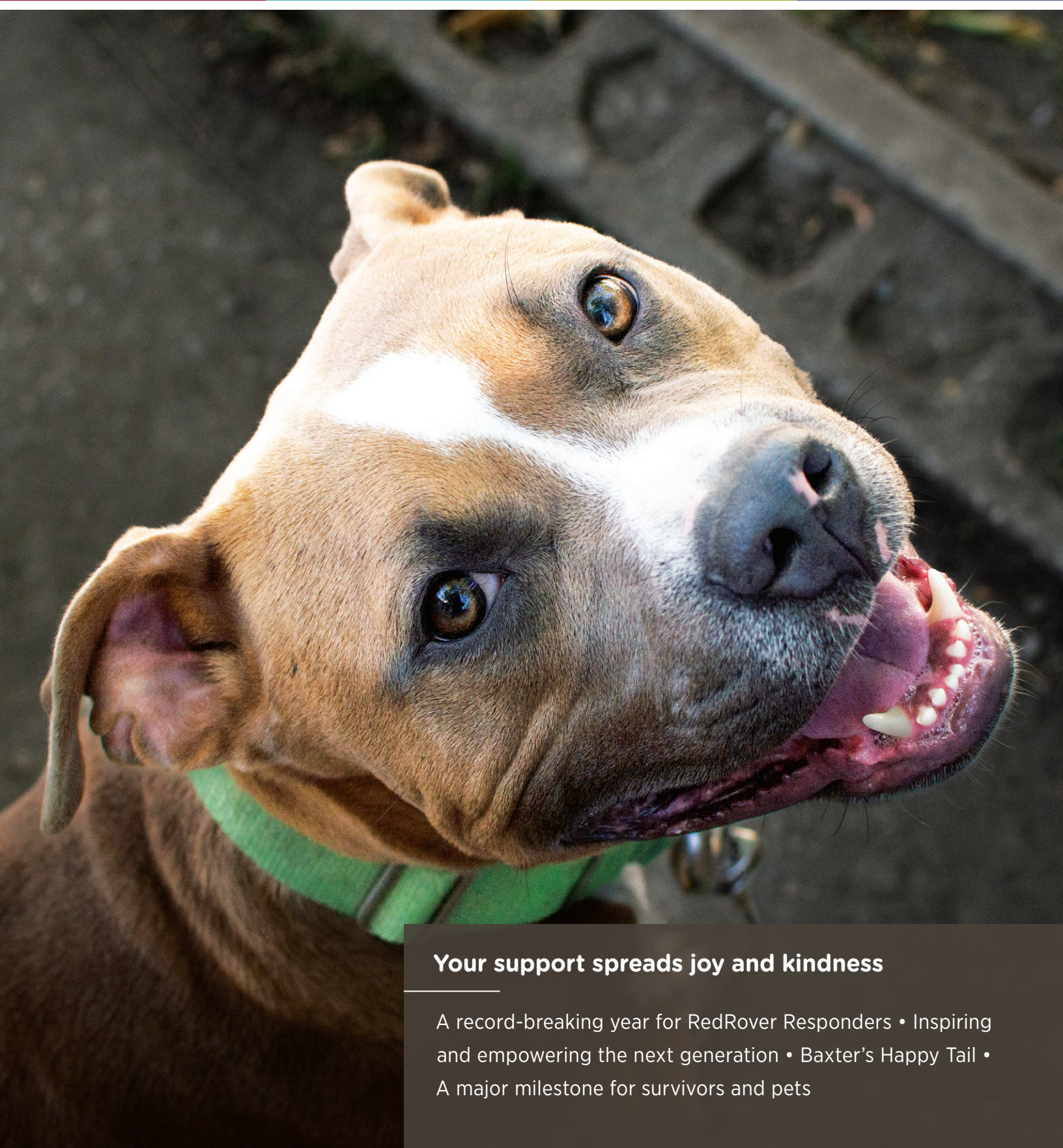




RedRover®
WINTER 2023

companion



Your support spreads joy and kindness

A record-breaking year for RedRover Responders • Inspiring and empowering the next generation • Baxter's Happy Tail • A major milestone for survivors and pets



facebook.com/RedRoverOrg
twitter.com/RedRoverOrg
youtube.com/RedRoverOrg
instagram.com/RedRoverOrg

HAPPY NEW YEAR! In 2022, we reached three major milestones: RedRover Responders completed 19 deployments—the most we've ever deployed in a year; we raised more than \$60,000 for Giving Tuesday—our highest ever; and we have now awarded more than \$3 million in grants to help domestic violence and animal shelters become pet-friendly! The growth and success of our programs would not be possible without the support of people like you, and I cannot thank you enough. I am especially grateful for the opportunity we had to care for some of the

4,000 beagles rescued from a mass breeding facility, because that is how I came to adopt my puppy Finn!

Growth continues in 2023, and we are launching a major campaign to achieve the goal of helping 25% of domestic violence shelters become pet-friendly by 2025. Stay tuned for more information about how you can support this goal in the months ahead. In the meantime, please consider signing up to receive our emails at RedRover.org/newsletter and follow us on social media.

Lastly, we have taken big steps forward in integrating a social justice approach into our work to maximize our ability to improve the lives of people and animals. We completed a pilot version of our RedRover Readers program that features Native-centric stories in partnership with the Sacramento Native American Health Center, and we've updated all of our

curriculum to be more inclusive for students of diverse backgrounds. And *Kind News* magazine continues to promote and inspire compassion in the next generation. Learn how you can sponsor a classroom and share the free digital issue at KindNews.org/adopt.

Thank you for your support!

Nicole

NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

Ballot for election of board directors



BELTON MOURAS, JR. has served as a RedRover Board Director for one term and is currently seeking a second three-year term. He has been involved in the animal welfare movement in various capacities his entire life. In addition to his board functions, Belton also serves on the RedRover Finance Committee and now devotes much of his time to providing music scores for films, particularly projects that involve animals.



SIMON LAW is an experienced senior executive and has spent his career in operations leadership roles at market-leading companies in the U.S. and Europe. Simon is now the founder and CEO of PropCo Group, a real estate investment company headquartered in Atlanta, GA. He is a passionate advocate for animal welfare and conservation, an active volunteer with HSUS Animal Rescue and Response, and served four years on the board of directors of Project Chimps, a sanctuary in north Georgia for chimpanzees retired from laboratory research. Simon currently resides in Atlanta, GA, with his wife and rescue cat and dogs.

Make your vote count

Please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it by **March 6**. For a director to be elected by written ballot, they must receive a majority of affirmative votes, with at least six percent of members voting. 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.

REDROVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Johnson, Chair
Jenny Coupe, Vice Chair
Bradley Carroll, Treasurer and Secretary
Eskedar Getahun, Board Director
Amanda Landis-Hanna, DVM, Board Director
Antoine Junior Melay, Board Director
Belton Mouras, Jr., Board Director



P.O. Box 188890
Sacramento, CA 95818

TEL 916.429.2457
FAX 916.378.5098
WEB RedRover.org
EMAIL info@RedRover.org
TAX ID # 68-0124097

Companion is published quarterly by RedRover and is distributed to its members.
© 2023 RedRover

Mentoring a young pet lover: A volunteer's story



By Caty Franco, RedRover Project Manager

VIRGINIA “GINNY” VOLK-ANDERSON WAS THRILLED when she heard about the RedRover Readers program back in 2011. Given her love of kids and animals, becoming a volunteer was a natural fit.

When in-person program events were put on hold in 2020, Ginny signed up for the Wonder Mentoring Program through Stanford Sierra Youth & Family Services. She was paired with nine-year-old Jake,* and they spent time together going on hikes, visiting museums, and talking about his favorite animal: dogs.

One day when picking up Jake, Ginny was surprised to find his family had brought home a new Yorkie-chihuahua mix puppy, Bella.* Bella was sweet, friendly, and extremely loved by Jake

and his family, but Ginny learned they had not yet started her vaccinations. Ginny had an idea for a future outing: she and Jake would take Bella to a vaccine clinic together, learning what a dog needs to be happy, healthy, and safe.

When Ginny got the okay from Jake's family, she picked them up and drove to the clinic. They waited in line to get Bella her vaccines, and all the while Jake excitedly talked to Ginny and the others in line about how to take care of dogs.

“Jake said he loves [Bella], and I know she loves him too. When I hold her, she twists around, always looking for him,”



Ginny said. She shared that Jake is always sensitive and attentive to her needs, especially now that he's equipped

with new knowledge on how to sufficiently care for his new best friend.

From her time volunteering with the RedRover Readers program to now being a mentor for a young pet lover, Ginny's passion for helping kids and animals contributes to a kinder, more compassionate world.

Learn how to become a RedRover Readers volunteer at RedRover.org/Readers. ♥

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Empowering kids with *Kind News*

IN 2022, WE WERE THRILLED to reach more than 280,000 kids with our print and digital versions of *Kind News* magazine! We're so grateful to the teachers and humane educators who incorporate the magazine into their lessons. Here's what some of them had to say:

“*Kind News* gives kids concrete examples of kindness and compassion applied to the real world that allow kids to see themselves as a part of the effort to improve the lives of animals and by extension their own lives. *Kind News* empowers kids!”

♥ K-6 teacher, Eastsound, WA

“If you want to bring kindness into your classroom, please subscribe to this wonderful magazine. The kids just love the content and can't wait to share the articles with our little kindergarten buddies and their family members.”

♥ Second grade teacher, Citrus Heights, CA

“I love being able to promote animal welfare and hear the students making connections to their personal experiences with pets!”

♥ Karen Lanzetta, Third grade teacher, Woodbridge, VA



New on-demand course!

Educators and volunteers can now take the RedRover Readers online workshop at any time and gain access to our expanded, more inclusive curriculum, including five new program books.

Sign up at RedRover.org/on-demand

A record-breaking year: 2022 deployments and projects



By Devon Krusko, RedRover Field Services and Community Programs Manager

THE REDROVER RESPONDERS TEAM HAD A HUGE YEAR IN 2022.

We completed a total of 19 deployments across 12 states—the most we’ve ever deployed in one year! With a variety of program offerings, our team worked incredibly hard to assist communities during natural disasters; worked alongside our partners on cruelty and neglect cases; collaborated with domestic violence shelters to create safe housing for pets; and partnered with local animal welfare organizations across the country to sponsor wellness clinics, vaccines, trap-neuter-release

programs, and other services to support humane communities for animals and people.

Our Community Programs work, which supports animal organizations and other local partners to provide services, education, and resources for pets and people in underserved communities, officially kicked off this year. We were fortunate to work with groups like the Parker Project, providing the Navajo Nation with free and low-cost veterinary services; Dog Aide, based in Detroit, Michigan, which has provided more than one million

bowls of dog food and spayed/neutered 1,800 animals; and the Humane Society of Marlboro County in South Carolina, which is working tirelessly to provide outreach and safe enclosures to dogs who live chained outside in their community.

I have been absolutely honored and humbled in my work this past year with the RedRover Responders team, our staff, and volunteers. I am incredibly grateful for all who make this work possible—it is truly life-changing for the animals, people, and communities we assist! ❤️

“From taking care of animals displaced by Hurricane Ian, to caring for beagles rescued from being used in medical experiments, to protecting community cats—2022 was a big year in making a difference for animals. The impact we made for those we were caring for was undeniable, and it made me so proud of RedRover and our volunteers’ hard work.”

❤️ Beth Gammie, Director of Field Services





RedRover Responders Online Training

Our **FREE** RedRover Responders training is available online! Help ensure that we can be ready to deploy when the time comes by joining our volunteer team. Register for the self-paced training at RedRover.org/joinresponders.



“Paint brushes, hammers, and post hole diggers, oh my! I’m honored to have worked beside so many RedRover Responders volunteers this year who answered the call to help more domestic violence survivors and their pets find safety and healing together. Their hard work will impact people and pets for years to come — thank you!”

♥ Katie Campbell, Director of Collaboration and Outreach



A Happy Tail for Baxter

By Savannah Verdon, Development and Engagement Coordinator

BAXTER WAS JUST A LITTLE PUPPY

when he joined Elizabeth's family of six children and another dog, Stella, and had grown into a sweet, handsome boy in the four years since. He was a soothing presence when Elizabeth lost her father in late 2021 and then lost her job a few months later.

Around that same time, a mass on Baxter's behind had tripled in size. Elizabeth and her partner asked multiple veterinarians for a quote to remove the mass, but the cost was overwhelming. The family's finances were already stretched thin when, to everyone's shock, the tumor burst and began bleeding profusely.

Elizabeth tried everything she could to raise money for his surgery. Heartbroken after failing to raise the full amount necessary, Elizabeth was willing to find another home for her sweet boy if it meant he would get the care that he needed. Still, there was one more thing she could try: She applied for a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant.

"I have literally tried everything. I do not like to ask for help. However, it now seems I have few other options and the idea of my children losing their beloved dog, the idea of us losing a family member, is far more upsetting than humbling myself to ask for help from kind and loving people. So, here I am, praying, asking, and hoping."

In just one month after receiving the surgery, Baxter was fully recovered and the mass was gone. On the eve of his final visit to the veterinarian to have his stitches removed, Elizabeth

reached out to RedRover to express the family's gratitude:

"He feels like a whole new man! He is running around again and playing and has found a new burst of puppy energy now that he is lighter and free of the 'extra baggage.' We can't thank you enough for your assistance. We would not have been able to save him without it."

Because of kind and loving people like you, Baxter, Stella, and their six best friends will continue to play and grow together — and Elizabeth, after such a difficult time, can breathe a sigh of relief. Thank you for making Happy Tails like these possible!

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



"He feels like a whole new man! He is running around again and playing and has found a new burst of puppy energy now that he is lighter and free of the 'extra baggage.' We can't thank you enough for your assistance."



Building community and providing solutions

By Katie Campbell, Director of Collaboration and Outreach

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY. That's a pretty common sentiment for us here at RedRover: Collaboration is indeed at the heart of all the work we do. And it certainly holds true for our work supporting domestic violence (DV) survivors and their pets.



We're working hard to engage communities in not just the discussion around the link between human and animal violence, but also in the solution of providing survivor-centric programming that supports both survivors and their pets. This means bringing together everyone who interacts with survivors and their pets, from domestic violence organizations, animal organizations, and veterinary clinics, to social workers, law enforcement, and legislative representatives. This list could go on.

Over the last year, we've been busy attending and presenting at conferences, hosting workshops, and engaging and supporting members of the veterinary community. This includes presenting at a recent IDEXX webinar, conducting an interview with Ruthless

Kindness, and continuing to grow Don't Forget the Pets, our joint project with Greater Goods Charities' Rescue Rebuild program.

It's not just about raising awareness or providing our Safe Housing grants; we're also there to walk organizations through the process of creating a pet housing program that helps both people and pets escape abuse and heal together. We know there are real challenges to creating pet housing programs—from staffing to funding to concerns around safety—but we're committed to helping organizations overcome each and every one.

Learn more at DontForgetThePets.org. ♥



A major milestone for survivors and pets

REDROVER HAS REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE

by awarding more than \$3 million in Safe Housing grants! These grants enable domestic violence (DV) shelters to create on- and off-site space to house survivors' pets.

In the second application period of 2022, RedRover gave \$421,675 in grant funds to nine domestic violence shelters nationwide, five of which* will be able to welcome pets for the first time.

Purple Leash Project Grantees (funded by Purina)

- Doorways—Arlington County, Virginia—**\$60,000**
- YWCA Missoula*—Missoula County, Montana—**\$20,000**
- YWCA NorthEastern NY*—Schenectady County, New York—**\$60,000**
- Battered Women's Shelter*—Summit County, Ohio—**\$60,000**
- Newhouse—Jackson County, Missouri—**\$58,275**

Safe Housing Grantees

- Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA)—Peoria County, Illinois—**\$53,400**
- H.A.R.E. House, Inc.—Douglas County, Georgia—**\$30,000**
- Haven*—Gallatin County, Montana—**\$60,000**
- Safe Voices*—Franklin County, Maine—**\$20,000**



 *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.

Big thanks to *Kind News* sponsors!



EVERY YEAR, THESE GENEROUS ORGANIZATIONS

bring the magazine to thousands of classrooms around the country! Want to get involved? Email us at KindNews@RedRover.org to learn how you can sponsor classrooms near you for as little as \$30, or adopt a classroom on our waiting list at KindNews.org/adopt. ♥



Citizens for
Animal Protection



Fort Wayne
Animal Care & Control



Brandt Animal Foundation

Helping Animals In Carteret County North Carolina

Brandt Animal Foundation



Prince William SPCA

PAWS
Humane Society

Monongalia
Humane Society

