

Second Chances: The Power of Pets Pets and People Live Better Together

<https://silverstage.news/10-20-second-chance-pet-power/>

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[Second Chance Humane Society](#) believes that pets and people live better together. The past months of pandemic and other economic, environmental, and social crises have served to further verify this philosophy. People are turning more than ever to pets for comfort and companionship and to battle anxiety and other emotional responses to our unprecedented and unstable times.

We are being vividly reminded that pets are important to our lives and to our society as a whole. We are learning that through our connection to pets we can learn how to reconnect with ourselves, our families, our neighbors and our community. We are being reminded about what is truly important.

Thus, Second Chance is working even harder to keep pets and people together throughout this challenging time. Whether it be in providing families in need with pet food or with resources for caring for pets or even providing their pets a temporary home, we are here to help. For example, last March we built out our [Pet Pantry](#) to serve a greater numbers of people throughout our tri-county service region struggling with feeding their pets. We are actively taking applicants to this program.

Additionally, pets still need care during these times too so our community medical program is available, by appointment, to support families in keeping their pets healthy too. Low income individuals and families can schedule an appointment for a free medical exam and a full menu of low-cost non-emergency services such as vaccinations, heartworm prevention, micro-chipping, etc. (visit our website to learn more). Pets will receive individual appointments and can be dropped off and picked up at our Shelter's medical facility in Ridgway.

To prepare for situations involving pet owners suddenly unable to care for their pets we built out our emergency pet foster care program this year as well. Temporary foster care can make a huge difference in keeping pets with their people in the long-term. We are always looking to expand our database so please contact us if you want to be added to the list to provide foster care for a pet in need.

Education is critical to staying well right now. Another area Second Chance is educating community members is on making sure you and everyone you know has a plan in place for your pet's care in the event that you are temporarily unable to provide your pet's care. Make plans with family and friends to assure your pets are covered.

Regarding COVID, currently the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has found no evidence that companion animals can spread COVID-19 or that they might be a source of infection in the United States. If you are quarantined it is best to keep your pets with you during that time, although, "out of an abundance of caution", the American Veterinary Medical Association recommends reducing your handling of your pets if possible if you are sick with COVID-19.

Pets thrive in the role of emotional support and companionship so keep them well and keep them as a part of your family so they can do their job. Interested in bringing a new furry family member into your life? Visit our website regularly to see who might be waiting for you.

Contact Second Chance Humane Society at 970-626-2273 or online (adoptmountainpets.org) to learn how you can receive services, adopt, volunteer, foster, or donate to our programs and services. Also please let us know of any additional needs you are facing in keeping your pets as part of your families.