



SUMMER 2025

PET SPECTIVE

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

JOSIE SEES CLEARLY NOW...THANKS TO YOU!

When Josie, a one-year-old Cane Corso mix, arrived at NOCO Humane as a stray, her energy and enthusiasm were infectious. She eagerly greeted staff and volunteers at the front of the kennel, her tongue hanging out and tail wagging — excitedly awaiting a few pets, a treat, or a new toy. All of this, despite the fact that she could barely see.

Upon admission, our Veterinary Services team noted several concerning symptoms around her eyes: dark, oozing spots and dry, flaky skin with abnormal discharge. A closer look revealed that Josie had a severe case of bilateral cherry eye—a condition where the small gland in each of her third eyelids prolapsed, causing inflammation, dryness, and irritation, making it all but impossible for Josie to see clearly. Immediate surgical intervention was necessary to repair the condition and improve Josie's quality of life.

Josie underwent bilateral cherry eye repair, a delicate procedure aimed at repositioning the prolapsed glands within the third eyelid. Following the surgery, she was placed on antibiotics and monitored closely. Her daily check-ins continued, though our team was discouraged by the lack of improvement. Several days after surgery, Josie faced a common setback—the glands around her eyes had re-prolapsed.

After careful consideration, a second surgery was scheduled. This time, based on the exceptionally large size of the glands and her breed, our team opted to remove the prolapsed glands altogether to relieve the irritation and prevent further complications.

Several days after her second surgery, the results were promising. Josie's eyes showed significant improvement—less inflammation, minimal discharge, and a clearer, more comfortable gaze.



Josie before and after her surgery and recovery.



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Following a full recovery, her infectious energy is now accompanied by eyes that sparkle, no longer clouded by discomfort. With continued post-operative care and the dedicated attention of our Veterinary Services team, Josie's recovery and healing is well underway. Ten days after Josie's second surgery, she became an adoption candidate, and was adopted soon after by a loving family in Fort Collins!

Our pets rely on their eyes to explore the world around them, but just like us, they can develop issues that affect their comfort and vision. Some early warning signs to look for include redness or swelling, excessive discharge, frequent pawing at the eyes, cloudiness or change in color, and squinting or sensitivity to light. While some conditions, like Josie's cherry eye, require veterinary intervention, many eye problems can be prevented or caught early with simple at-home care. By taking a few extra steps, we can help our pets see clearly and avoid discomfort down the road.

- **Trim fur around the eyes** – Long fur surrounding the eyes can cause irritation or even scratch the surface of the eye.
- **Protect against eye irritants** – Dust, smoke, second-hand smoke, harsh chemicals, etc.
- **Provide a healthy diet** – Pet-safe foods that are rich in Vitamin A, Omega-3 fatty acids, and antioxidants support vision and overall eye function.

- **Watch for tear staining** – Regularly wipe tear ducts (if necessary) with warm water or a pet-safe cleaning solution to help prevent excessive buildup and to keep the surrounding fur clean.
- **Regular vet visits** – Annual vet checkups typically include an eye exam, helping catch serious eye conditions in their early stages. In the meantime, if you notice any persistent eye issues, don't wait – seek veterinary care as soon as possible.

A little extra attention today can prevent bigger problems tomorrow—because our pets deserve to see the world as clearly as we do!

Josie's story is a testament to the wonderful things that can be achieved at NOCO Humane with your support! It's also a powerful reminder that even minor eye issues can turn into serious problems if left unchecked. Take it from Josie—being proactive with preventative care can make all the difference, safeguarding our pets from discomfort and potential disease. For those like Josie, who may not be as fortunate, we are grateful for the generosity of donors like you who give so that pets can clearly see their bright futures ahead!



TASTY KONG CREATIONS!

Your support ensures that dogs in our shelters receive daily enrichment to make their stay at NOCO Humane as comfortable as possible. One of their favorite enrichment items... stuffed Kong toys! From frozen delights to savory surprises, we've rounded up some of the best Kong-stuffing recipes to satisfy every pup's taste buds.

Helpful Tips

- Wrap your Kong in cling wrap so the mixture can set in the freezer without spilling.
- Make sure to only use xylitol-free peanut butter in your Kong creations.
- If improvising, be sure to avoid raisins, grapes, cherries, and avocados. Note: dried fruit is high in sugar. Recommended fruits: blueberries, apple, watermelon, banana, and cantaloupe.
- Always consult a veterinarian to ensure your pup is receiving a healthy, balanced diet.



CHEESY ELVIS: Combine a ripe banana, 3 spoons of peanut butter, and a slice of cheese. Mix until blended well. Fill the Kong and freeze.

DOGGIE OMLET: Combine a scrambled egg, some beef, yogurt, cheese, and mashed potatoes.

FIBER CRUNCH: Combine bran cereal with some peanut butter.

GOOEY CHEERIOS: Combine cheerios and peanut butter. Freeze.

BANANA YOGURT: Plain yogurt and mashed bananas. (You can also add a little peanut butter or other fruits.) Freeze.

PEANUT BUTTER GLUE: Fill Kong one-third full of dog food. Pour in melted peanut butter (after it has cooled). Add more dog food, followed by more melted peanut butter until the Kong toy is full. Freeze until solid.

STICKY BREAD: Smear peanut butter on a piece of bread. Fold it over and stuff inside the Kong. Mix together plain yogurt with fruit or vegetables (carrots, celery) and pour inside. Freeze. The yogurt sticks to the bread holding everything together.

APPLE PIE: Squeeze a small piece of apple into the tiny hole. Fill the Kong with a small amount of plain yogurt. Add a few slices of mashed banana, more apples, yogurt, banana. End with a slice of banana and chunk of peanut butter on the top.

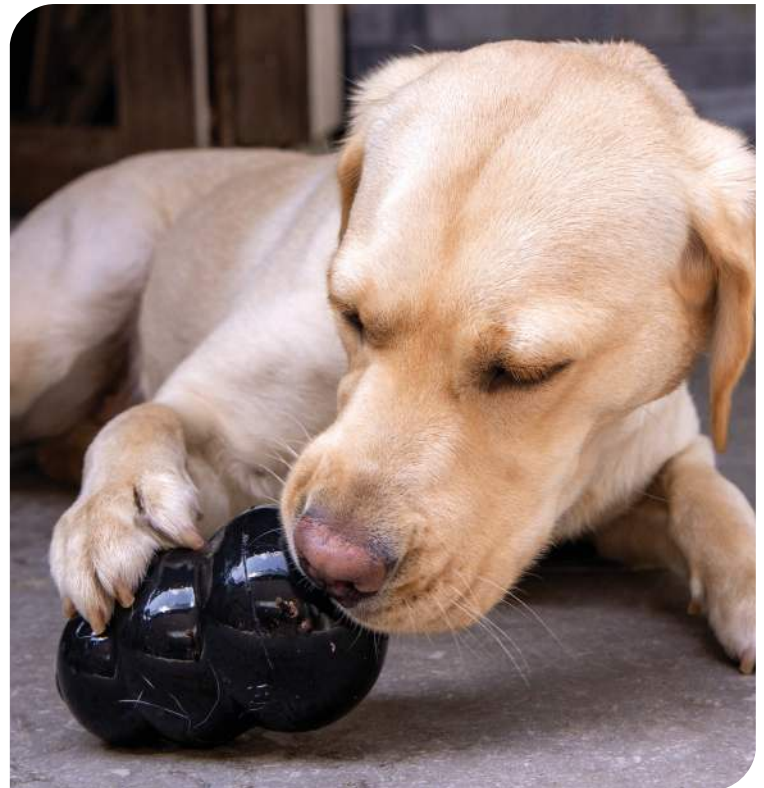
KIBBLE-SICLE: Put a glob of peanut butter into the Kong first. Then add some dry dog food. Pour in some chicken broth. Add some more peanut butter, followed by more dry dog food. End with another glob of peanut butter at the very top. Freeze until solid.

FROZEN BONZ: Mix up some bananas, unsweetened applesauce, oatmeal, peanut butter, and plain yogurt. Freeze.

CARB DELIGHT: Combine some canned dog food with pasta noodles, rice, mashed potatoes, and some of your dog's dry dog food. Freeze.

NUT CRUNCH: Take 2-3 dog biscuits and crunch them into very tiny bite-sized pieces. Add a couple spoons of peanut butter. Then add a couple spoons of plain yogurt. Mix in bowl until soft, but not runny. Stuff inside Kong.

FRUITOPIA: Combine applesauce with chunks of fruit. Freeze.





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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. We turn no animals away.

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