



Homeward Hounds: Keeping People and Pets Together

LOCATION:
GRAND JUNCTION, CO

SIZE:
9 SHELTERS

POPULATION SERVED:
LOCAL UNHOUSED
NEIGHBORS AND
THEIR PETS

OPENING DATE:
MAY 11, 2022

FUNDING:
\$149,000
PETSMART GRANT,
KAPLAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION FUNDING,
AND LOCAL DONORS

A support system looks different for everyone. For some, it's a close-knit family. For others, it's their beloved pet.

People experiencing homelessness are no different; pets can be invaluable when dealing with the trauma of being unhoused. Unfortunately, many shelter options are not designed to keep pets and people together.

In Grand Junction, Colorado, two community organizations stepped up to ensure that people experiencing homelessness remain united with their pets and decided to focus on unhoused neighbors with animal companions.

Roice-Hurst Humane Society approached HomewardBound of the Grand Valley (HBGV) to brainstorm. HBGV provides shelter and services for people in need, and luckily, Pallet was on HBGV's radar.

At the time, companion animals could not be accommodated inside the main shelter facility due to its congregate set up, so Pallet shelters were the best solution. Pallet shelter villages are designed to provide a transitional space until people can move into affordable permanent housing. Service providers and shelter organizers who accommodate pets report high success rates in helping clients transition off the street.



The project, called Homeward Hounds, is the first human housing project that PetSmart Charities has ever funded, and after receiving the grant funds, a 9-shelter village was set up by the Pallet deployment team.

Homeward Hounds provides private shelters that are climate-controlled and located within a fenced and badge-controlled area at HBGV, alongside a gravel yard for dogs. Various services are available to pets in the program, along with other wrap-around human services such as nutritious meals, healthcare, work opportunities and recovery assistance.

Both Roice-Hurst and HomewardBound provide impactful, quality services to the people and pets of their community. On-site support comes in different forms, from wellness check-ins by HomewardBound, to free pet care essentials through Roice-Hurst's Pet Pantry program. The innovative site allows people experiencing homelessness to sleep privately and securely alongside their beloved pets.

For many people experiencing homelessness, their pet is the only source of unconditional love that they have. It's unimaginable for them to separate from their closest companion during this difficult time in their lives. Homeward Hounds allows people dignified and safe shelter and the peace of mind knowing their pets are safe and secure alongside them.

“ Not having a physical roof does not impact one’s ability to love a pet. By setting up the site we hope to showcase what can be accomplished and we hope other cities and communities might replicate what we have done. ”

ANNA STOUT
CEO OF ROICE-HURST HUMANE SOCIETY IN GRAND JUNCTION

Site Features:

- 9 sleeping shelters, where people can stay with their pet companions
- Access to nutritious meals, healthcare, work opportunities, and recovery assistance
- Stocked Pet Pantry with petfood and supplies maintained by Roice-Hurst Humane Society
- Free pet vaccines

