

**A COMPLETE
FOCO GUIDE**

NOCCO IS FOR (ANIMAL) LOVERS

by

**OLIVIA LINDSTROM,
RHEA MAZE,
CARA MCDONALD,
MEGHAN MILLER AND
LAURA PRITCHETT**

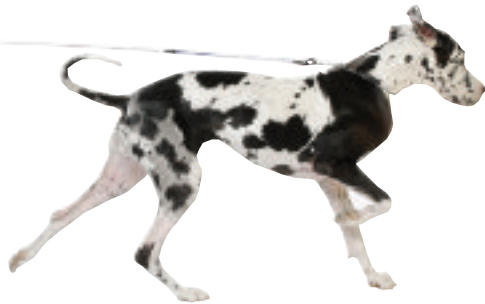
Sure, Americans love their pets, but we'd like to argue that in Northern Colorado, dog really is our copilot. And horse. And goat. And all those busy backyard chickens. Here, our guide to fussing over (and finding) your non-human companions.

ORIGINAL PHOTO BY FARMER ROSEMARY / PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION BY SEQUOIA PORTER



EVENTS FOR PUPS & PEOPLE

Dates for pets to come together to raise money, raise a ruckus, and just have fun.



READY, SET, RACE!

Start conditioning your dog now for the biggest summer races of the year: The 24th annual Fire Hydrant 5, a 5K run/walk and pet expo benefitting the Larimer Humane Society, larimerhumane.org, and the 11th annual Fast and the Furriest 5K, a 5K run/walk organized by Colorado State University students in the Professional Veterinary Medicine program and benefitting the Companion Care Fund, which provides financial assistance for pet owners with animals in need of medical treatment. csu-cvmb.colostate.edu



GLORY DOGS

Don't miss the annual Doggie Olympics this September at City Park. Free for the public, newbies can also purchase tickets if they want to try out a few events with their dog. Categories include catch, obstacles, retrieving, running, obedience, best tricks, and more in both fun and competitive divisions. Complete with vendor booths and demos from Colorado Disc Dogs (a canine Frisbee group), the event is a dogtastic way to spend a Sunday and benefits the work of the Larimer Animal People Partnership (LAPP). 970-449-3460, colapp.org



SO LONG TO SUMMER SPLASH

Put this in your calendar—canines enjoy free reign of the City Park Pool before it's drained and cleaned for the season each September at the annual Pooch Plunge. The dog party of the year features local vendors, demonstrations, games, prizes, a silent auction, giveaways, and more. Onsite resources include a first aid station, life vests, and a poolside swim coach.

Tickets run \$8 at the entrance or \$5 presale and are available at City Park Pool, 1599 City Park Ave. 970-

221-6363 and Advanced Animal Care of Colorado, 1530 Riverside Ave. 970-493-3333, advancedanimalcareofcolorado.com

GET INSIDE THEIR HEADS

Dr. Gail Clark, aka The K9 Shrink, is no ordinary trainer. This canine behavior psychologist helps you understand your dog's mind and behavior to solve problems and forge a loving bond. 3201 E. Mulberry Unit G, 970-484-8977, k9shrink.com



SHAWN CLARK

JUST HANGIN' OUT

Dog parks often turn into messy mud pits. Change it up with a visit to Old Fort Collins High Dog Park on the northeast corner of Lake St. and Peterson St. where your dog can play on actual grass. Chappelles Small Animal Hospital's Bark Park provides the public with free, anytime use of their agility course located behind the hospital. Let your pooch practice without pressure on ramps, jumps, teeter-totters, and hoops. 1601 N. Hwy 287, 970-482-7595, chappellehospital.com



LEND A PAW

Larimer County Search and Rescue regularly dispatches their highly valued canine volunteers all over Colorado. Think your dog has what it takes? While the training and evaluation process is free, it generally takes about two years of dedicated time, effort, and training before a dog can become a search and rescue volunteer. Breeds with stamina that can navigate rugged environments are ideal candidates. larimercountysar.org



HOMES FOR THE HOPEFUL

With our recent fire and flood devastation, a wealth of adoptable dogs, cats, bunnies, goats, and more awaits with local rescues; here's where to start looking for your new BFF. Can't adopt? All the rescues below need you to foster, volunteer, or donate.

POUDRE PUPPY RESCUE

All adoptable dogs and puppies with this rescue are in foster homes to ensure they are receiving proper attention, socialization, and care. Can't resist a puppy but aren't in it for the long-term commitment? The rescue needs foster families for the little fuzzballs while they wait for new homes. **970-692-1278, Petfinder.com/shelters/CO273.html**



FORT COLLINS CAT RESCUE

Our feline friends don't do well in noisy, yappy shelters; a cat-specific rescue lets you visit with adoptable kitties who feel confident, calm, and show their best selves. **2321 E. Mulberry St., Units 1 and 2, Fort Collins, 970-484-8516, fcrcsnc.org**



LARIMER HUMANE SOCIETY

Successful pet adoption, like dating, requires good chemistry. The Larimer Humane Society helps people determine which animal personalities best fit their lifestyle with a "Meet Your Match" survey. **970-226-3647, larimerhumane.org**

ANIMAL HOUSE RESCUE AND GROOMING

This privately funded shelter raises funds through donations, grants, and grooming services, so if you're not in the market for a new pet, you can help homeless animals by taking your critter in for a good bath and a haircut. **1104 W. Vine, Fort Collins, 970-224-DOGS, animal-househelp.org**

NORTHERN COLORADO FRIENDS OF FERALS

Friends of Ferals is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to decreasing the number of feral cats in Northern Colorado. They have developed a humane way to help reduce the overpopulation by trapping, neutering, and returning the cats, which has been proven to help reduce numbers. Some of these wandering tough guys are looking for homes—if you need a great mouser or barn cat, Friends of Ferals is the place to go. **718 Mathews St. Fort Collins, 970-224-1467, nocoferals.org**

DENKAI SANCTUARY

Where do they welcome unwanted goats, donkeys, dogs, cats, even horses? Denkai

Animal Shelter provides foster and rehoming for just about any domestic critter that calls NoCo home. As if that weren't enough to keep them busy, there's a clinic offering subsidized services those who need a little assistance with a pet's care, and their fabulous Youth-in-Crisis program, which teaches troubled and abused youth compassion for animals. **217 First St., Eaton, 970-454-3353, denkaisanctuary.org**



NORTHERN COLORADO ANIMAL RESCUE

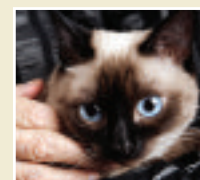
This not-for-profit rescue works hard to place pets in appropriate homes. Their services include adoption and surrender, as well as fostering opportunities. Due to their small starting size, they would greatly appreciate those who are willing to foster pets in their own, safe homes. **northerncoloradoanimalrescue.org**

COLORADO HORSE RESCUE

Bad hay crops and tough economic times have spelled disaster for horses whose owners can no longer afford to keep them. This non-profit rescue has been helping horses

since 1986 by providing emergency relief, shelter, care, rehabilitation, and adoption services for abused, neglected, abandoned and unwanted horses. It's a great place to find a trained and terrific companion who has just fallen on hard times. **10386 N. 65th St., Longmont, 720-494-1414, chr.org**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SIAMESE RESCUE



If these elegant kitties are the breed for you, you'll find a loving rescue in Greeley offering both adoption

and surrender services. **970-351-6582, co.siameserescue.org**

DALMATIAN RESCUE OF COLORADO

These spotted darlings are famously cute and a whole lot of dog—and not for everyone.



The Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is committed to finding the perfect home for unwanted or abandoned Dalmatians and educating the community on this special breed. Surrender services are also available. **6828 Rimrock Valley Ln., Fort Collins, 303-281-8963, dalmatianrescue.org**



HEALTH MATTERS

Keeping our animal companions healthy means more than just a check-up now and then.

RESTORING BALANCE AND VITALITY

Animals can strain muscles and suffer from emotional and physical stress just like people do. Consider tapping into treatment options like acupuncture, massage, chiropractic care, laser therapy, hydrotherapy, and more to round out your pet's health care regimen and enhance their life. Local integrative medicine providers:



- **Advanced Animal Care of Colorado**, 1530 Riverside Ave. 970-493-3333, advancedanimalcareofcolorado.com
- **Harmony Hospital for Pets**, 309 W. Harmony Rd. 970-226-1524, harmonyhospitalforpets.com
- **Colorado State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital**, 300 W. Drake Rd. 970-297-5000, csu-cvmb.colostate.edu



CLICK FOR HELP

The new Red Cross Pet First Aid app lets you access instructions and videos for 25 common first aid and emergency situations including how to treat wounds, control bleeding, and care for cardiac emergencies. *Bonus: A click-to-call feature for your vet, an animal hospital locator, and more.* redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps

PET SENSE

Have a pet in need of healing? Ever wonder what your pet's thinking? With a combination of animal communications and energy work, Firefly Animal Connections provides pet translation and healing Reiki services. 970-493-4446, healthanimals.vpweb.com



TEETH MATTER

Yup, animals have teeth that hurt, too. And not just those dogs and cats, but even rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and other exotics (these animals have continuously growing teeth, so they can have problems that require specialized equipment and experience to deal with). Get thee to a vet that likes teeth! Dr. Andrew Dean has a special interest in horse dentistry, and has both manual and motorized tools to help file down problem teeth in horses' mouths. And Dr. Marta Dean handles the little choppers on small animals. 3333 County Road 54G Laporte, CO 80535, (970) 490-1999, laporteanimalclinic.com, 970-490-1999



FIT YOUR FRIEND

Rearing, biting, bucking, soreness, anxiety—some experts say up to 80% of all saddles cause a horse discomfort and problems. Happy Horse Tack's approved saddle fitter Jen Wright will bring a variety of demo saddles to your barn for you to try until you find the perfect match. It's also a great way to buy a quality used saddle with no regrets—she can pull from their huge selection of consignment tack. 113 Peterson St., 970-484-4199, happyhorse.com



DAVID HAYWARD

OH, BEHAVE!

Proper training and behavior work contributes to the health and happiness of any pet, not just dogs and cats. Consult with your veterinarian before beginning a program with a behaviorist or trainer as your pet won't make adequate progress if it's unhealthy or in pain. The Colorado State University Behavior Club provides a wealth of resources and training tips. cvmb.colostate.edu/vetbehaviorclub. 1300 Blue Spruce Dr. Ste. B, 970-484-7044, caninelearningcenter.com



TRICKED OUT TANKS

From Caribbean reefs to mangrove swamps, Underwater Wonders specializes in installing and maintaining high-end fish tanks. 970-308-3609. In the market for electric green, sunburst orange, moonrise pink, starfire red, or galactic purple fluorescent GloFish? America's first genetically engineered pet is available at **Petco**. 2211 S. College Ave. #200, 970-484-4477



PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR DOGS

Does your pup need some help with obedience? Or maybe you just need doggy day care while you're at work. The Progressive School for Dogs has got you covered for training, day care, and boarding. A wide variety of classes including basic puppy training and all the way to advanced agility. **28464 Highway 257, Greeley, 970-686-6782, progressive-schoolfordogs.com**

HAVE LLAMA, WILL TRAVEL

Buckhorn Llama CO, Inc. leases out fully trained llamas to backcountry adventurers. After a mandatory orientation session that includes learning to handle and care for the llamas, folks can take the animals on trips ranging from an overnight hike to a two-month stint on the Colorado Trail. **970-667-7411, llamapack.com**



LITTLE FARMERS

Kids of all ages can learn to groom, saddle, and ride a pony or gain experience caring for chickens and cows through hands-on educational programs offered by the City of Fort Collins at The Farm. **600 N. Sherwood St., 970-221-6665.** Laughing Buck Farm also offers horse lessons and a farm school program where kids conduct daily chores like feeding, grooming, and milking animals, gathering eggs, and monitoring beehives. **3724 County Rd. 13, 970-493-0270, laughingbuckfarm.com**



FARMER ROSEMARY

HOT BUYS

What's Trending Around Town



LESS-TOXIC TUMMIES

When your dog loves a toy, does he end up eating half of it? Natural Pet Marketplace in Greeley has the fix—rope and stuffed animal toys made from all natural cottons and materials that are safer for ingestion. **4626 Centerplace Dr. #142, Greeley, 970-587-7426, naturalpetmarketplace.com**



CAT CUISINE

Cats are obligate carnivores who need protein, like that found in high quality raw, frozen, and dehydrated foods (not kibble) that are nutrient rich and packed with meat. Expect to see shinier coats, better energy level, and fewer urinary and cat box behavior

problems. Try brands like Stella & Chewy's, Primal, Nature's Variety, and Rad Cat. *At Poudre Pet & Feed Supply, multiple NoCo locations, naturalfeedstore.com; and Earthwise Pet Supply,*

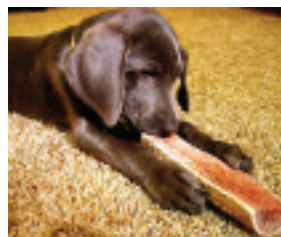
VELO ACCESSORIES

You belong to the cycling tribe? Let your dog or cat stand with you; Cycle Dog repurposes old bike tires to make sturdy and comfy collars and toys. *At Poudre Pet & Feed Supply, naturalfeedstore.com*



NATURE'S CHEW TOYS

Elk antler chews for dogs are as natural and unprocessed as it gets. Antler sheds found in nearby natural areas are cleaned, sterilized, cut down to the appropriate length, and sold at Wagz Pet Bowtique & Barkery, 132 N. College Ave., **970-482-9249, wagzpetmarket.com**



THROW FIDO A LOCALLY SOURCED BONE

Bones Du Jour Owner Sue Carroll makes healthy dog treats from scratch using ingredients like organic, free-range chicken and buffalo liver stock and stone-ground flours from local farms and ranches. *At the Farmers' market and at 1720 W. Mulberry #B8. 970-290-8874, dogtreatssogood.com*



IN LOVING MEMORY

Losing a pet can be devastating. When it does happen, it's nice to have support.

PRECIOUS PALS CEMETERY at Resthaven Memory Gardens is a burial space just for pets. To celebrate National Pet Memorial Day in September, Resthaven usually hosts special events and speakers. 8426 S. Hwy. 287, 970-667-0202, resthavencolorado.com

When a beloved companion reaches end of life or is faced with an incurable illness **CSU'S PET HOSPICE PROGRAM** focuses on caring, not curing. Services include pain control for the animal and emotional support for the family to ease the transition, helping to make death kinder and more humane. 970-219-7355, csu-cvmb.colostate.edu

There's no question our pets become beloved family members, and pet loss can blindsides even the most practical among us. The CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital's



first person

HOME EUTHANASIA: WHY IT WORKED FOR ME

"In the past four years we've lost two dogs to cancer. When it was time to let go, we wanted the end to happen at home. This was less stressful to our dying dog and for us. Being at home also meant that our other dog could be there to know what was happening. We could spend the exact amount and quality of time we needed with our dogs during the experience and after they were gone. Home to Heaven, an in-home pet hospice and euthanasia service, allowed us to do this.

Home to Heaven is available to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, serving Northern Colorado and Southeastern Wyoming. If you're not comfortable having the euthanasia in your home, they have a pet euthanasia center in Loveland that still offers a home-like setting. Home to Heaven provides full service from the initial consultation to the end of life. Their doctors are professional and compassionate, clearly and gently explaining what's going to happen; it allowed me the opportunity to say goodbye in my own way."

—JILL SALAHUB

Dr. Kathleen Cooney, 970-412-6212, hometoheaven.net

ARGUS INSTITUTE was founded to honor the pet/human relationship, teach practitioners compassionate communication skills, and help grieving owners deal with their loss. csu-cvmb.colostate.edu

RAINBOW BRIDGE PET CREMATORIUM'S OWNERS, Kelly and Lori Hiatt, have first-hand experience losing a pet—and from that came their desire to help other families going through the hardship of death. They offer pick up services, no matter where your pet passes, and transport the animals to Rainbow Bridge where you can spend as much time necessary to say goodbye in a viewing room. If you need further grievance help, Rainbow Bridge can refer you several organizations for grief counseling. 2105 E. 11th St., Ste. 180 Loveland, 970-962-9200, rainbowbridgecrematorium.com



SEPARATION ANXIETY

Miss your pet during the long workday and wonder what they're up to? Local pet sitting provider Poochy Doos will send you "love notes" and photo text messages to keep you connected. 970-420-9181, poochydoos.com

EVERYDAY EXOTICS

Whether you are looking to cuddle with a scorpion or if a koi pond or tropical fish are enough thrill, you're bound to find something unusual at Animal Attraction in Greeley. There are some snugly critters, too, like kittens, but the store specializes in reptiles and fish. Don't miss their huge selection of fancy aquariums and terrariums. 2518 S 11th Ave., Greeley, 970-353-3400, monsterreef.com



TLC TO SPARE

Therapy pets bring comfort, joy, serenity, and educational opportunities to special populations. Any number of pets can serve their community by becoming certified to participate in animal therapy. The Larimer Animal People Partnership (LAPP) places pets and their owners in established community programs that visit local hospitals, organizations, libraries, schools, assisted living facilities, and more. 970-449-3460, colapp.org



WILD AT HEART



Wolves were never meant to be caged, and wolf dogs bred as pets are torn between their wild and domestic instincts. Most never take to life as house dogs and end up abandoned, euthanized, or homeless. Many organizations work on behalf of wild wolves and domestic dogs, but very few resources are available for the thousands of wolf dogs born into captivity each year. Wolves Offered Life & Friendship (W.O.L.F) is a sanctuary and permanent home

facility in Laporte for rescued wolf dogs. Instead of owning one, help those in need—volunteers can help care for the special animals or become involved with educational community programs. 970-416-9531, wolfsanctuary.net 