

SUMMER 2024



# TAILS OF FOOTHILLS



## A note to our partners in lifesaving...

The arrival of warmer weather provides an opportune moment for us to pause, reflect, and eagerly anticipate the vibrant months ahead. Our commitment to the well-being of animals and the support for our community continues to shine brightly as we work to address this unprecedented growth in demand of programs and resources.

In 2023, we not only surpassed the number of animals served and adopted but also forged deeper connections with our patrons and supporters. Summer is a busy time at the Shelter, and we anticipate that our Shelter population will continue to grow.

**None of our achievements would be possible without the unwavering support of patrons like you. Your dedication and generosity fuel our mission and drive us forward with purpose and determination.**

### Visit Us

Open daily 10 am - 5 pm  
580 McIntyre Street  
Golden, CO 80401

### Our Services

- Adoption
- Lost & Found
- Better Together
- Pet Relinquishment
- End-of-Life Care
- Low-Cost Vaccine Clinics
- Microchipping
- Pet Licensing

Our volunteers, foster families, and dedicated staff have been the key foundations of our work, tirelessly devoting their time and compassion seven days a week to ensure that every pet and person receives the care and attention they deserve.

As we continue to meet the increased demand for critical services from our community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued partnership and support.

As we embrace the promise of warmer months and the opportunities they bring, let us renew our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of pets and people alike. With your unwavering support, we will continue to innovate, evolve, and uplift our community, one wagging tail and grateful heart at a time.

May this season of renewal and growth bring you abundance, prosperity, and joy,

*Connie Howard*

**Connie Howard**  
Executive Director  
Foothills Animal Shelter



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# Love letters from adopters



## WRIGLEY

"I adopted Wrigley when he was 11 months old. I instantly fell in love with Wrigley's energy and unconditional love. He's the friendliest dog in the world, excited to see every human and dog that makes eye contact with him. He's known by folks at the vet and doggy daycare as 'Wiggles' because he wiggles his backside so much when he's being greeted. He loves to be chased by his best friends. He's the perfect Colorado dog. We've truly been perfect for each other."

## BERNICE

"This is the bestest girl, Bernice. She has so seamlessly fit into our quirky little family. Who knew you could love a dragon so much?! Thank you, Foothills, for giving us the opportunity to have this sweet girl in our lives!"

**Thanks to the support of patrons like you, over 6,500 pets get adopted each year into loving families!**



## Kitten season is upon us!

The warmer months bring hundreds of vulnerable kittens to Foothills. In 2023, we fostered over 500 kittens...kittens who needed over three weeks of foster care each! Fostering these tiny animals requires extensive resources, but we're committed to providing them the care and shelter they deserve. **Help us prepare for these little ones by donating to our Care Fund!**

**DONATE TO OUR CARE FUND**





# New beginnings are in bloom

Papi arrived at Foothills earlier this year with a suspected urinary blockage, a life-threatening condition which requires immediate surgical intervention. Our veterinary team performed two lifesaving emergency surgeries to successfully relieve Papi's urinary blockage.

Papi's recovery took extra time and care, but he was a fighter! Today, Papi has been adopted into a loving home.

Papi got the new beginning he deserved. But we know that springtime will bring countless vulnerable animals who rely on us for their second chances, too. **It's not too late to give the gift of a new beginning to a pet in need!**



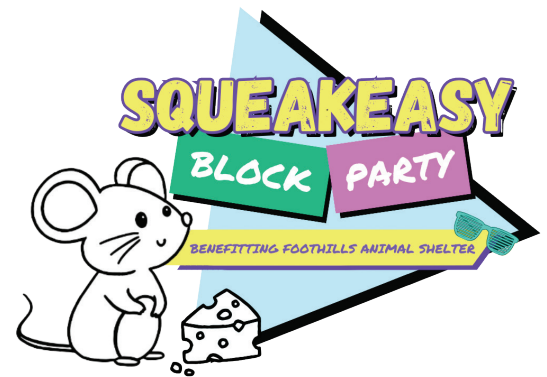
**MAKE A LIFESAVING GIFT**

## Announcing: Squeakeasy Block Party 2024

Back by popular demand! **Save the date** for our exciting, fresh new take on our well-loved Squeakeasy. Returning on July 19, 2024, the Squeakeasy Block Party will feature an afternoon of live music, tasty bites, and the option to sip and nibble as you please!

**Friday, July 19, 2024 | Foothills Animal Shelter**

**TICKET NOTIFICATION SIGN-UP**



## Unleashing Joy: A Dive into Pet Enrichment

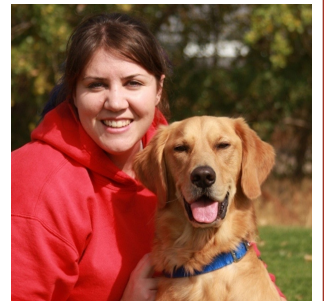
By Steph Baigent, Associate Director of the Animal Experience at Foothills Animal Shelter

Enrichment isn't just about keeping animals occupied; it's about igniting joy, stimulating minds, and creating fulfilling experiences. At Foothills, we understand the vital role enrichment plays in the well-being of our Shelter animals.

**Our approach to enrichment is deeply rooted in observation**—we don't believe in a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, our Behavior Team keenly observes each animal to understand their preferences and interests. Do they relish solo play or thrive in social interactions? Are they food-motivated or more inclined towards toys? These insights guide us in crafting activities that truly resonate with them. If we provided the same activities to each dog or cat regardless of their preferences, we'd risk introducing unnecessary frustration in what is already a stressful environment for many of these animals.

Enrichment doesn't have to break the bank either. We embrace cost-effective ideas like egg carton treat puzzles, homemade cardboard treat boxes, and recycled materials turned into interactive toys. It's all about creativity and ingenuity. **You'll be surprised how easy it is to find activities when you start looking at your recycling bin as enrichment options!**

At Foothills, enrichment isn't just a program; it's a philosophy woven into every interaction. **It's about listening to our animals, understanding their needs, and sparking joy in their lives.**



# Introducing Dr. Vivian Tran...

Join us as we welcome our newest veterinarian!



## Tell us a little about your background and how you became a veterinarian.

"I was born and raised in Denver. I attended the University of Colorado Denver for my Bachelor's degree, where I initially was interested in going to (human) medical school. I realized in my junior year that human medicine was definitely not my passion. So, after I graduated with my Bachelor's, I decided to volunteer at my own dog's vet clinic to see if veterinary medicine was something I'd be interested in. Eventually, I moved up to Fort Collins where I worked as an Animal Care Technician at Larimer Humane Society (now NOCO Humane), and that's what ended up sparking my love for shelter medicine. I was lucky enough to be accepted into Colorado State University for veterinary school and graduated in 2021. I completed a shelter medicine internship at the Dumb Friends League and stayed on as a Staff Veterinarian there until I made my way to Foothills!"

## What's your favorite part about working with animals?

"My favorite part is seeing a frightened, shut-down animal make it through the shelter system to where they can finally show us their true, playful personality and get adopted."

## Do you have any pets of your own?

"Yoshi is my 11-year-old Maltese mix. He is my heart dog and the love of my life. He loves people! Mitzy is my around 9-year-old tuxedo kitty. She is the best cat in the world...she's so low-maintenance and incredibly affectionate. I adopted her from Larimer Humane Society when I was working there."

## What is the most interesting species of animal you've had as a patient?

"So far, I think a sugar glider! When I was a vet student, though, I did a day trip to Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center with one of the veterinarians from CSU where I helped with sedating and examining the wolves and wolf-dogs."

**We are thrilled that Dr. Tran has joined the Foothills  
Veterinary Team. Welcome, Dr. Tran!**



## PROUD PARTNER

The Lodge Casino is honored to partner with Foothills Animal Shelter to help foster compassion in our community through working with and supporting our animal friends.

Are you a part of the most rewarding club in Black Hawk? The Lodge Casino Winners Club is a favorite with our players, offering a generous cash-back ratio and opportunities to win great prizes, free dining, and more. It only takes a few seconds to sign up, and it's free. Come in and join the best club in Black Hawk! Visit [thelodgecasino.com](http://thelodgecasino.com).

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