



1. **BUDGET YEAR: 2022**
2. **Requesting entity:** Routt County Humane Society
3. **Amount requested: \$84,287.70. Please note the amount applied for is the same budget requested in 2021 with a 2% CPI added.**
4. **Project title/Use of funds.** Agreement for Animal Shelter Services.
5. **Description of project or use of funds:** Routt County Humane Society (RCHS) provides animal-sheltering services for the Routt County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) and Routt County citizens. These services include feeding, cleaning of animal enclosures and the provision of medical care, to include spaying and neutering of animals prior to making them available for adoption. In addition, RCHS also ensures that lost animals are kept safe and returned to their owners. RCHS is an open admission animal shelter that receives all companion animals that enter as strays, owner surrenders, bite quarantines or other court-related animal cases. RCHS does not accept livestock, wild-life, or exotic animals. In accordance with State law as it relates to the legally required holding period for stray animals, RCHS also ensures that all animals impounded because of any law enforcement investigation to be used as evidence, will be held per specific instructions of the RCSO. Additionally, RCHS collaborates with County officials and the Colorado State Extension Office in the event of a disaster or other circumstances that may impact the normally accepted legal holding time for animals and will not release, adopt, or otherwise dispose of animals without authorization for RCSO. RCHS guarantees 24-hour access to RCSO and accommodates disposal of limited evidence that requires incineration in the crematorium. Funds are used to provide services consistent with kennel and shelter operations.
6. **Other sources of funding:** Other funding sources include the animal-sheltering contract with the City of Steamboat Springs, income from adoptions, surrenders, boarding fees, licensing, donations, fundraising and grants.
7. **Grant funding:** The Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund (CPOF), License Plate Program, awarded RCHS \$15,000 for diagnostics and emergency medical care for shelter animals.
8. **Justification:** As the only open admission animal shelter in Routt County and within a two-hundred-mile radius, RCHS has developed and implemented a wide array of programs for both shelter and community pets. RCHS believes in and promotes "Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering" that promotes adoptions and the use of resources to ensure animals placed in our community are behaviorally and medically appropriate and reflect the community's values. RCHS recently opened a community wellness clinic to provide affordable veterinary care to pet owners and as a preventative measure to reduce pet surrenders to RCHS because of medical

costs. By providing veterinary services to both shelter and community pets, licensing, vaccination clinics and subsidized spay/neutering programs, RCHS is focused on teaching patrons responsible pet care while also being a resource for other pet-related needs. RCHS also collaborated with Emergency Services, Animal Control Officers, and other organizations and rescues to ensure people and their pets can stay together during unprecedented times and disasters. Without RCHS, the health and safety of the community would be comprised by unvaccinated, unlicensed animals and the probability of a pet overpopulation and euthanasia would increase: There would not be a safe haven/shelter to care for and find homes for homeless animals responsibly and compassionately.

In 2020, RCHS served 575 animals with 405 adoptions, 136 pets reunited with their families, and 16 animals transferred to collaborative partners, achieving a 97% live release rate. One thousand five hundred fifty-one (1,551) veterinary exams were performed, 315 animals sterilized, 509 animals microchipped, 842 vaccinations provided with 10 general surgeries performed as well as 28 dentals and one orthopedic surgery.

With the addition of a full-time shelter veterinarian, the length of stay of animals at the shelter from 2019 to 2020 has decreased by 5 days. This decrease has contributed to a reduction in program expenses while also ensuring the overall health and safety of pets adopted into or returned to the community. Adopter feedback has been exemplary as evidenced by surveys conducted by the Maddie Fund and through Google and Facebook reviews.

9. **Consequences of postponement or denial.** Denial or postponement of the regular annual agreed upon contract budget would result in the loss of animal related services to our small, rural community. The RCSO would need to contract with another entity to provide animal sheltering services, as well as coordinating disaster responses. As there is not another provider within 40 miles of Routt County, costs would increase significantly, efficiency in the provision of services would decrease, and our citizens would be inconvenienced by having to travel a greater distance to be reunited with their pets. The euthanasia rate would likely increase due to the lack of a convenient, central location for people to adopt pets or to look for their lost animals.
10. **Alternatives to the request/project.** The only viable alternative to this request would be for the RCSO to staff the shelter operations and be the provider of animal services to Routt County. Funding is needed to provide the staff and resources to comply with the State regulatory agency (PACFA) standards of shelter operations and to provide the level of animal related services that reflects the community's values.
11. **Describe who will benefit from the request/project, how many people will benefit and why is support from Routt County taxpayers appropriate?** As previously noted, RCHS is the only animal shelter in Routt County and employs 8 people, as well as providing volunteer opportunities and promoting animal welfare to our community. RCHS provides many animal-related services that are subsidized through RCHS fundraising efforts and donors. RCHS has historically provided low cost spay/neuter services to a targeted population and has been a financial resource to our community members who need assistance with veterinary expenses. RCHS promotes responsible pet ownership, has a 97% live release rate, and believes in socially conscious sheltering by ensuring that only safe and appropriate animals are placed for adoption. With the addition of a community wellness clinic, RCHS is reducing the community pet

overpopulation through its subsidized spay/neuter programs and the provision of affordable veterinary care. Healthy and safe animals result in a happy and safe community. These animals are in our community and are owned by our citizens so the need to fully fund an animal shelter is a community/taxpayer responsibility.