



— DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOT —

RIVERDALE ANIMAL SHELTER (RAS)



Top Completed Projects 2022

- Launched a small retail space with basic supplies to help families more smoothly transition their newly adopted pets into their new home.
- Implemented an advanced scheduling system for admissions and vaccination clinic services.
- Expanded Shelter-Neuter-Release (SNR) services for community cats.
- Collaborated with several other Adams County departments, including Community Safety & Well-Being and the Economic Mobility team at Human Services, as well as nonprofit organizations, such as Servicios de La Raza, to provide no-cost offsite vaccine clinics and food donations for pets of lower-income families and those experiencing homelessness.
- Added full-time phone reception staff person and an additional bilingual Customer Care Representative to our Customer Care team.

Impact

- Supported adoptions for residents with quick access to pet supplies.
- Facilitated access to pet resources for underserved, lower-income families.
- Engaged local students through volunteerism and internships that build life skills.

Top New Projects 2023

- Added online donation capability to the RAS website in April 2023.
- Initiated staffing plan to recruit, onboard, and train additional staff to meet the care needs for the higher-than-normal number of animals coming into RAS since mid-2021.
- Implemented fast-track, Community Service program for high school students to fulfill required community service hours toward graduation.
- Developed and implemented interactive, online orientation process to expedite onboarding of new volunteers and increase the number of orientations that can be held each year.

What Should Residents Expect?

- Improved support for responding to phone calls and inquiries from residents, shorter wait times to visit with adoptable pets, shorter wait times to join new volunteer orientations.
- Better ability to respond to the needs of Spanish-preferred residents.
- Additional off-site, low-cost vaccination clinics for owned pets of residents.
- Ability for those residents who want to donate to the shelter to do so online via credit or debit card.

2022 Riverdale Animal Shelter Statistics:

Riverdale Animal shelter provided **103,904 days of shelter for 7,165 animals in 2022** and served nearly **2,000** more owned companion animals through our low-cost vaccination and microchip clinics.

- **3,650** Adoptions (**13% increase**)
- **1,831** Lost Pets Returned Home (**3% increase**)
- **2,472** Spay/Neuters (**7% increase**)
- **8,156** Animals Vaccinated (**14% increase**)
- **434** animals were fostered in 2022
- **268** volunteers served **26,693** hours to assist us in providing quality care for shelter animals in 2022 Riverdale Animal Shelter Community Outreach

Number of Residents Served in 2022

- Approximately **10,000+** residents served (and nearly **8,600** animals served through combination of animal sheltering services and offsite vaccination clinics).
- RAS also responds to more than **3,000** phone calls and customer emails per month.

RAS Services

- Adoptions
- Lost and Found Support
- Pet Surrenders
- Low-Cost Vaccination and Microchip Clinics
- End-of Life Services
- Dog Licensing for Unincorporated Adams County
- Temporary sheltering of companion animals for Adams County residents experiencing a crisis
- Animal Impound and Sheltering Services (Court Hold, Stray, Quarantine, and Protective Custody) Services for Cities of Brighton, Commerce City, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton; Towns of Bennett, Hudson, and Lochbuie; and Unincorporated Adams County
- Designated companion animal emergency evacuation site for Adams County

Top Trends

Like many shelters in Colorado and throughout the United States, RAS experienced an uptick in animal intakes in mid-2021, which has continued throughout 2022 and into 2023. Pandemic-related social and economic burdens have, in part, led to a significant increase in pet surrenders, with families often citing financial stress and housing as the primary reasons for their inability to continue to care for their pets. In addition, many of the pets coming into the shelter have more advanced medical and behavioral needs, which in turn has driven up our length of stay.

- In 2022, RAS saw a **42%** increase in the number of sheltered days provided for animals as compared to the previous four years.
- Pet surrenders, especially for dogs, increased around **28%** in 2022 compared to 2021.