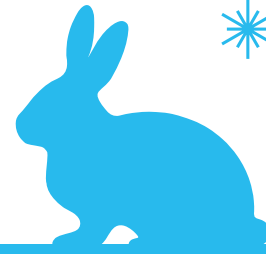


**NOCO**  
HUMANE



WINTER 2024

# PET SPECTIVE

A publication of NOCO Humane to further the compassionate, safe, and responsible relationship between animals and people.

## LUCKY'S JOURNEY: FROM TRAPPED TO FINDING HIS FOREVER HOME

It was a crisp morning when NOCO Humane's Animal Protection & Control team received a call through dispatch about a cat in a precarious situation. A young orange tabby was trapped in the engine of a parked car, his front left leg painfully caught in one of the engine belts. Officer Kayley McMurray arrived first on the scene and quickly realized the severity of the situation. Unable to free the cat on her own, she called for backup, and Officer Sydney Robinson arrived to assist. With one officer reaching down into the engine and the other reaching from the ground below, they worked in tandem with meticulous effort to help the trapped cat.

After what felt like an eternity, the team managed to disentangle the distressed cat from the engine belt. Despite the victory, this feline's fight was just beginning. There was no question that the cat needed urgent medical care. Without hesitation, Officer McMurray rushed him to NOCO Humane's Larimer Campus, where the Veterinary Services Team was ready to act. Time was of the essence—Lucky, as he would soon be named, had lost a significant amount of blood from a ruptured vein underneath his arm, and his little body was weakening. Shelter Veterinarian Dr. Slayer quickly assessed the situation. "We knew early on that the best way to avoid complications down the road, and to ensure a quicker path to an enjoyable life, would be to amputate his leg," Dr. Slayer explained.



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The team worked quickly to stabilize Lucky, administering fluids and pain medication while preparing him for surgery. However, another challenge soon arose—Lucky tested positive for FIV, a feline immunodeficiency virus that could complicate his recovery. Coupled with his severe blood loss, there were concerns about how well he would fare under anesthesia. With the clock ticking and no promising alternatives, Dr. Slayter and her team decided to push forward with surgery.

While carefully monitoring Lucky's blood pressure, Dr. Slayter worked quickly to amputate the mangled limb. In only 45 minutes, the hemorrhage had slowed, the limb was removed, and Lucky was being cleaned and bandaged. He had survived the surgery, but Dr. Slayter knew that a full recovery was not guaranteed.

Lucky spent two weeks being closely monitored by the Veterinary Services team. While his bandages needed changing and his pain had to be managed, staff were most concerned about any indication that Lucky's FIV diagnosis could be hindering his recovery. That's why, when his incision site began showing signs of infection, Lucky was immediately brought back to the surgery table. Undeterred, Dr. Slayter performed a second procedure to debride the incision site - a simple surgery in which the wound is deeply cleaned, and any dead tissue is removed to ensure proper healing. "After that," shared Dr. Slayter, "he was looking great." It seemed that Lucky was out of the woods. Now, all he needed was time to heal and restore his strength.

That's when Adele, one of NOCO Humane's Foster Care

Volunteers, stepped in to offer Lucky a quiet place to recover. "He was such a happy boy and so loving for what he had been through," she said fondly. For two weeks, Lucky rested in Adele's home, slowly regaining his strength and proving his resilience. "This was my first time caring for a three-legged animal," said Adele. "I wasn't sure how he would get around, but it seemed like he didn't even notice he's missing a leg. He loved being with my children and giving them endless kisses."

Once his incision healed and his energy returned, Lucky came back to the shelter for a final check-up. Dr. Slayter gave him a clean bill of health, and Lucky was officially ready for adoption.

The very next day, Lucky's new family found him. Kate, who had driven 40 miles from Thornton with her family, knew Lucky was meant to be theirs the moment she saw him on the website. "I'm very drawn to an animal with a story, with a challenge," Kate shared. When they met Lucky in person, it was love at first sight.

As they finalized the adoption, Kate decided to rename him "Cheese." "All our animals are named after food, and being an orange cat, he's just a little Cheese," Kate laughed. "My mom told me I couldn't name a cat 'Cheese,' so our family got a giggle out of doing it anyway. He's so cute—there's just not enough Cheese to go around!"

Lucky, now Cheese, has settled into his new home beautifully. He's become best friends with his new furry sibling, Mousse, and his new veterinarian has no concerns about his health. From a harrowing rescue to a loving forever family, Lucky's story is one of courage, resilience, and second chances.



**WATCH  
LUCKY'S  
STORY ON  
YOUTUBE:**





# GIVE HOPE TO ANIMALS IN NEED

When you choose to 'Give Hope' this holiday season, you also give love and create second chances for northern Colorado's most vulnerable animals. Below are some simple yet meaningful ways you can make a huge impact when you donate to NOCO Humane!

- 1** Purchase a 2025 Celebration of Second Chances calendar for yourself, or as a gift, and receive 12 BOGO pints from local breweries, all while helping animals in need! You can purchase yours by scanning the QR code on the back of this newsletter.
- 2** Make a holiday tribute donation in honor of friends and family! Show your loved ones how much you care by honoring their love of animals.
- 3** Donate directly to our 'Give Hope' campaign through your Donor Advised Fund, a transfer of stock, or on our website! Did you know it costs \$25 per animal per day to provide nutritious food, medical treatment, and daily enrichment as they await their new families? If you donate before Dec. 31, your impact will be DOUBLED thanks to a \$50,000 matching gift! Head to [noco humane.org/ways-to-give](https://noco humane.org/ways-to-give) to DOUBLE your impact today!



NOCO Humane's 26th Annual Top Cat & Tails Gala, brought to you by Poudre Pet & Feed Supply, was a GIGAWATT-SIZED success! This year's theme, "Bark to the Future," took us on a life-saving journey through time, with attendees rocking fabulous 50s and 80s outfits! The night was filled with dancing, adorable adoptable animals, heart-touching stories, and incredible support from our community.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended, we raised more than \$186,000 to support homeless animals in northern Colorado! We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the evening unforgettable, from our sponsors to our volunteers and, of course, all our amazing guests. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

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# 2025 CELEBRATION OF SECOND CHANCES CALENDAR

Sponsored by Ent Credit Union, the **2025 Celebration of Second Chances Calendar** showcases the inspiring stories of a dozen animals who found new beginnings at NOCO Humane. Every calendar purchase directly supports the care of animals in need across northern Colorado.

But that's not all—incredible local breweries are joining the cause! When you buy a calendar, you'll also receive 12 coupons for BOGO pints at participating breweries. It's the perfect way to toast to second chances while helping even more pets in need.

Hurry, supplies are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Scan the QR code to secure your calendar today, and make a difference one pint—and one pet—at a time!

Get your  
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## MISSION

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

## VISION

NOCO Humane 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 NOCO HUMANE

NOCO Humane 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.

**NOCOHUMANE.ORG**