Our skilled veterinary staff works to prevent disease, reduce pet overpopulation, and heal sick and injured animals. A day in the life of our Veterinary Services team is never the same, but it is always rewarding.

Each year more than 6,000 animals come through our doors; the health and well-being of each and every one of those animals is our priority. To ensure each animal that enters our care receives the medical attention they need, they will be seen by a member of our Veterinary Services team for an arrival exam within 24 hours of intake. When an animal first comes through our doors we check for a microchip to help us locate their owners to better understand their history, vaccinate to protect the incoming animal from disease, and flag any immediate medical concerns or needs we see. Animals flagged with medical concerns are prioritized and seen by a member of our Veterinary Services team first. During the arrival exam all available medical history will be reviewed and the animal will receive a physical exam. If abnormalities or medical concerns are found the animal will be routed to be seen by a shelter veterinarian. The veterinarian will determine a treatment plan. Often our veterinary team is able to administer treatment on-site if needed; however, sometimes based on the expertise or equipment required for a certain treatment we may partner with Colorado State University or other veterinary clinics to get an animal the intensive care they need.

Animals that are undergoing treatment will be monitored by a member of our Veterinary Services team and re-checked regularly by a staff veterinarian. Animals without immediate medical concerns will be scheduled for a spay/neuter surgery, transferred or placed in foster care if necessary, prior to being made available for adoption.

These daily processes and procedures ensure that each animal’s needs are met, like Macaroni, Rio, and Poncho.

Macaroni, a five-year-old orange tabby, was a victim of serious cruelty. A good Samaritan found him as a stray, with what appeared to be a wound above his right eye; worried, she immediately took him to an emergency veterinary clinic. There, they cleaned his wound and made a horrible discovery—Macaroni was suffering from a gunshot wound to the head.

After he was stabilized by the emergency clinic, Macaroni was then brought to Larimer Humane Society. A quick examination from our Veterinary Services team confirmed that Macaroni had indeed been shot, and the bullet was still inside. This was no normal procedure—Macaroni would have to have his eye removed, along with the bullet that was embedded next to his eye. Fortunately, the bullet had not caused serious injury to any major organs. But our veterinary staff was prepared to help Macaroni every step of the way from surgery to recovery. Today Macaroni is a healthy, happy cat and a part of a loving new family.

Continued on back cover
FROM THE CEO

EVERY ANIMAL DESERVES FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY AND DISEASE

Our work is guided by five freedoms we believe every animal deserves. One of those freedoms is “the freedom from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.” The health, safety and well-being of both animals in our care and animals in our community is our number one priority.

Keeping the animals in our care healthy and free from pain, injury and disease requires a balancing act of resources, risks and information. Veterinary medicine in a shelter setting poses unique challenges that our Veterinary Services team is faced with every day.

Managing limited resources, preventing the spread of disease and working with little to no medical history are just a few of these challenges. Despite these challenges, our entire team is dedicated to high-quality care by continually balancing the individual needs of animals, while protecting the overall animal population.

Our Veterinary Services team is skilled in creating individualized treatment plans for animals utilizing all available resources, including placing an animal in foster care for treatment, transferring an animal to another organization with available resources or reaching out to partner organizations such as Colorado State University for assistance.

Within Veterinary Services and throughout our shelter biosecurity is a key component in keeping all animals within our shelter and throughout our community healthy. Animals come to Larimer Humane Society from a variety of locations with different vaccination and exposure histories, often without an owner or medical records. This increases the risk for the spread of infectious diseases. Our biosecurity procedures are in place to help reduce the spread of disease to keep animals and people safe and healthy.

When it comes to determining treatment for an animal in a shelter setting our Veterinary Services team is tasked with weighing the risks vs. benefits of each treatment. When an animal with little to no medical history comes to us, we cannot assume treatment was provided. We must look at the animal’s current needs and establish a plan for treatment based on what is in the best interest of the animal, while also considering the health and well-being of the overall pet population. In addition, we must factor in the resources available and the risks involved with providing or forgoing said treatment.

While providing high-quality care to animals in shelter setting is a balancing act, our compassionate and knowledgeable staff is committed to reducing suffering and helping animals heal so they can thrive in their new forever homes.

Warm wishes,

Judith A. Calhoun, CFRE, CAWA
CEO

CONTACT US

Street Address: 3501 E 71st Street
Loveland, CO 80538

Phone: 970.226.3647
Website: larimerhumane.org

Intake Lobby: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm
Sat/Sun 8am-5pm

Adoption Lobby: Mon-Fri 11am-7pm
Sat/Sun 10am-5pm

MISSION To further the compassionate, safe, and responsible relationship between animals and people.

VISION Larimer Humane Society is valued as an essential component to the high quality of life for animals and people in Northern Colorado.

ABOUT LARIMER HUMANE SOCIETY

Larimer Humane Society is an independent nonprofit agency. We are not a division of any county or city and are not funded by any national animal-welfare organizations. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation and we are governed by a volunteer board of directors. We turn no animals away.
Aries, a German Shepherd puppy, came to Larimer Humane Society with serious injuries and in dire need of a helping hand. After being hit by a car, his owners quickly realized his injuries were very severe and would require more help than they could provide. They wanted to do what was best for Aries, so they brought him to us so he could receive the treatment he desperately needed.

When Aries arrived at our shelter he was in terrible condition, he had extreme facial fractures, lacerations, and broken teeth. The location of the fractures made it difficult for him to breathe or eat, and it was clear that he was in a lot of pain. Still, despite his condition, we could tell that Aries was a very sweet dog, allowing our veterinary staff to pet him and do their exams without any problems. While many dogs would have become aggressive and fearful, Aries seemed to know he was in good hands, and waited patiently for us to help him.

Soon it was determined that the blunt force trauma to his face was indeed fixable, but would require specialized veterinary treatment and weeks of recovery. Aries did have one thing on his side, though—he was a puppy. At only 10 months, we knew Aries would have a good chance of healing from his injuries as he grew. Once a treatment plan was identified, Aries was scheduled for surgery as quickly as possible at Colorado State University through the Saving Animals in Shelters through Teaching (SAST), a program that helps Larimer Humane Society get lower-cost surgeries while also providing a learning opportunity.

During his surgery, Aries was given several sutures, an intraoral splint, and specially-placed wiring to make sure that his mouth and nose would heal correctly. Several teeth were unfixable, and had to be extracted. Still, within just a few days, he was showing positive signs of healing; now he just needed a foster to give him the extensive time and care he would need to fully heal.

Thankfully, we have a strong Foster Program here at Larimer Humane Society, and one of our dedicated foster families was willing to take Aries almost immediately. He would spend nearly two months relying on his foster mom, Susie, to provide day and night care, give him his medications, and take him to his many appointments. Aries was not a low-maintenance foster dog by any means; even the most basic tasks such as eating and breathing were hard for him, and Susie had to work diligently to make sure he wasn’t undoing the specially placed splint, sutures, or wiring. As a puppy, all Aries wanted to do was chew on things and play—the two things he couldn’t do. Susie commented, with a chuckle, that they “went on a lot of walks.”

After spending many weeks in his foster home, Aries was ready for a forever family. It turned out that Aries future family wasn’t very hard to find—or even far way. The foster’s neighbor, Lee, ended up adopting Aries after seeing his affectionate, sweet spirit firsthand.

Now, almost three weeks after Aries moved to his new home, Lee is happy to report that he is doing great and is a loved part of their family. He was a little anxious and fearful at first. But Lee was willing to work with him, and let him know that everything was going to be okay. Currently, Aries is still learning, but doing just fine and blossoming as a social, loving dog. Lee says that she has learned a lot from Aries, too; although she has had a lot of dogs before, he was different because he had been through so much. Her advice to anyone adopting an animal, especially one who has had a hard life, is to “take the time to bond with them, get to know them.” She says that when they first got Aries, they wanted to take him out, socialize him, play, and do all the things you usually do with a new puppy. But for Aries, what he really needed was just some one on one time, to know that this was truly his forever home.

Lee also said that she is amazed and grateful for all of the people who united around Aries in his time of need—his foster family, his original owners, Larimer Humane Society staff, and CSU veterinary staff are just a few of the people who came together to give Aries a chance at a better life.

Overall, we know that Larimer Humane Society wouldn’t have success stories like Aries’ without the fellow animal lovers who support our mission. Aries was a very special case; surgeries as extreme as his facial reconstruction are expensive and without the support of our donors we wouldn’t have been able to provide Aries the care he needed. He was lucky to be a puppy with very, very good chances of recovering and healing from this surgery, and we as an organization are lucky to have the dedicated help of our volunteers and staff, the support of our donors, partner organizations like CSU and the everyday compassion of our community to help us make journeys like Aries’ possible.

**VETERINARY SERVICE’S LIFE-SAVING WORK AT A GLANCE**

8,900 vaccinations

1,663 total surgeries

» 1,170 spay/neuter surgeries

» 240 dentals

» 57 other surgeries

» 13 surgeries through Saving Animals in Shelters through Teaching
TOP HEALTH TIPS FOR YOUR PET FROM OUR SUPERVISING VETERINARIAN

As pet owners it is our responsibility to keep our pets safe, healthy and happy. Here are our top three health problems that are often overlooked or misunderstood.

**PET OBESITY**

Pet obesity is on the rise and is a serious health concern that affects the overall quality of an animal’s life. Pet obesity is associated with joint problems, respiratory compromise, diabetes and decreased life span. The good news is that in most cases pet obesity is 100% preventable.

We encourage you to refer to the Body Condition System (like the one below created by Purina) to determine where on the 1-9 score scale your cat or dog falls, with 5 being the ideal body score for both cats and dogs. If you have concerns that your pet may be overweight or underweight, contact your veterinarian.

![Body Condition System Chart](bit.ly/2LLZVwo)

**HOUSE SOILING**

Sadly, many cats find themselves at Larimer Humane Society after their families give up on them for house soiling. House soiling can be a complicated and frustrating problem to experience but it’s important to know that when a cat does not use their litter box they are trying to tell you something isn’t right. House soiling in cats is often caused by an underlying medical condition or environmental stressor.

When cats are surrendered to us for house soiling we find that they often have an underlying medical condition that is treatable or manageable such as inflammatory conditions, Feline Idiopathic Cystitis, infections, and kidney problems, among other medical issues.

If your cat is house soiling the best thing you can do to maintain a healthy, happy relationship with your cat while improving its quality of life is to visit your veterinarian. This will allow you to create a treatment plan if a medical condition is found or move onto behavior or environmental solutions.

**HEARTWORM**

Heartworm is a potentially life-threatening parasite that primarily affects dogs. Heartworm is transmitted by infected mosquitos. The only way to 100% prevent heartworm is to administer preventative medications that periodically kill heartworm larvae that enter your pet’s body. While heartworm affects cats and dogs differently and is more commonly found in dogs, it is important to use preventative measures for both cats and dogs.

Every cat and dog is at risk. If there are mosquitos where you live, your pet can get heartworm. We encourage you to ask your veterinarian about heartworm prevention options.
BITE PREVENTION: HELP US KEEP KIDS SAFE

Children are more likely to be bitten by a dog than adults are. Dog bites are among the top reasons for an emergency room visit for children. It’s important to know that any dog can bite. The good news is that dog bites are preventable. As humans, children or adults, it’s our responsibility to do what we can to prevent bites.

To help keep children in our community safe from dog bites we are proud to provide bite prevention presentations to teach kids how to safely and responsibility interact with dogs. During these presentations kids will learn how to read dog body language and how to safely interact with friendly or strange dogs to help reduce bites in our community.

When a dog bites, we all lose. Helping prevent dog bites is in everyone’s best interest including the person who would have been bit, the dog’s family and the dog itself.

We encourage you to request a bite prevention presentation for your child’s class.

Request a Bite Prevention Presentation
email education@larimerhumane.org

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

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MEAGAN O'BRIEN

Meet Meagan, she has been volunteering with Larimer Humane Society since November of 2016. She wanted to volunteer with Larimer Humane Society because she has been involved in shelter work her entire life. She began volunteering with Denver Dumb Friends League when she was just 10 years old, and once she moved up to Fort Collins for school she wanted to continue to give back to the shelters in Colorado. She chose to volunteer with the Veterinary Services department because she has dreamed of being a veterinarian her whole life, and eventually hopes to pursue a career as a shelter veterinarian. Meagan supports our Veterinary Services team through a variety of functions and daily duties. She is a valuable member of our team and helps keep the exam room and surgical suite clean, safe, and as comfortable as possible for animals in our care and assists with surgery prep and provides support to our Veterinary Technicians.

Her favorite thing about volunteering with Larimer Humane Society is that she is able to learn something new each time she comes into the shelter. She says the Veterinary Services team at Larimer Humane Society is phenomenal and that her volunteer role is a great opportunity to be able to work with our veterinary team and continue to learn each day.

When Meagan isn’t busy helping keep homeless animals in our care safe, healthy and happy she is the proud human to a two-year-old cat named Trinity and a two-year-old bearded dragon named Reptar.

SUPER ADOPTION EVENT

Join us on Saturday, October 6th at Poudre Pet & Feed Supply for their annual Super Adoption Event! We will be there with our friends from Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic and Animal House Rescue & Grooming with lots of animals looking for loving new homes.

ADOPT A SENIOR PET

Many people overlook senior pets, but older animals make wonderful pets! Here are our top reasons to adopt a senior pet.

1. **What you see is what you get.** There are few surprises when it comes to adopting a senior pet. They are fully grown so you know what they will look like and how big they are, their personalities (flaws and all) are fully developed so you can understand any potential challenges that may come along with adopting a certain animal and make sure you adopt the perfect match for your needs and lifestyle.

2. **They know a thing or two.** Senior pets are less work than younger animals because they have likely already received some basic training. You won’t have to potty-train them, teach them basic manners and commands, or socialize them for the first time. Since they already know the rules of the house you can jump straight to being best friends and skip the formal education (continuing education is always encouraged though).

3. **You’ll be their hero.** Senior pets are less likely to be adopted, which means they spend more time in a shelter than at home with a loving family. When you adopt a senior pet they somehow know you chose to open your heart and home to them when you didn’t have to and they will fill your life with lots of love.
UPCOMING EVENTS
Visit our website for more events and adoption promotions larimerhumane.org/events

September is National Disaster Preparedness Month
09/18: Volunteer Orientation at Larimer Humane Society

October 14-20 is National Veterinary Technician Week
10/06: Super Adoption Event at Poudre Pet & Feed Supply
10/15: Volunteer Orientation at Larimer Humane Society

November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month
11/14: Volunteer Orientation at Larimer Humane Society
11/22: Larimer Humane Society closed for Thanksgiving
11/27: Giving Tuesday

December
12/04: Colorado Gives Day
12/13: Volunteer Orientation at Larimer Humane Society

DID YOU KNOW?
We believe in the power of community and education to help make Northern Colorado a great place for animals and the people who love them. We are proud to partner with Colorado State University and Front Range Community College to provide hands-on learning opportunities for their veterinary medicine and veterinary technician students through rotations and externships at the veterinary clinic at our shelter.

50TH ANNIVERSARY:
SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES
Our 50th Anniversary is in 2019 and we want you to help us celebrate 50 years of second chances! Together over the past 50 years we have made Northern Colorado a great place for pets. As an adopter, volunteer, donor, partner, sponsor or community member you have been a part of our story and we want to hear about how Larimer Humane Society has impacted you.

Help us celebrate 50 years of service by sharing your favorite Larimer Humane Society memory, story or experience you’ve had over the years. Submit your story and photos to media@larimerhumane.org.

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Jenn Barg MS, ACAAB, CDBC  Director of Operations  ext. 347
Kara Pappas  Director of Development & Community Relations  ext. 248
Bill Porter  Director of Animal Protection & Control  ext. 342
Jean Mooney, PHR  Director of Human Resources  ext. 125
Rachel Miller, CPA  Director of Finance  ext. 141

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Lori O’Day  Volunteering  ext. 146

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Comments or suggestions? Call 970-530-2962 or email media@larimerhumane.org.

Larimer Humane Society respects your privacy and never shares your information with any other organization.

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When Rio arrived at Larimer Humane Society, an undiagnosed health issue had caused her to gain so much weight she was unable to stand or move around well on her own for more than a few minutes without needing to rest. Our Veterinary Services team diagnosed her with hypothyroidism. After identifying the primary cause of her weight gain, we were able to immediately start her on treatment and a new diet. We monitored her progress and treatment as she received the care she needed in a loving foster home.

Rio quickly began to lose weight and was soon able to stand and walk more easily – she even began to run around the yard in her foster home! Already fifteen pounds lighter, Rio is now mobile and has discovered the joy of going on full-length walks with her new owners.

When Poncho was surrendered to Larimer Humane Society he was underweight, unhealthy, and unhappy. Thankfully, we were ready to nurture him back to health and happiness. Because of Poncho’s breed, we collaborated with Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital to ensure he received the specialized medical treatment that he needed to heal his skin infection and trim his painfully overgrown tusks and hooves.

Next, we put Poncho on a regimen of vitamins and a healthy diet to gain weight. While in our care, Poncho received a daily dose of sunscreen to protect his skin while he splashed in his kiddie pool and lounged in the shade of the shelter barn. We could tell that Poncho was feeling his best again when he started wagging his tail like a dog!