



Collaborating for change

A first-ever refuge for survivors' pet pigs • Preventing suffering for coastal cats • Doja's Happy Tail • Expanding RedRover Readers



GREETINGS!

As 2022 comes to a close, there is a lot to feel grateful for at RedRover.

Thanks to our efforts rallying supporters and developing collaborations through partnerships like the Purple Leash Project and DontForgetThePets.org, more domestic violence (DV) shelters have become pet-friendly. In fact, since we began offering Safe Housing grants in 2012, we've seen a 280% increase in the number of applications we receive! Now we have set an ambitious goal to ensure that 25% of DV shelters are able to welcome pets by the end of 2025. You can learn how to help by visiting RedRover.org/DVAM.

Our collaboration with other animal welfare organizations has led to 17 RedRover Responders deployments so far this year, some of which focused on assisting under-resourced communities with animal care needs. Our community program work has included freeing

dogs from chains and providing vital pet wellness services to residents in underserved communities. As we tested our capacity, our staff and volunteers also came together to assist the Humane Society of the United States in its unprecedented rescue of approximately 4,000 beagles, removed in stages from a massive breeding facility with alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Over two deployments, we provided TLC to hundreds of adult dogs and puppies as they transitioned to their new lives.

By early September, all 4,000 beagles were on their way to foster or rescue partners or already placed with loving adoptive families. In fact, I adopted one myself! Finn is a sweet puppy whose mom and littermates were pulled out of the breeding facility when the pups were two weeks old.

Our collaboration with human service organizations has led to huge strides in improving animal and human well-being, and taking a social justice approach has helped us reach more animals and people in deeper, more meaningful ways. I can't wait to see where this takes us as we listen, learn, and expand our collaborative efforts even further.



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As an example, we partnered with the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) to pilot a new version of our RedRover Readers curriculum and training. The project empowers SNAHC Youth Ambassadors to lead the program with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students throughout the region using a co-created, Native-centric curriculum that is culturally relevant, with books written by Indigenous authors.

Thank you for being a part of these exciting changes — and so much more to come!

With sincere gratitude,

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New beginnings for RedRover Readers

By Caty Franco, RedRover Project Manager

On-demand workshop

Since 2007, the RedRover Readers program has helped children aged five to eleven develop empathy for people and animals through our story-based classroom curriculum. We have held more than 138 professional development workshops online and in person, training 2,443 educators and volunteers in 18 states and provinces.

This October, we launched a new, on-demand version of the RedRover Readers workshop to better meet the needs of teachers. Now educators can register and move through the course on their own time, at their own pace. Plus, we're offering the workshop at a discounted rate of \$35 per educator through the end of 2022 in honor of RedRover's 35th anniversary!

Register or learn more at RedRover.org/on-demand.

New curriculum titles

RedRover Readers is excited to announce several new additions to our curriculum! We've been on the lookout for diverse children's books that help promote the human-animal bond, and we found five titles that bring more representation and inclusivity to our program.



Each new program book has curriculum Teaching Guides to help reinforce social responsibility concepts. After completing a RedRover Readers workshop online or in person, educators and volunteers receive access to our full collection of teaching guides, a free program book of their choice to get started, and a free one-year classroom subscription to our *Kind News* magazine for children.

View our complete list of curriculum books at RedRover.org/books or learn more about our program at RedRover.org/Readers. ♥



Give the gift of kindness

Want to put smiles on children's faces? Sign up to adopt a classroom with *Kind News* magazine! For just \$30 a year, you can bring the magazine to an entire classroom.

Learn more at KindNews.org/adopt.



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Onward and upward for rescued beagles

By Devon Krusko, RedRover Field Services and Community Programs Manager

MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH BEAGLES

rescued from lab testing was nearly 10 years ago, when I worked as a live-in animal caretaker at Kindness Ranch Animal Sanctuary in Wyoming, a 1,000-acre ranch for former research and lab animals. There, I lived in a yurt and cared for former laboratory beagles (“bagels,” as I like to call them), large hounds and mastiffs, and a plethora of cats, horses, and pigs. The beagles, who had never felt grass or lived in a home setting, utilized the yurt as such. I think often of my time at Kindness Ranch and carry wonderful memories of the many animals I cared for during my time there, especially favorite beagles like Isaac and Molson.

This summer, when our friends at the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) asked RedRover to assist with their historic effort to care for approximately 4,000 beagles removed from a breeding facility for laboratory testing, I was flooded with emotions. What a gift to be involved in this monumental undertaking, and what an opportunity for education about animal testing and humane practices.

The 4,000 beagles aren’t unique, unfortunately; rather, they are a small portion of the millions of animals used every year in USDA-registered (i.e., legal and government-sanctioned) research. The facility from which the beagles were removed had more than 70 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act including denying the dogs medical care, withholding food, and not following humane euthanasia guidelines.

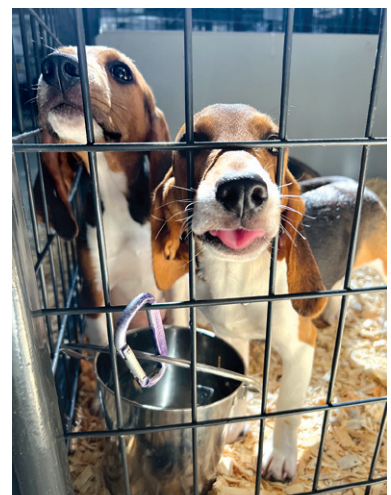
Our first day on the ground in Maryland, I anxiously awaited the transport vehicle to arrive at HSUS’s Animal Care and rehabilitation Center. I couldn’t wait to get the dogs settled into a clean space where their tiny feet would feel a soft texture for the first time — but I also ached for the stress they’d experience with so many overwhelming unknowns.



RedRover Responders Online Training

Want to make a direct impact for animals in crisis? Join our volunteer team! Take our free online training:

RedRover.org/JoinResponders



As the beagles were unloaded into the caring arms of volunteers and staff, many were frozen — a common fear response — but some offered tail wags and tentative kisses while they were checked in and identified by the tattoos inside their ears before being carried to their new safe space.

It was impossible not to fall for favorite beagles over the next week. I wanted to watch them for hours, exploring their space, playing with toys for the first time, and falling

asleep in a lap with a big relieved sigh. Each day brought out their unique personalities, silly antics, and the most heartwarming greetings. I have no doubt they will be so loved by their new families.

I will forever have a soft spot for the animals who come from breeding and laboratory facilities. I'm so grateful



to all of the incredible folks who made this rescue possible. To the many animal welfare organizations, staff, volunteers, advocates, donors, media, and adopters — the success of this operation is because of you. Thank you.

Follow us on social media for more updates on our lifesaving deployments. ♥

Helping Florida's coastal cats

By Beth Gammie, RedRover Director of Field Services

IN THE SWELTERING HEAT of a Florida summer, our RedRover Responders team gathered in Wakulla County for the first TNR (trap-neuter-release) of our "Coastal Cats" initiative with Operation Catnip. This program focuses on TNRs in coastal areas where free-roaming cats would be most impacted by hurricanes and storm surges.

Over the course of a four-day deployment in August, with the help of PAWS of Wakulla, community volunteers, and Shepherd Spring Animal Hospital, we successfully trapped and

sterilized 145 cats; cared for them as they recovered safely indoors at our temporary shelter; then released them to their original trapping location.

The hours were long and the work was hard, but knowing how much we helped prevent cat suffering by curbing overpopulation in this community was beyond satisfying. Thank you for making projects like this one possible!

Follow us on social media for more updates on RedRover Responders deployments and community projects. ♥

Did you know?

RedRover also provides assistance during natural disasters by compiling emergency resource lists for people and animals affected by the crisis. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest updates and to help spread the word:

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Photo by Stacy Shines / HSUS

A special refuge for survivors' pet pigs

THIS SUMMER, WE HAD AN EXCITING "FIRST" in our domestic violence work:

We awarded a Safe Housing grant to a pig sanctuary in Tennessee, creating a first-of-its-kind program to support the pet pigs of survivors.

Located just outside of Memphis, Pigtopia's mission began in 2014 to provide a happy, safe place for unwanted, abandoned, and neglected pigs. But it was a tragic loss that led founder Anna Davis Yancey (pictured right) to establish a refuge for animals escaping domestic violence. In 2020, Anna's friend Amber was killed by a domestic abuser. Amber had been passionate about animal rescue and loved her companion pigs, dogs, and cats as family. We interviewed Anna to learn more about her story and how, with empathy and compassion, Amber's Refuge will make a difference for survivors and their beloved pigs.

Q What inspired you to create Pigtopia and Amber's Refuge?

A: I started Pigtopia largely because of the influence Amber had on me and the way that she educated me about pigs' needs and seeing for myself what amazing creatures they are.

Amber's story also hit so close to home because domestic violence was something I had experienced, and I thought how easily that could have been me. After her loss, people were just stunned and shocked about what had happened to Amber because she was a strong-minded, powerful, independent woman. As I connected with other pig owners and people in the community, so many people reached out and said, "I'm in a similar situation, and I don't have anywhere for my pig to go—I don't want to leave them behind." I had assumed my own situation was isolated,

RedRover awarded a Safe Housing grant to a pig sanctuary in Tennessee, creating a first-of-its-kind program to support the pet pigs of survivors.

Pigtopia provides a happy, safe place for unwanted, abandoned, and neglected pigs.



Amber's Refuge will make a difference for domestic violence survivors and their beloved pigs.



but I realized this was a more extensive issue than I'd thought.

Q What are some common misconceptions about pigs, and what do you want people to know about their role as companion animals?

A: Pigs by far are the most empathetic and emotional animals I've ever encountered. They have a deep sense of compassion and caring for the people they love, and they have a

difficult time with change and healing from trauma... They just have an incredible capacity for love.

Q What are your long-term goals for Amber's Refuge?

A: I hope that we can honor Amber's legacy and help others. Since we are the first of its kind in the U.S., that means if there's someone many states away having an urgent issue, it's much harder for us to act quickly. My goal is to help create Amber's Refuges in every state.

A Happy Tail for Doja



FOR COLLEGE STUDENT MAKAYLA, her eight-year-old pit bull Doja is simply everything.

Not long after spending hundreds of dollars on annual vaccines and flea and heartworm preventatives for all three of the family's pets, Makayla was deeply saddened to learn that Doja had a cancerous mass on her body. Without surgically removing the mass, there was no telling how serious the cancer might be or how much time they might have left with sweet Doja.

Makayla and her family had little more than a sliver of hope to afford Doja's unexpected surgery. But Makayla wasn't deterred — she

searched online and applied for a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant.

She was relieved when she learned her application had been approved, but she was ecstatic when, after a successful surgery, the veterinarian shared that the cancer was slow-spreading and they had removed the mass soon enough to save Doja's life. Doja was recovering so well that it was only a matter of days before she picked up her toys and started playing again.

Makayla had been afraid she would lose everything. But as the fear faded away, she found only love, joy, and gratitude for the life she shared with her best friend and the kind-hearted people like you who make Happy Tails like Doja's possible.

For more heartwarming Happy Tails, visit RedRover.org/happytails. ♥



Q What are the most rewarding aspects of your work?

A: Seeing animals healing and recovering from trauma, and giving them opportunities for joy and trust and feeling safe again. It means the world to me.

Read the full interview at RedRover.org/Pigtopia. ♥



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Get ready to give back on Giving Tuesday!



CHARITABLE GIVING SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

November 29 is Giving Tuesday, a global movement dedicated to giving back to a cause you care about. RedRover is funded solely by private donations and grants so we rely completely on the generosity of others. Your support on Giving Tuesday will help save animals' lives and keep families together through a variety of crises, including natural disasters, domestic violence, veterinary emergencies, and more.

Learn how you can be part of our Giving Tuesday campaign by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @RedRover.org.


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