HOLIDAY 2026

TAILS OF FOOTHILLS

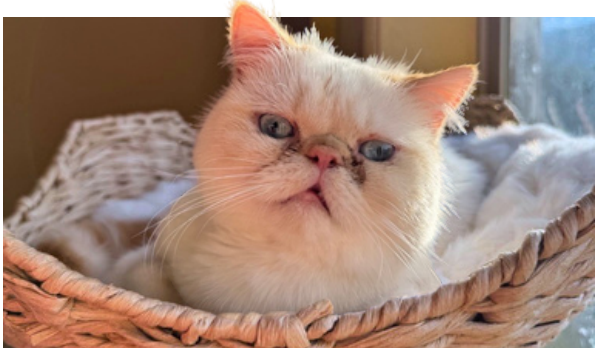
A note to our partners in lifesaving...



As the season of holiday decorating arrives and we begin to bedeck our homes with baubles festive and meaningful to us, this year marks an important milestone in the McSchaefer household. Our Foothills alumna Smidge is finally grown up enough that racing up and down the Christmas tree is no longer the most thrilling activity December has to offer.

My favorite delicate ornaments have remained safely wrapped in their boxes since she came home as a wee little thing, busy and full of kitten curiosity that made a real live tree in the living room impossible to resist. This year, they'll finally reemerge and sparkle above a beautiful little cat curled up peacefully on the tree skirt, rather than come crashing to the ground courtesy of her tree-dwelling antics. It's a bittersweet graduation, trading kitten memories for maturity!

Many of us have end-of-year traditions that include our pets. Perhaps it's a serving of Thanksgiving pumpkin prepared without spices so our four-legged family members can join in the feasting, an annual family photo taken in a snowy corner of Colorado with a brand-new bandana or bow tie around Banjo's neck to match the theme, a stocking personalized with embroidered fish for Figaro, or a New Year's resolution to get outside and walk more with our canine besties.



This is a hopeful time of year at the shelter, as pets spark new friendships and head home with families eager to begin traditions of their own. It's also a season when our community comes together to bring comfort and joy to the animals still in our care, sharing the warmth we wish for everyone during the holidays.

As we close out a year in which nearly 9,000 animals will have come to Foothills in need of a second chance or a new beginning, I want to thank you for everything you've made possible. This year, we've also had the special pleasure of celebrating 50 years of making life better for pets and people. Your support has given thousands of Smidges the opportunity to experience milestones, holiday memories, and loves of a lifetime.

And that is truly something we can all celebrate this season.

Maggie

Maggie McSchaefer
Executive Director
Foothills Animal Shelter

Support Foothills Animal Shelter this Colorado Gives Day!





COLORADO GIVES DAY Presented by PNC

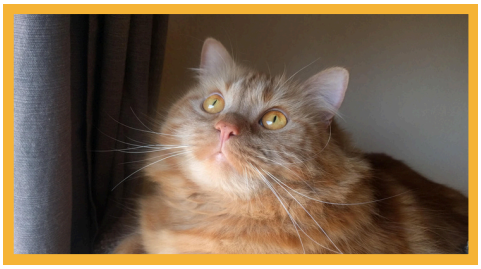




Give now through Tuesday, December 8

Join the Foothills Colorado Gives Day team!

Whether you're a volunteer, adopter, or you just love all things Foothills, join our Colorado Gives Day fundraising team! Through the Colorado Gives platform, individuals can sign up to support the causes they love by creating a fundraising page. This year, we're inviting you to join and share your favorite Foothills stories and memories, all in support of pets and people in our community.







Join today at ColoradoGives.org/FoothillsAnimalShelter

Headlines & Happenings

A Better Place to Play

Exciting changes have come to two of our play yards at Foothills! Thanks to two generous sponsors, Play Yards 2 and 5 have been upgraded to give the dogs in our care a quieter, more comfortable place to run, sniff, and simply be dogs.

With new turf, shade, and water access, the yards now provide enhanced enrichment and outdoor opportunities for dogs, particularly those in our extended stay program.

New turf gives the animals a fresh, clean surface for zoomies and belly rubs, while improved shade helps keep them cool and comfortable during warm days.

Additional privacy measures, both from the highway and between neighboring play yards, help reduce noise and distractions, ensuring positive playtime and enhanced opportunities for the dogs at Foothills to show their true personalities.

Next time you visit, stop by and see the dogs enjoying our new yards. Your support for these upgrades make a lifechanging difference for the pets in our care!





Interested in sponsoring one of our Play Yards?

Let us know! donorsupport@fas4pets.org

Volunteer applications open January 10, 2027!

If you've been looking for ways to deepen your involvement with Foothills, now's your chance! Volunteer applications open on January 10.

Our volunteers help us rescue, care for, reunite, and adopt out thousands of animals every year. **We could not achieve our mission of making lives better for pets and people without our volunteers!**

Questions? Contact our volunteer team at volunteer@fas4pets.org.



Your Dollars at Work

A Warm Welcome for Animals in Need

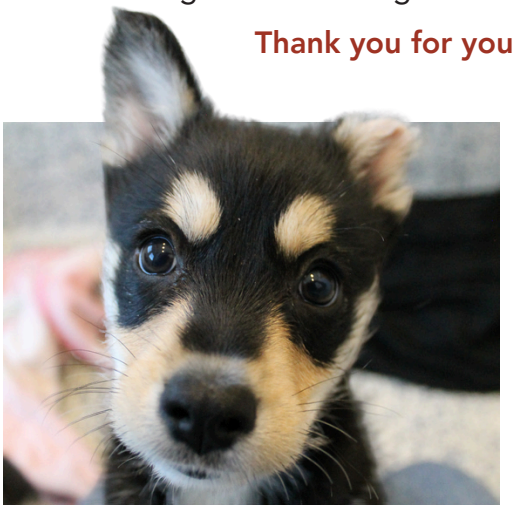
Every animal deserves a chance to thrive, and this year, your support made that possible for hundreds of our most vulnerable patients. Thanks to a generous anonymous matching donor, your support went even further; we purchased **three updated exam tables** and **one kitten incubator,** ensuring the animals who entered our doors had access to the resources they needed.



The exam tables give our veterinary team versatile and dependable spaces to treat every animal, whether they need a routine exam or more complex care. With the addition of these tables, our veterinary team has streamlined care for the pets we see, offering an experience that reduces stress, leading to happier animals and more positive outcomes.

Our new kitten incubator provides a warm, stable environment for fragile newborn kittens during their first vulnerable weeks. With temperature control and nebulizer features, tiny, delicate animals can receive the care they desperately need to survive their first few weeks in the world, before finding families through our adoption center.

Thank you for your generosity; your support ensures every animal who comes to Foothills receives the best possible start on the road to a loving home.







A Legacy of Love

Be a champion for animals in need by including Foothills Animal Shelter in your estate plans.

As a Legacy Society member, you provide ongoing care, medical treatment, and second chances for pets and people in our community.

To learn more, please contact Kim Sporrer, Director of Giving and Engagement at ksporrer@fas4pets.org.





Colorado Combined Campaign

Now through December 11, Colorado state employees can support Foothills through an easy, automatic payroll deduction. Setup takes just a couple of minutes. **Charity Code: C23884**
Learn more at foothillsanimalshelter.org/ccc

Your Dollars at Work:

Matching gifts that made twice the impact.



You Helped Save Twice the Lives

Each summer, we ask for your support as we navigate our busiest time of year. With kitten and puppy season in full swing, Foothills sees more faces in the summer months than any other time of year.

Our team works diligently to provide expert, personalized care for every animal, ensuring the best outcome for each new face we see. As of November 1, **Foothills Animal Shelter has cared for nearly 7,000 animals in 2026**–made possible by your unwavering support for the pets and people in our community.

Special thanks to the generosity of Donna Toeroek, whose $10,000 matching gift ensured your support went even further this summer.

A Festive Fundraiser: Fall Market

Thank you to everyone who attended our second annual Fall Market, sponsored by AAA Plumbing, Heating & Electric! This year's event was another hit–with nearly **40 vendors** and over **500 attendees.** Your support helps provide lifesaving care for the pets and people we serve. foothillsanimalshelter.org/fall-market







Save the Date for Fall Market 2027!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 25, 2027**! Fall Market returns to the Jefferson County Fairgrounds for an afternoon supporting Foothills Animal Shelter.

$100,000 for 130 Cats

In August, 130 cats arrived at Foothills Animal Shelter, many in need of extensive medical and behavioral care. In the wake of this large intake, a generous Foothills Animal Shelter champion pledged $50,000 as a matching challenge—and our community showed up.

In just 15 days, our supporters rallied to not only meet the matching challenge, but help all available cats from this situation find loving homes. While some still need a little extra time in our care to receive treatment before they're ready to find families, your generosity helps provide the lifesaving care these animals deserve and prepare them for the next step in their journey. **Thank you for saving lives.**



Upcoming Events

foothillsanimalshelter.org/events

Giving Tuesday at Cozy Coffee

Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 12 - 4pm | Cozy Coffee Westminster

Kick off giving season with a morning at Cozy Coffee! We're partnering with Cozy Coffee in Westminster for a special Giving Tuesday event supporting Foothills Animal Shelter. Plus, sip and support when you order the specialty drink on Dec. 1!

Golden Community Potters

Annual Pottery Sale | Saturday, Dec. 5 from 12 - 4pm

Join Foothills Animal Shelter and the Golden Community Potters for a festive holiday event at the Shelter! Finish your holiday shopping with beautiful, locally handmade pottery. A portion of all pottery sales will benefit the pets in our care!

Hoppy Hour at Holidaily Brewing

Tuesday, Dec. 8 from 5 - 7pm | Holidaily Golden Taproom

Grab a pint, help a pet! Join Holidaily Brewing this December for a special Colorado Gives Day Hoppy Hour in support of Foothills Animal Shelter! For every pint sold, Holidaily will donate $1 towards our mission to make life better for pets and people.

Support Foothills | Colorado Gives Day

Tuesday, Dec. 8 All Day | Online

Support Foothills Animal Shelter this Colorado Gives Day! Make an online donation, create a fundraiser through ColoradoGives.org, or spread the word about Foothills as we celebrate Colorado's largest giving movement.



Home for the Holidays

Adoption Special | Dec. 18 - 28

Bring your new best friend home for the howl-idays! Thanks to our partners at PNC Bank, we're offering 50% off adoption fees for all cats and dogs one year and older, December 18 through 28.

Holiday Giving Guide

Support shelter pets as you shop! Celebrate the season of giving with these holiday gift ideas.



Order your custom pet portrait!

Immortalize your favorite furry, feathered, or scaled friend with a custom portrait! Just in time for the holiday giving season, we're partnering with artist **Andi Burnum** to raise funds for the pets and people we serve at Foothills. Please place holiday orders by **December 9** to allow for creation and shipping time. foothillsanimalshelter.org/pet-portrait

Limited-Edition Foothills 50th Anniversary Merch

Stop by the ReTail Store, 10AM - 5PM, seven days a week, to shop limited-edition Foothills Animal Shelter 50th Anniversary merchandise! Cozy sweatshirts will help you stay warm this winter as you sip on something toasty from your Foothills Animal Shelter Hydro Flask® travel mug! Plus, check out our selection of t-shirts and ballcaps to represent Foothills in style all year long.

All proceeds from the Foothills Animal Shelter ReTail Store benefit the pets and people we support.







Partners in Lifesaving: Credit Union of Denver

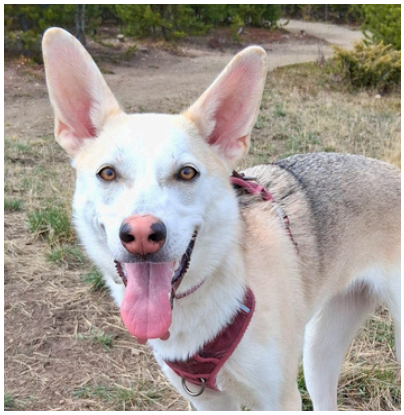
Purchase your 2027 Credit Union of Denver pet calendar for $10 at the Foothills ReTail Store or at any Credit Union of Denver branch.

All proceeds from calendar sales directly benefit Foothills. Thank you, Credit Union of Denver!

credit union OF DENVER
Doing Life With You



Happy Tails from Alumni



ANA

"Since adopting Ana, she has had nonstop adventures! When we got her it seemed she didn't have many experiences with anything–she even seemed to not know what peanut butter is. Now, in the winter, she enjoys the snow, and hiking, etc. In the summer, we paddleboard almost every weekend, hike, and go on big trips. Ana has been to 7 National Parks so far! She's come such a long way and we love her so much. She is the best decision I have ever made."

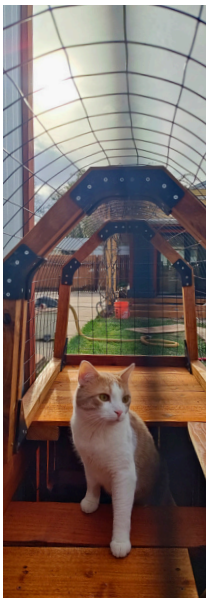


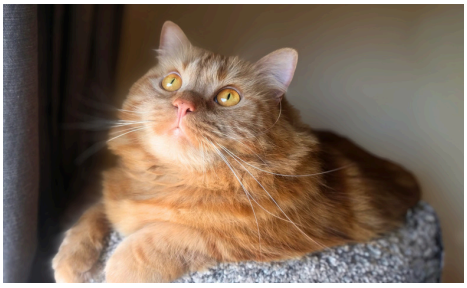




PEX & SKEW

"We adopted Pex and Skew as a bonded pair last November. Skew warmed up to us after a week, but Pex didn't trust humans and hid in his "den" for six full weeks. Skew was Pex's constant companion during that time, regularly going into the den to cuddle with him and groom him. When Pex was ready to come out, he gradually turned into a social butterfly and the biggest cuddle bug we have ever known. Skew has remained our playful wild child, obsessed with toys, especially bells. Both of them enjoy exploring the underground tunnel system we installed to connect their two "catios" between the house and garage. They're amazing companions to each other and to us. Sharing this story for anyone who's thinking of taking a chance on some kitties who have had a rough start, especially as a bonded pair."





Want to see your Foothills Alum in our next issue of Tails of Foothills?

We've made it even easier for you to share your favorite Foothills alumni photos and stories! Just visit our website, fill out the form, and see your pet featured on our social channels, and maybe even in our next newsletter! foothillsanimalshelter.org/alumni-updates

50th ANNIVERSARY FOOTHILLS ANIMAL SHELTER

info@fas4pets.org | 303.278.7575
FoothillsAnimalShelter.org
Foothills Animal Shelter

Open daily 10 am - 5 pm
580 McIntyre St, Golden CO 80401
@FoothillsAnimalShelter

Support Foothills:
FoothillsAnimalShelter.org/donate
@FoothillsAnimalShelter