




COLORADO
Humane Society & SPCA

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2014
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014



Our mission

To prevent cruelty and neglect of animals within the state of Colorado by:

- assisting agencies in the enforcement of laws relating to cruelty and neglect of companion animals and equines
- educating the public on animal welfare issues
- supporting animal-friendly legislation
- acting as a resource to individuals and groups interested in the prevention of cruelty and neglect of animals

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LOCATION

2080 S. Quebec St.
Denver, CO 80231

CONTACT

(800) 249-5121 or
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Scott C. Johnson
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Dear friends,

We've all heard that patience is a virtue. If that's true, then the dedicated employees of The Colorado Humane Society & SPCA (CHS) have got to be some of the most virtuous folks in this state.

I say that because I've been looking back at some of the cases we were involved in during fiscal year 2014—and seeing the amount of time it takes for an animal cruelty investigation to run its course. By the time we investigate a report of abuse or neglect, follow up with the animal owner to determine if the situation has improved, work with local law enforcement to file charges if it has not, help seize animals in danger and bring them to safety, wait for the case to go to court, provide testimony and then arrive at the sentencing phase, an average of 12 months can go by—and sometimes two or three years.

After all that work and all that waiting, I'm pleased to report that last year, some of the strongest sentences we've seen—including jail time, in-home detention, fines, restitution and mandatory mental health assistance—were handed down by Colorado's courts to perpetrators of animal abuse and neglect as deterrents to future instances of animal cruelty.

While we applaud the message these stiffer sentences are sending, we believe the best way to prevent such measures from being necessary is to provide education and assistance that help people properly care for their animals. By giving animal owners the information and tools they need to treat animals humanely, we are setting the stage for people to be successful with their current and future animals. And by offering them the resources and options they need if they acquire too many animals or become overwhelmed by caring for them, we are helping them do the right thing before the situation escalates.

To that end, our five CHS animal-protection agents covered more than 57,000 square miles of the state last year, tirelessly pursuing our mission of preventing cruelty and neglect of companion animals and horses. That included trips into seven new counties in southern and central Colorado, bringing the total number of counties within our jurisdiction to 32.

We're here to make a life-changing, and frequently lifesaving, difference for every animal in Colorado—and not just the ones we encounter today, but every animal that comes after. Our achievements on behalf of all the animals are made possible because of you. Thank you for your compassion and support.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Johnson
Chairman
Board of Directors

John R. Nagy
President



areas where limited resources have inhibited its agents and local law enforcement from investigating animal abuse situations.

Our partnerships

All Colorado Humane Society investigations are conducted in cooperation with a local sheriff's office, police department or animal control agency. Strong working relationships are a hallmark of the CHS team, enabling us to protect even more vulnerable animals with our partners.

During FY14, we had working relationships, solidified through memorandums of understanding, with the sheriffs of the following 32 counties: Alamosa, Bent, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Elbert, Fremont, Grand, Gunnison, Huerfano, Jackson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mineral, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache, Sedgwick, Summit, Washington, Weld and Yuma—an increase of seven counties over FY 2013.

Animal-related activities

Throughout the year—and throughout the state—

the Colorado Humane Society worked with law enforcement officials to rescue vulnerable animals from abuse and neglect, and to investigate, prosecute and monitor cases of animal cruelty.

Our five state-commissioned animal-protection agents covered 57,226 square miles of Colorado—half the state's land mass containing 52 percent of its population. Driving approximately 13,000 miles a month, they responded to 292 reports involving 1,922 animals.

Additionally, CHS partnered with the statewide hotline Crime Stoppers on cases that produced 53 tips. Crime Stoppers offers a reward program for members of the public who wish to anonymously report animal abuse or neglect, dog fighting or other inhumane activities involving animals. Tips sent to (720) 913-STOP (7867) through this centralized system are funneled to the appropriate agency or organization for follow-up. Those providing tips that result in charges or convictions are eligible for a cash reward.

In August 2013, the Colorado Humane Society assisted the Fremont County Sheriff's Office in the removal of 26 cats, two chinchillas and a ferret in Penrose, Colo. The animals had been left in deplorable conditions, and many were in need of medical assistance. The owner accepted a plea arrangement of one count animal cruelty and one count child abuse. For that plea deal, the judge ordered 12 months probation, restitution to the agencies responsible for caring for her animals once they were removed from her care, periodic and unannounced welfare inspections of the animals she owned, and continued mental health assistance. Additionally, the judge stated that the owner could not have more than four pets at any time.

Also in August, CHS assisted the Conejos County Sheriff's Office in removing five horses from a property in Manassa, Colo. Two mares, two young foals and a yearling colt were severely malnourished, weak and lethargic. The owner of the horses was charged with five counts of animal cruelty and eventually sentenced to 30 days in jail for animal abuse and neglect—a strong and welcome sentence, since jail time is rarely seen in

animal-abuse cases. After authorities decided that removing the horses was crucial for their survival given their very low body-condition scores, CHS agents transported the horses to a rehabilitation center for care.

In January 2014, the Colorado Humane Society assisted the Costilla County Sheriff's Office in the removal of 42 German shepherd-mix dogs involved in an animal abuse and neglect case. The emaciated dogs—who had been chained outdoors—were transported to the Dumb Friends League in Denver, the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region in Colorado Springs and Pueblo Animal Services in Pueblo. The 23 dogs brought to the Dumb Friends League received safe shelter, nutritious food, veterinary and dental care, bathing

and grooming, and behavior training to help them overcome their fears. All 23 found new, loving homes within a month.

A case CHS had been involved with for the past three years came to a conclusion just after the close of FY14. An Elbert County, Colo., couple was sentenced in July in a case that stretched back to February 2013, when CHS helped remove 50 neglected, sick and emaciated animals from their property. Because this was their second offense, they received five years probation and 90 days of in-home detention, in addition to paying a \$1,000 fine each and restitution totaling around \$2,000. They also were ordered to severely reduce the number of animals on their property and submit to periodic monitoring of those animals by our



“The Colorado Humane Society has been there to assist in any way we need. They’ve made a dramatic difference in the way we handle these cases—and having the officers involved effectively reduces your budget by half, because you’re doubling your resources.”

—Sheriff Shane Heap, Elbert County Sheriffs Office



CHS Director Duane Adams instructs law enforcement agents in Alamosa, Colo.

agents. Finally, the court mandated mental health assistance for both individuals in an effort to ensure the situation does not recur.

Education and outreach

Every CHS investigator is a commissioned Colorado Bureau of Animal Protection agent who wears many hats. Education makes up 90 percent of our efforts; everything from teaching proper animal nutrition to offering a shoulder to cry on may be required of any investigator on any call. Flexibility, empathy, integrity and reliability are paramount skills our investigators possess.

Face to face—at the front door, in the pasture or the backyard, in both rural and urban settings—we talk to people one-on-one. This routine aspect of our work helps hundreds of animals that might otherwise live out their lives in misery. We talk first about the basic care requirements that are specified in the law. Beyond that, we help them understand what their animals need not only to survive, but to thrive. Every effort is made to work with animal owners to keep their pets or animals at their home, but when education and assistance have failed to make the situation better, the animal may need to be removed to safety and a better life.

We worked throughout the year to educate both law enforcement and the public on our services and the key challenges facing animal owners. We spread

the word about animal cruelty—how to recognize it and ways to report it—through attendance at 13 rural county fairs and parades throughout Colorado, making over 25,000 impressions in these communities. Our public appearances not only increase awareness of CHS and its services; they also regularly generate reports of possible cruelty or neglect from concerned citizens.

Proactive efforts to enlist the help of the public in reporting potential animal cruelty also included the



development of reward posters and media releases, communication through social media, and activities with Colorado 4-H, a youth organization that is part of Colorado State University Extension.

Education is essential to effective investigations. To that end, the Colorado Humane Society sponsored or taught classes on investigative techniques for animals—including search and seizure, report writing, personal protection, and animal behavior

and handling—that were attended by local sheriffs' offices, police departments, Colorado State Patrol officers, code enforcement officers, animal care and control officers, and other like-minded professionals who are dedicated to the prevention and prosecution of animal abuse and cruelty in Colorado.

Additionally, we collaborated with the Bureau of Animal Protection to train multiple agencies in animal-related topics, and continued to strengthen relationships with law enforcement as we developed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with new counties to provide transport, holding facilities and care for animals seized in cruelty or neglect cases.

We are members of the Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers; Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies; County Sheriffs of Colorado; Denver Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; The Link, an Aurora community resource center serving youth and families; National Animal Control Association; and Society of Animal Welfare Administrators. We also serve on the board of directors of the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance and as an advisor to the board of directors of Metro Denver Crime Stoppers.



Long-range plan

We are in the third year of our five-year strategic plan. The plan helps define where we stand now and where we want to be by 2018.

Our primary goal is to develop a network of animal welfare and law enforcement agencies that covers all 64 Colorado counties. To that end, we now have working relationships in 38 counties in conjunction with the Dumb Friends League investigations team. Having good relationships in place helps us expand our reach and work effectively together to significantly reduce animal abuse and improve equine welfare.

Another important goal is becoming a valued resource on equine care and welfare. We are working toward being the established group that local law enforcement and animal welfare agencies can contact for training opportunities, as well as individual questions and concerns. We are making the agencies aware of our availability and helping with advice and hands-on support in equine abuse cases. We are also ensuring they are aware of the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center™, which receives horses after they are removed from owners by law enforcement agencies in situations involving abuse or neglect.

Following are the Core Values of our organization:

- We hold central the **compassionate care and treatment** of all animals.
- We are committed to a high standard of **people care**, both internally and externally, because people are the key to fulfilling our mission.
- We value **collaboration** and strategic partnerships as they provide a means to further our mission.
- We provide **leadership** within our industry and our community to remain forward-focused and adaptable in order to meet the ever-changing needs of the people and animals we serve.
- We believe in being **good stewards** of our organization's human resources, financial assets and our reputation in the communities we serve.
- We have pride in our **integrity** and hold ourselves to high standards regarding fiscal responsibility

and accountability to our community.

- We believe that **education and advocacy** are among our greatest tools for promoting the humane treatment of animals and enhancing the human-animal bond.
- We actively pursue **excellence** in everything we do.



“The Colorado Humane Society has been a great help to the Fremont County Sheriffs Office. Not only do they help with animals large and small, the staff stays with the cases from the beginning all the way through the court process to the end, attending court dates and testifying if needed. The Colorado Humane Society gives us options and recourses that we simply wouldn't have without them.”

—Detective Megan Richards, Fremont County Sheriffs Office

Financial report*

SOURCES OF SUPPORT: \$423,000

Donations: 94%

Other income: 6%

Of every dollar donated, 86 cents went to programs and services. Contributions were received from individuals, businesses, estates, foundations and the Dumb Friends League.



EXPENSES: \$553,000

Investigative Services & Program Management: 83%

Expenses included preventing and investigating cruelty and neglect; and counseling, aiding and cooperating with individuals and other agencies in enforcing anti-cruelty statutes.

Community Relations: 3%

Expenses included educating the public on animal welfare issues; serving as advocates for the humane treatment of companion animals and equines; and serving as a resource center for information on the prevention of cruelty and neglect.

Supporting Services: 14%

Included are human resources management, accounting, administration and fundraising.

** Unaudited numbers are used in this document. An audited financial report is available upon request.*

Contributors

INDIVIDUALS

Ms. Nicole M. Abbott
Mr. and Mrs. Rich Ackerman
Craig and Megan Ackley
Duane Adams and Amy Day
Mr. Randy Ailes
Ms. Janeen Akers
Mr. Martin R. Albright
Ms. Jessica R. Allred
Ms. Cynthia K. Anderson
Ms. Allison Andre
Anonymous
Dr. and Mrs. C. Stephen Arnold
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Mr. and Mrs. Eric W. Baxter
Jessica Beck
Cindy Bell
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Taylor's Financial
Tenge Law Firm

ESTATE GIFTS

Joyce A. Bolster
Hilda H. Cain
Wolfgang Israel
Richard J. Kelly



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