



*The*  
**DISH**

SPRING 2020



**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**  
OF BOULDER VALLEY

## Friends of the animals,

I hope you and your family are healthy and safe. As we face the challenges of this pandemic, we are inspired to see our community respond by pulling together to help each other – animals included. We made difficult decisions, postponed Puttin' On The Leash, our largest fundraising event, stopped adoptions, dog training classes, closed the Thrift Store – all critical revenue generators for our operations. Through each of these shifts, you have been by our side and on our minds.

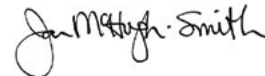
It has been a difficult season for everyone, everywhere, and yet, our community's kindness and compassion for those in need continues to outshine these challenges. More than 75 foster families stepped forward to foster over 110 animals in need of a safe place to lay their heads. Our volunteer team worked from home to create face covering masks for our staff, shared photos of the animals they fostered, and sent words of support to our team. We are helping families who experienced job loss with free food and urgent medical care for their pets. Our team is committed to keeping their families together, and we are here to help them thanks to your generosity.

You are the reason our doors are open to the pets and families of our community right now, a complete resource and safety net for the human-animal bond we know is so critical now and always.

Every day, you are asking "how can we help?" and "who else needs us?" We need your help strengthening our safety net for vulnerable members of our community. On Tuesday, May 5th, join us for #GivingTuesdayNow; think of the animals in your life, those at HSBV, and the ones who will undoubtedly need us as we navigate emerging hardships and **make a gift** in their honor and in support of those who rely on HSBV. Right now, your support can help even more animals. Thanks to the incredible support of a generous friend of the animals, **all gifts made by midnight on May 5th will be matched – up to \$5,000!**

We don't know what the future holds, but we do know your continued support remains critical to our long term sustainability. Thank you for being our partner in ensuring any animal who arrives at HSBV will be met with kindness, and strengthening our safety net for community members in need.

With gratitude,



Jan McHugh-Smith, CAWA  
CEO



## TAKE CREDIT, WHERE CREDIT IS DUE!

There have been several changes over the last few years regarding tax-deductible gifts, itemization, and credits. Most recently, the Senate passed the **CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)** with provisions to support our economy during the current crisis.

Here are a few ways your cash gifts can help the animals at HSBV and impact your taxes:

### Section 2204

Allowance of partial above the line deduction for charitable contributions

- Win-win! Your cash gift to the animals can lower your tax liability! This provision allows for eligible individuals to reduce their taxable income by up to \$300 in 2020. Check with your tax preparer or tax preparation platform to learn how your gifts can change your filing.

### What does \$300 mean to the animals?

It saves a life! Your \$300 gift covers the cost of care for one animal as they await their new home!

### Section 2205

Modification of limitations on charitable contributions during 2020

- The sky is the limit (almost)! This section suspends and relaxes deduction limitations on charitable gifts for individuals who itemize and corporations. The impact of this provision is dependent upon your AGI (adjusted gross income), so be sure to talk to your tax preparer or review via your service platform for more details about how this will impact your 2020 taxes.

### Increased giving saves relationships!

If 100 supporters increase their giving by \$250 in 2020, our Safety Net can provide lifesaving surgery for 8 pets in need from our community, ensuring families remain intact, even when facing hardship.



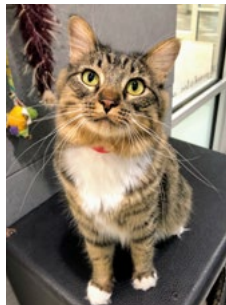
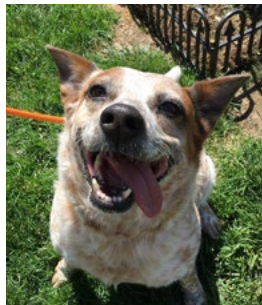
The programs and services of HSBV continue to change as health recommendations shift and our situation evolves. HSBV is committed to providing animals in need the care and love they deserve, supporting happy and healthy relationships between pets and people, and always being here for you. Our community is relying on our Safety Net now more than ever as financial hardship ripples outward from the impact of this crisis on our economy. Your cash gifts allow our programs and services to adapt and evolve to meet the individual needs of the animals – and strategically shift as our community reaches out for help. Thank you for your incredible support!

# GIVING TUESDAY NOW



**Donations  
will be  
matched  
up to \$5,000!**

Provide care for the animals today, while strengthening our emergency safety net for the pets and people of tomorrow.



**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**  
OF BOULDER VALLEY

**SAVE THE DATE**

To make your lifesaving gift to the animals!

**May 5, 2020**

[boulderhumane.org/givingtuesdaynow](https://boulderhumane.org/givingtuesdaynow)

# Emergency Safety Net & Community Resources



HSBV is here to help! Our Emergency Safety Net and resources are prepared to support community members in need through our current national emergency and we remain dedicated to preventing pet relinquishment whenever possible. If you are in need of support, or have further questions about these resources, please contact our team at 303-442-4030 x657.

## PET FOOD SHARE

Our Pet Food Share shelves are open outside of our building, near our Client Services entrance. The self-serve food and supplies on these shelves are free to our community and are available 7 days a week.

## EMERGENCY BOARDING

As you make pet preparedness plans in the event you are unable to provide care for your pet, we recommend identifying a caretaker for your animal. If you are unable to establish a caretaker, HSBV offers free boarding for the pets of community members who are impacted by COVID-19 and unable to provide care for their pets. Please contact our team for additional details about our free Emergency Safety Net boarding services at 303-442-4030 x657.

[Read more about creating an emergency preparedness plan for your pet here.](#)

## URGENT VETERINARY CARE

Our Veterinary Clinic continues to help pets of families facing financial hardship. We are open 7 days a week, by appointment only. Please contact our Veterinary Clinic to schedule an appointment by calling 303-442-4030, option 2.

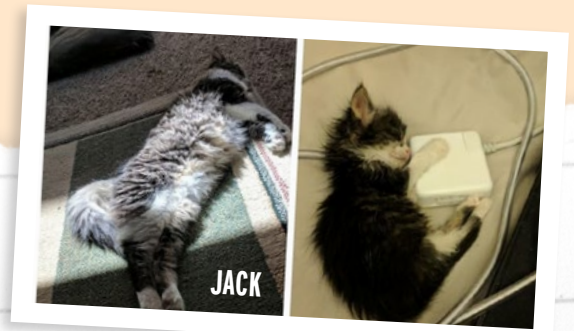
## ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CARE

Our Training & Behavior Center offers virtual training and support services to help strengthen the pet-guardian relationships. Please [visit our Training Center class calendar to learn more](#) about these opportunities and sign up for a virtual class or consultation today!

## DONATE TO SUPPORT THE SAFETY NET!

All donations matched – up to \$5,000!

# Fostering Saves Lives



"My wife and I foster kittens for the Humane Society of Boulder Valley. We specialize in bottle babies – kittens who are orphaned at a young age, before they are weaned.

One day, HSBV got a call from a man working on a Waste Management truck in Westminster. In the course of his rounds, he found a nylon bag zippered shut with a litter of kittens inside. It had been soaking in a puddle of beer and who knows what else in the bottom of the trash bin, on a chilly morning – so the kittens weren't doing great.

The trouble was, he was in his truck, on his route, and couldn't do anything about it except call and ask for help. HSBV dispatched someone to meet him on his route, and the kittens were brought back to the HSBV Veterinary Clinic. The tiny kittens received immediate care to help stabilize them as much as possible, and that's when we got the call.

There were three kittens in the litter - all of them were in terrible shape and bottle babies have it hard already. Sadly, two of them passed away.

But one survived! He was the cuddliest, purring-est kitten ever. After all we'd been through with him, we knew he was a part of our family.

And so, we welcomed Jack (Jack-o-Lantern or Jack Frost!) into our home, and he has proven to be an excellent foster brother to new kittens who have come through since!

We are especially grateful for Jack, The Kitten Who Lived, to HSBV for all their constant great work, and to whoever the anonymous Westminster trash truck guy was that had the keen eye and big heart to save a bag of kittens on a cold day."

With love,  
Branden and Elly, HSBV foster volunteers



JACK + HIS FOSTER KITTENS

A special thank you to all of our incredible foster families! In 2019, 500 animals found the love and safety of a foster home while they awaited their new beginnings. This spring, you provided care for 121 animals in just 4 weeks! Thank you for your lifesaving support!

# SEPARATION ANXIETY AFTER STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS...

Allison Hartlage, CTC, KPA-CTP, CBCC-KA, CNWI  
Manager of Animal Training & Behavior

We've all seen the jokes about how tired our dogs are of being walked and how our cats are ready for us to return back to work, leaving them to relish in the house undisturbed. While these are largely untrue (we have to believe that the majority of animals are loving this extra time with and attention from you!) there is some truth to the confusion that our pets are experiencing with stay-at-home and social distancing measures in place. Even humans are confused!

To help minimize the stress of these transitions, there are things you can do now to help to set your animal up for success, for what will surely be a perplexing time for them once schedules change again. With a little planning and consideration today, our hope is that you can mitigate any separation anxiety related problems which might otherwise arise when your regular routine and absences resume.

Here are a few easy things you can do for your dogs and cats to help them navigate these transitions:

## DOGS

While we don't know what causes separation anxiety in canines, we do know some of the risk-factors, one of which is a change in normal routine. To best set our dogs up for success, you should:

- 1. Leave your dog alone multiple times per week** – Go for a walk (without your dog!), call a friend while enjoying some sun, read a book in a separate room. The most important thing is to leave your dog alone only as for long as they are comfortable. If you're concerned about your dog getting into mischief or are unsure of their comfort level when left alone, monitor them while you are away with technology like Furbo, Zoom, Facetime, or others.
- 2. Set up a "fun-zone"** for them in another area, but separate from you. The fun zone might include Kongs, bully sticks, Nose Work hides, snuggle mats, etc. You want them to know that many fun things can be enjoyed even without you there!
- 3. Invest in some sturdy doggie food puzzles!** Food puzzles help dogs burn energy, exercise their minds, boost their independence, and can even slow down chow hounds.
- 4. Remember, you are not alone! HSBV is here to help!** If you feel you need additional support or your dog already experiences discomfort when left alone, please consider scheduling a consultation with HSBV so we can support you through a [virtual one-on-one consultation](#) or check out other [Certified Separation Anxiety Trainers](#).

## CATS

Cats are also social creatures who can absolutely develop separation anxiety. For this reason, we'd recommend a similar approach to that listed for dogs.

- 1. Time alone daily**, even just while the family takes a short walk.
- 2. Give your kitty fun activities they can do alone** – Furry mice, foam balls, feathered objects and other toys can be left out for your cat to find. Some cats enjoy food and treat puzzles, too! For best results, collect a variety of toys and rotate them often. Don't forget to try some with catnip!
- 3. Provide hiding places!** These can be cardboard boxes, tunnels, or play cubes. You could consider installing cat shelves, a new tower, or a seat with a window view. As an added bonus, you could install a bird feeder outside the window for entertainment.
- 4. Engage your cat's problem solving and hunting skills with puzzle toys**, like this [rolling cat feeder](#), or this [activity center](#). These tools are also a great way to slow down enthusiastic eaters and keep your cat entertained!
- 5. Make sure there are ample "legal" scratching outlets** – Scratching is a healthy way for cats to get some energy out and display natural behavior. Make sure the scratch opportunities you are providing are sturdy, tall, and a material that your cat enjoys scratching (you can add catnip here, too!). There are many homemade options!
- 6. We "speak" cat, too** – HSBV is here for you! If you feel you need additional support or your cat already experiences discomfort when left alone, please consider allowing us to support you through a virtual one-on-one consultation.

LEARN MORE

Thank you for your continued commitment to your pets!  
We hope you're enjoying this extra time with them as much as we are!



**LAST YEAR, PURINA FED MORE THAN 6,490 SHELTER ANIMALS AT HSBV!**

Our friends at Purina are always there for the HSBV animals.

Thank you, Purina, for providing nutritious pet food for the animals in our shelter and in foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# BEAUTIFUL LUCY WAS IN URGENT NEED OF YOUR HELP!

*Thanks to you, she got the second chance she deserved!*

Lucy's devoted guardian brought this sweet girl to HSBV after she had tragically been hit by a car. She was in severe pain and needed emergency surgery right away. Her guardian – a restaurant employee laid off due to COVID-19 – was unable to afford the lifesaving veterinary care she needed, so in desperation, he came to HSBV for help. Lucy had a loving home and a caring family. We knew they should be together, and she should not become one of the many homeless animals in our shelter. They just needed help to get through an unexpected crisis during a time of financial hardship.

She required extensive hip surgery and long-term care, and even though HSBV resources are stretched thin, *we are committed to being a safety net for these loving bonds during difficult times.*

Thanks to your incredible support, your donations gave Lucy and her loving family the second chance they needed and deserved.



UPDATE on Lucy from Chief Shelter Veterinarian, Dr. Lesli Groshong:

## LUCY HANDLED SURGERY LIKE A CHAMP!

"We are thrilled to share that Lucy's surgery went great – she is a fighter! Her femoral head ostectomy, a procedure to remove the head and neck from Lucy's injured femur was a success and she is recovering nicely! You might be wondering how she will walk again without those important parts of her hip joint. Lucy's leg muscles will initially hold her femur in place and, over time, scar tissue will form to provide cushioning that is referred to as a 'false joint.' Although anatomically different from a normal hip joint, Lucy will experience pain-free mobility once healed.

To each of you who donated to Lucy's lifesaving care – you gave Lucy and her grateful family an incredible and unexpected gift of compassion during a difficult time. Now, Lucy is recovering at home and our veterinary team is providing ongoing rehabilitation to keep her on her path to a healthy, long life with her family."

## THANK YOU!

## Your Support at Work

### SAVING LIVES!

The Humane Society of Boulder Valley (HSBV) is not operated or funded by any national humane groups or governmental agencies; we rely on your contributions to bring our services to the community. Our service area includes Boulder, Broomfield, Niwot, Louisville, Erie, Lafayette, and Superior. As an Open Admission shelter, we accept every animal who is brought to our facility regardless of age, health, or behavior.

#### 2019 TOTALS

Adoptions	4,946
Reunited Lost & Found Animals	683
Spay/Neuter Surgeries (SHELTER)	2,709
Animals Supported by Behavior Modification	966
Animals Transferred	2,647
Average Length of Stay for All Animals (in days)	11.7

Thank you for helping animals in need!

## GROCERY SHOPPING THAT HELPS ANIMALS IN NEED!

The Humane Society of Boulder Valley is now a member of the King Soopers Community Rewards Program! Add us to your SooperCard account as your charity and the animals will be supported by your everyday purchases!

1. Visit [kingsoopers.com](https://www.kingsoopers.com) and log into your account
2. Select "King Soopers Community Rewards" from the "Save" drop down menu
3. Click "Enroll Now" and enter HSBV's ID: **MM691**
4. Help animals in need with your grocery shopping!



HUMANE SOCIETY OF BOULDER VALLEY  
303.442.4030 | [boulderhumane.org](https://boulderhumane.org)