



Helping our community . . . four paws at a time!

Dear RVHS Friends,

As we head into the 2020 holiday season, we hope, like you, that the new year delivers more of the good things that lift our spirits and bring us joy and peace. But right now, here we are, continuing to experience challenges that we've never faced before, adapting on-the-fly and being grateful that we remain healthy while caring for the dogs and cats whose lives depend upon us.

We've been hit hard by the pandemic and devastating wildfires. Two Southern Oregon towns are now just heaps of rubble. Families have lost homes and jobs. People who have never had to ask for help are visiting food pantries. Here at RVHS, we've had to cancel all of our in-person fundraisers—events that bring so many of our supporters together to ensure that we can continue to keep our 55 year old commitment to the animals and people in our community. Even with reduced staff and resources, we have and will continue to answer the calls for help.

In January, we started off the year with a real tragic situation. A young male dog was brought to us with head-to-toe wounds, swollen paws and internal injuries requiring immediate medical attention. No sooner had we gotten him stabilized, when another dog was brought in with similar injuries. Hurt animals can't tell us what happened to them. Were they beaten? Part of a dog-fighting ring? Whatever the circumstances, we knew that these boys, who we named Manny and Jesse, suffered severe physical and emotional trauma and would need lots of time and love to heal.



The staff and volunteers at RVHS devote all of their time and love to healing the hurts of the animals that find themselves homeless and in many cases, in need of life-saving medical care. Because of the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, our finances this year have been stretched to the breaking point. We've become more creative and disciplined. With the help of our invaluable volunteers, we have a successful bottle and can recycling program. That may not sound like a big deal, but today it's a very significant contribution. Our volunteer Kristen and her family have made and sold hundreds of masks with all proceeds going to RVHS. And instead of buying supplies, we are asking our faithful supporters to help us with many essentials, and they have not let us down.

In June, a family requested help with a feral cat overpopulation problem. We brought our traps and secured 18 kittens aged 3 to 8 weeks old—all in critical condition. Some of the kittens required around-the-clock care while others required nightly check-ins. They had ailments ranging from eye infections to a broken hip. Each kitten made a full recovery and were adopted into families who will continue to nurture them. And of course, we spayed and neutered the six mommas and poppas who were returned to the property to live out their lives in peace. Now, as I write this letter, there are another 20 cats and kittens on this property that we're in the process of securing and bringing to our clinic for sterilization.

August brought us a sweet young momma and her 8 puppies. The owner couldn't afford to care for them and by the time they got to us at 6 weeks old, they were critically ill with every kind of parasite imaginable. At that age, it doesn't take much for things to spiral out of control and become impossible to turn around. We are so fortunate to have a veterinarian and a vet tech on-staff to treat these difficult cases. They stay up all night when necessary and their expert, tender care made such a difference for these little ones. They all got well and went on to loving homes.

Going into the Fall, we welcomed a litter of 9 puppies—this time abandoned on a resident's porch. All of them were cold and malnourished, with skin issues and swollen paws. We warmed them up, slowly hand-fed them and provided all the

medical care they needed. These babies are now healthy—running, tumbling and then falling asleep on top of each other. They sure will brighten the holidays for the lucky families that adopt them!



Although we are operating on a smaller scale right now, we are still fulfilling our mission to provide compassionate care for stray, unwanted, displaced, and abandoned animals and work toward ending pet overpopulation. While we've shared the stories of some of the dogs and cats we've taken into our facility, we also continue to fund our community (feral) cat spay-neuter program at our clinic. For cat and dog owners who need help, this year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Kitty Quick-Fix and Barking Dogs low-cost spay and neuter voucher programs, funded through grants and donations. For those pet owners who are home-bound, the volunteers in our Ani-meals Program go out to them with nutritious pet food and anyone who is struggling to feed their pets can always count on our Food Pantry for help.



244 Feline/Canine S/N performed for RVHS animals

485 Non-shelter Feline/Canine S/N Surgeries for other shelters/rescue groups

Total: 729

Surgeries performed at RVHS S/N Clinic in 7 months



We started 2020 with plans to celebrate our 11th annual Fur Ball with the RVHS family of supporters. But because of the pandemic, we had to put on our “thinking caps.” We regrouped, and in October we inaugurated our 1st virtual Fur Ball. Though much smaller in scale than the in-person event, it proved to be a lifesaver and we are enormously grateful to everyone who donated or bid and shared in the fun. Of course, we are hoping that we can all be together next year!

The animals that need us don't know what a pandemic is and how it's made everyone's life so difficult. They don't know how we worry about what we will do without our fundraisers or when we can go back to normal operating hours. What they do know is that when they are here at RVHS, they have nothing to fear—they are safe and loved for as long as they're with us. Ten months ago, Manny and Jesse came to us in a condition that broke our hearts. We healed their physical hurts but the emotional damage has taken much longer to mend. Jesse has been adopted and continues to learn good canine manners. Manny is still with us waiting for the right family to adopt him. We are with him for as long as it takes.

As the year draws to a close, we want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have supported us. Whether you donated money or volunteered your time, adopted an animal, knitted some warm kitty blankets or helped stock our pantry, we want you to know that what we do at RVHS wouldn't be possible without you. As a treasured member of our RVHS family, we wish you a healthy and joyful holiday season!

Margaret Varner
Executive Director



The Rogue Valley Humane Society is located at 429 NW Scenic Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97526
Mailing Address: PO Box 951, Grants Pass, OR 97528 www.rvhs-or.org Phone: 541-479-5154
We are a public benefit 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation and receive no government funding from any source.
Your charitable contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.