energy of the trainers..."** This was the most informative training I've been a part of since wanting to start taking pets into the shelters."

Learn more at  
**DontForgetThePets.org. ♥**

## Gearing up for a BIG goal

Through the Purple Leash Project, RedRover and Purina are working toward a goal of ensuring 25% of domestic violence shelters are pet-friendly by 2025.

**Learn how you can help make this possible at [RedRover.org/PurpleLeashProject](https://RedRover.org/PurpleLeashProject).**



# From Australia to Oregon: A pandemic Happy Tail

By Savannah Verdon, RedRover Development and Engagement Coordinator

## CLOTHES, BOOKS, PASSPORT...

**AND JENNY.** When Candice came to the United States from Australia, she made absolutely certain that her Cattle Dog, Jenny, came with her. She was heading to Portland, Oregon, and even in such a vibrant city, her life would be dull and gray without her sweet sidekick.

When the COVID-19 pandemic first arrived in the U.S., Candice felt it was time to return to Australia. But Australia had already instituted lockdowns to help stop the spread of the virus, drastically limiting the number of people who could re-enter the country. Candice would also be responsible for the costs of adhering to Australia's strict quarantine protocols. She simply couldn't afford to go home.

Jenny's boundless energy helped Candice cope with so much uncertainty. On most days they went to the park to run, jump, and play fetch, then snuggled in bed, exhausted. Candice wasn't legally authorized to work in the U.S., and so with her money dwindling and little else to do besides wait until she could return home, she and Jenny spent most of their time together.

Like many Cattle Dogs, Jenny was remarkably intelligent — and a little bit sneaky. When some grapes fell off the counter, Jenny saw them as a tasty treat, not a toxic threat. Once she realized Jenny had helped herself to a dangerous snack, Candice rushed her to the emergency veterinary hospital, wanting nothing in the world but to save her best friend:

"She's my whole world and I will do everything to keep her alive for her longest natural life possible. Seriously. She's my world."

Without treatment, Jenny would lapse into a coma in just a few days as her kidneys failed and she suffered from vomiting and diarrhea. Candice was determined to spare Jenny from that awful fate. While Jenny was hospitalized and receiving IV fluids and medication to flush out the toxins, Candice turned to friends and family for help.

After a few friends chipped in, Candice was just short of the amount she needed. The veterinarian at the hospital recommended that Candice apply for a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant to help fill the small remaining gap. She submitted her application and waited for the call, thinking only of bringing her best friend home.

Her application was quickly approved, and after the wrenching uncertainty, Candice could relax knowing that Jenny would get the full treatment she needed. Now fully recovered, Jenny hasn't lost one bit of her boundless energy. Their first order of business? Playing fetch in the park!



Candice shared her gratitude: "Thank you so so much. I appreciate your help beyond belief." We, too, are grateful for the second chances and Happy Tails that your support makes possible. Thank you for bringing families like Candice and Jenny from crisis to care! ♥

Read more inspiring Happy Tails and share your own at [Greatnonprofits.org/org/RedRover](https://Greatnonprofits.org/org/RedRover).





“She’s my whole world and I will do everything to keep her alive for her longest natural life possible.”



# Collaborating for change

By Devon Krusko, Field Services & Community Programs Manager

**I WAS IMMEDIATELY DRAWN TO KAREN PATTERSON**, vice president of Fix West Texas, when we first met in 2021. She is fiercely committed to improving the quality of life for pets and people in her community. In fact, her passion and drive are so infectious, it's impossible not to want to be involved in the work she's doing! So I was thrilled for the opportunity to work with her again this past June when RedRover assisted Fix West Texas with two Pay-What-You-Can-Afford vaccine clinics in Midland and Odessa.

The overpopulation of animals in Texas is an ongoing crisis. Many dogs live loose on the streets, others are taken in by families, and some are cared for by community members. To help manage the issue, some homeless dogs are transported to rescues and shelter partners in states that have lower stray populations and higher adoption rates.

In communities with an abundance of stray animals and limited resources for both people and pets, vaccine clinics like the ones offered by Fix West Texas can be truly lifesaving. And for many homeless animals, Fix West Texas does more than provide veterinary care;

When I arrived at the clinic each morning, my heart was full seeing families already lined up waiting.

they also help find them homes.

In 2021 alone, they adopted out almost 600 cats from their clinic location!

In June 2022, RedRover committed to covering the cost of vaccines for up to 600 pets, totaling \$5,000. Thanks to our generous supporters, we met our goal! That means 600 cats and dogs are now protected from preventable diseases and have established relationships with a local veterinary service.

When I arrived at the clinic each morning, my heart was full seeing families already lined up waiting. I loved meeting hundreds of people and pets that weekend and learning their stories. One family came with two trucks full of animals. I learned that they live outside of town where animals are often left to fend for themselves. Many of those stray animals find their way to this family who generously cares for all of them —



a major financial undertaking. They were grateful that the clinic was available to make sure all the animals in their care got vaccinated.

Another family brought stray mama cats and kittens, and others had animals who were experiencing their first car ride and their first veterinary services—a big day for everyone, made better by the compassionate folks at Fix West Texas and hot dogs (for the pups!) to make the poke of a vaccine a more positive experience.

Partnerships and deployments like these demonstrate the importance of supporting the human-animal bond and building compassion and empathy in communities. Thank you for helping to make this possible! ♥

**Learn how you can make a difference for animals through our RedRover Responders program at [RedRover.org/Responders](https://RedRover.org/Responders).**



Want to make a direct impact for animals in crisis? Join our volunteer program! Learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities and take the free online training: [RedRover.org/JoinResponders](https://RedRover.org/JoinResponders)

# Learning resilience through kitten fostering

By Tara Lenehan, RedRover Education Coordinator

When Alice Smith and her family joined the kitten fostering program through Marlboro County Humane Society, they met RedRover's Field Services and Community Programs Manager, Devon Krusko.

Devon noticed how excited Alice's children — Alivia and her brother Drew — were about helping animals, so she suggested they join RedRover's Junior Advisory Board, a group for kids who are passionate about making a difference for people and animals. Together, these young leaders can use their voices to create positive change within school communities and beyond.

The Smiths have fostered tiny kittens, mama cats, pregnant strays, and feral cats. At one point, they were caring for 14 kittens at home! With that many animals comes much responsibility. And while the family has had some great successes, they've also had to deal with disappointment and loss when it's time to say goodbye to animals they've become attached to.



Even though fostering can be challenging, Alice believes that “fostering is teaching our children compassion, to be a voice for ones that can't speak, and to be responsible.”

Not only are Alice's children learning about the resilience required to foster animals in need, they also feel a sense of accomplishment when they find a forever home for one of the kittens. Sometimes they even get to surprise children with their first pets!

The Smith family calls their foster kittens their “therapy sessions.”

“When we've had bad days we can just go snuggle a baby and it automatically puts a smile on our faces.”

Alice, Alivia, and Drew continue to foster through Marlboro Humane and encourage other children to help animals in their community through RedRover programs, including the Junior Advisory Board. ♥



Learn more about ways to help animals in your community at [RedRover.org/waystohelp](https://RedRover.org/waystohelp).



## Go back to school with kindness

The latest digital issue of *Kind News* is here, complete with fun animal facts, games, and cool online features. Visit [KindNews.org/download](https://KindNews.org/download) to check it out, tell a teacher you know, or even sponsor a classroom!



“**Kindness and empathy** are difficult concepts to teach, but so important. *Kind News* helps students see others being kind in a real, relatable, tangible way!”

♥ K-3 teacher,  
Casa Grande, AZ

“**Seeing children close to their own age** working to solve problems in the world empowers my students to see themselves as change-agents!”

♥ Jill Dujardin,  
third-grade teacher,  
Neenah, WI

“*Kind News* is a double-engined rocket advancing kids to higher literacy and a better understanding of animals!”

♥ Virginia Haddad,  
second-grade teacher,  
Salton City, CA

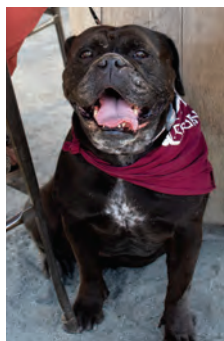


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Share our stories! Leave *Companion* at your doctor's office, vet clinic, gym, lunch room, or coffee shop.  
To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

## Celebrating 35 years!

ON MAY 19, staff, board, friends, and family joined us in Sacramento, California, to commemorate our 35th anniversary. We had so much fun celebrating together at SacYard Community Tap House! We also raised nearly \$2,000 towards our lifesaving programs for pets and people in need.



♥  
Thank you for  
being a part of our  
35-year history!