



LARIMERHUMANESOCIETY  
**FALL 2023**

A PUBLICATION OF LARIMER HUMANE SOCIETY  
To further the compassionate, safe, and responsible  
relationship between animals and people.

# PETSPERSPECTIVE

## A PAWS-ITIVE CHANGE ON THE HORIZON!

In early June of 2023, Larimer Humane Society announced a major shift in animal welfare services in northern Colorado. On October 2, 2023, the Humane Society of Weld County will dissolve and transfer its assets, including the animal shelter located in Evans, Colorado, to Larimer Humane Society. As of that date, Larimer Humane Society will assume full responsibility for providing animal welfare services to Weld County. While the shelter in Evans will remain, Larimer Humane Society will fully staff and operate both the Loveland and Evans shelters.

This decision was made several months after Larimer Humane Society and the leadership of the Humane Society of Weld County began collaborating to meet the demand for animal services in Weld County. As outlined in the Spring 2023 issue of Petspective, shelters nationwide have had to adapt to a significant increase in animal intake since 2021. The Humane Society of Weld County, located in the fastest-growing county in Colorado, was no exception. Weld County — also home to seven of the state's 14 fastest-growing municipalities — experienced a 23% increase in strays alone in 2022. Given the area's anticipated continued growth and subsequent increase in the pet population, along with declining revenues and limitations posed by their aging facility, the Humane Society of Weld County sought support from neighboring shelters.

With over 50 years of experience providing compassionate care to pets, Larimer Humane Society was quick to respond. Since the start of the year, Larimer Humane Society has provided supplies, counsel, animal transfer assistance, and has welcomed more than 750 animals from Weld County through its shelter doors in Loveland.

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Though this assistance eased the burden at the Humane Society of Weld County, it became clear that a permanent solution would require larger strides.

*“As a nonprofit organization, we are committed to fulfilling our mission, which has historically necessitated service beyond county lines.”*

JUDY CALHOUN, CEO

“As a nonprofit organization, we are committed to fulfilling our mission, which has historically necessitated service beyond county lines,” said Larimer Humane Society CEO Judy Calhoun. “We recognized Weld County was at risk of losing essential services, which ultimately, puts animals and people at risk. Residents of Weld County should not lack essential services when we have the capacity to support them, and we’re honored to draw on our experience to fill what would be a significant service gap for the residents of Weld County.”

The boards of both organizations decided that a four-month transition period — from the time of the announcement to the date of asset transfer — would be necessary for Larimer Humane Society to be fully equipped and prepared to take on this new responsibility. “Larimer Humane Society is an acknowledged leader in animal welfare,” said Humane Society of Weld County Board president,

Kara Englert. “We are confident in their capabilities and optimistic their operational know-how will result in more vital programs and services that heal, nurture, and protect companion animals well into the future.”

While October 2 is circled on the calendar for both shelters, preparations are already well underway. Approximately 35 additional employees will be hired to staff the Weld County shelter — a process that began in June. Orientation and training is being held at the Loveland shelter as we anticipate that most staff will be hired and trained ahead of the October transition. Along with personnel needs, we are working to ensure that all of the necessary systems are in place come October. This includes, but is not limited to, building and maintenance needs, IT systems, operational protocols, a volunteer program, and engaging with a new network of donor and community partners.

One of the biggest changes the community will see immediately following the transition is a new name and logo. “With an expanded geographic scope of services, the name Larimer Humane Society no longer foots the bill,” said Calhoun. “We’re excited to develop a new identity that speaks to a broader community.” Additionally, Larimer Humane Society will immediately begin planning to address the long-term growing needs for animal services in Weld County including plans for a new facility. Those plans are years in the making, but in the meantime, “we look forward to learning from the community, and delivering the best outcomes for the pets and people of Weld County,” said Calhoun.





# ASK THE EXPERTS

Dear Larimer Humane Society,

*Last year, when our kids headed back to school in the fall, we noticed that our dog had a hard time and seemed more anxious. She also chewed on our recliner, which is unusual for her. Do you have any suggestions for easing back into the school-year?*

— Dog Dad

Hi Dog Dad,

*This is such a great topic! Change in routine can be difficult for pets. As responsible pet owners, we can prepare for this change to avoid anxiety and to prevent any new, unwanted habits. Here are tips from our Behavior Supervisor, Miranda Kurtz, to help your pet transition smoothly into the school year:*

**Transition Early:** It can be difficult for pets to deal with sudden change, but you can prepare by transitioning into the new routine a week or two early. Setting new bedtimes, mealtimes, and adjusting exercise schedules are great examples of changes that you can implement ahead of schedule.

**Create Positive Associations:** If an animal has never experienced something, it can be a source of curiosity or fear. If your child has a new backpack, picks up a new instrument, or has new sports equipment or uniforms, start to make positive associations with those now. Set out the new item and give praise, treats or other rewards as your pet comes into contact with it. If the new tuba means treats are coming, it won't be as scary when the children are tooting away.

**Enrich Their Lives!** When our pets are bored, they may display unwanted behaviors such as digging, chewing, scratching, barking, or pesky bathroom habits. Providing healthy outlets for these behaviors helps to fill that natural need, while keeping our houses clean and safe. Provide your pet with a variety of toys, opportunities for species specific play, and comfy furniture, especially when you and your children are out of the house all day.

**Be Mindful of Toxic School Supplies:** Keep homework and project supplies out of reach. With art supplies, the Art and Creative Materials Institute (AMCI) labels products as AP (Approved Product) or CL (Cautionary Label). Use these labels as a guide to avoid accidental ingestion.

If you need assistance with your pets' behavior, whether school-year related or not, feel free to contact the Behavior and Enrichment Team at 970.226.3647 ext. 5130, or email [behaviorhelp@larimerhumane.org](mailto:behaviorhelp@larimerhumane.org).



## 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FH5K

A big thank you to everyone who supported the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fire Hydrant 5K, brought to you by Poudre Pet & Feed Supply! Even though it was raining cats and dogs, we had a fantastic turnout and were joined by more than 800 humans and furry friends. Thanks to YOU, our incredible community of supporters, this event raised more than \$97,000 to support homeless and vulnerable animals in northern Colorado, which is an all-time high in Fire Hydrant 5K history! Thank you to all participants, volunteers, vendors, and sponsors for helping bring this ever-so-popular event to life!



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25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TOP CAT & TAILS GALA

# Caturday Night Fever

SEPTEMBER 30 AT 5 O'CLOCK

REGISTER TODAY

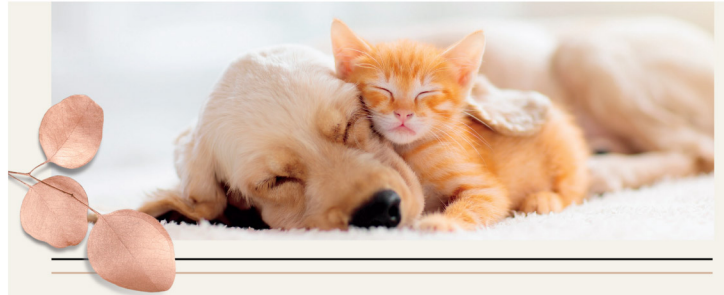
[gala.larimerhumane.org](http://gala.larimerhumane.org)

LARIMER HUMANE SOCIETY

Grab your party shoes and practice your 70s dance moves because Caturday Night Fever is coming to Loveland and you're invited! The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Top Cat & Tails Gala, brought to you by Poudre Pet & Feed Supply, is lowering the disco ball for a special evening of supporting homeless and vulnerable animals in northern Colorado.



SEPTEMBER 30 AT 5 O'CLOCK  
EMBASSY SUITES, LOVELAND



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6204 S. College Ave. | (970) 225-1255  
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## CONTACT US

3501 E 71st St, Loveland, CO 80538

970.226.3647

[larimerhumane.org](http://larimerhumane.org)

## MISSION

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

## VISION

Larimer Humane Society is a trusted, responsive community leader, providing programs and services essential 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.