



Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation
Changing The Way Our Community Cares For Pets and Their People

Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation Organization Update and Status Report October 2023

Executive Summary

The Board of Directors is very pleased to share with you our October report on the status of the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation.

The first year of our establishment has been more successful than we could have ever imagined. We have helped so many pets and pet families in need that it can get a little overwhelming and emotional for us. Each and every one of you is directly responsible for the success that you will read about in the following report. We are so thankful for you. Our pet families are so grateful for your support. But the pets have benefited the most from all of this. Many of these pets would not be alive today if it were not for you and your commitment to the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation.

The following report will outline not only our mission and vision, but our current and ongoing goals, our financial status and how we plan to move forward.

Thank you so much for making our dream of changing the way our community cares for pets and their people come true. We are making a difference. YOU are making a difference.

With much love and gratitude,

The Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation Board of Directors

Marcia Cronk: Founder and President

Tiana Riat: Vice President

Cyn Barnes: Treasurer





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Mission

To promote and provide the resources, education and programs needed to keep pets at home with the people who love them.

Vision

A community where there is collective responsibility to care for pets. Every person has equitable access to and is actively engaged in helping pets in need, and the relationships between pets and people are supported by government and non-profit entities within and outside of companion animal welfare organizations.

The Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation was established with a focus on changing the way our community cares for pets and their people. This will be accomplished by developing programs to support pets and families in need, delivering community education programs, assisting existing animal welfare organizations, and building a Pet Resource Center that our community can be proud of.

2023 Goals

- Developing and maintaining community programs to encourage keeping pets at home and out of shelters. These programs include providing pet food and supplies to families in need, critical veterinary care for struggling families, and helping lost pets find their way home.
- Leading community enhancement programs that encourage a pet friendly society
- Enhancement of the Pet 66 Program
- Developing non-traditional animal welfare community partnerships to assist our community members when they are faced with homelessness, including programs for domestic violence, rehab facilities and accepting pets into their program so they can stay with their families.
- Developing short-term and emergency foster programs for when pets can't stay with their owners until the pet's family gets back on their feet. This program is a critical way to keep families together and pets out of shelters.
- Working with local government to educate about current companion animal care standards and encouraging funding and support for Comanche County Animal Welfare organizations.





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Program Success

Developing and maintaining community programs to encourage keeping pets at home and out of shelters. These programs include providing pet food and supplies to families in need, critical veterinary care for struggling families, and helping lost pets find their way home.

Our primary focus has been to provide pet food and veterinary care to critical families/pets in need. The program parameters are that the pets are in dire need of help and the family can't afford to care for their pet. This could be due to the family having a financial crisis, a pet needing expensive critical veterinary care, loss of employment, etc.

The economic crisis is continuing to severely impact our community, including our pets. In these cases, the families who have received help are experiencing a hardship where the only decision was to either euthanize their pet or surrender the pet to the animal shelter. I can't even imagine having to make that decision about a family member. Everything our community has done for these families is so greatly appreciated. To date, we have helped:

- 347 pets with veterinary care
- 98 families with pet food and supplies
 - We have delivered over 6000 pounds of pet food, most of which has been donated by our community. Thank you for your generosity. It takes a community to help each other in times of crisis. And this is most definitely a time of crisis for our pets in Comanche County.
- Free vaccines for 225 dogs and 50 cats during our first free vaccine clinic



Layla was reported as abandoned in Faxon and needing immediate help. She was found on the roadside, sitting on a blanket with food and water. She was there for hours and never left the security of her blanket. Layla was suffering from a skin infection, and she was very thin. She was brought into our medical foster program to receive veterinary care, love and support. Layla is doing well, but still healing from her skin infection. She will be looking for a home as soon as she is medically cleared.

Pets that need support outside of city limits have no city/government resources to help with their care. There is simply nowhere for them to go to receive the help they need. This is one of the driving factors for the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation and the main reason for continuing to push for an adoption center that supports all of Comanche County pets and their families.



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Changing The Way Our Community Cares For Pets and Their People

Leading community enhancement programs that encourage a pet friendly society

Giving back to the community is a very important concept for us. Our community gives in so many ways, we feel that it is important to find ways to give back.

We also want to give community pet advocates the opportunity to leave a legacy or pet memory within the community they live in.

Last year we cleaned up the Vito Baxter Puppy Promenade. This was done in partnership with Lawton Humane Society and the City of Lawton. The dog park had been neglected for several years and the community really rallied around making the park beautiful again. General Baxter has been a supporter of the of animal welfare in Lawton for years and it was important to us that his legacy lived on with the Vito Baxter Puppy Promenade.



This year's community project is to clean up the Pet Cemetery located off Hwy 49 near Medicine Park. The Pet Cemetery had been neglected for decades as the property changed owners over the years. The Pet Cemetery has since been gifted to the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation and we are working on a plan to build the cemetery out even more. We are so excited to have this within the Foundation and we hope that the cemetery will be cared for well into the future.



Work parties included volunteers from The Cosmetology Lab, U.S. Army, Gordon's Landscaping, and A & D Landscaping



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Developing non-traditional animal welfare community partnerships to assist our community members when they are faced with homelessness, including programs for domestic violence, rehab facilities and accepting pets into their program so they can stay with their families.

From the very beginning, it has been understood that we can't do this alone. Traditionally, pet welfare services have partnered with other pet welfare organizations to apply for grants and other funding support. The Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation has a goal of working with the community to support and change the way our COMMUNITY cares for pets and their people.

Often pets are forgotten when a crisis impacts a community member or family. There are a lot of resources for families of domestic abuse, or family feeding ministries and food banks. There is very little support for pets in need.

Our organization is reaching out to non-traditional organizations to become involved in pet care within our community. The response has been amazing, and like we always say, we can't do this alone.

Our current partners include:

- Apache Casino
 - Donation support
 - Pet food pantry support
- C&K Pet Resort and Spa
 - Donation support
 - Long and short term boarding
- Hungry Hearts Feeding Ministry
 - Pet food and supplies pantry
 - Education and traveling/mobile veterinary care location
- Family Promise
 - Long and short-term pet foster care for families entering the Family Promise program
 - Pet food and supplies donation drop off location
 - Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation education and board membership
- Lawton Food Bank
 - Pet food and supplies distribution
 - Donation drop off location
- KSWO 7 News
 - Support and news story coverage
- Digging It Professional Dog Training
 - Donations
 - Pet behavior assessments and training
 - Pet 66 Training Coordinator
 - Community awareness
- PetSmart
 - Pet food and supply donations
 - Adoptions
- Tractor Supply, Co
 - Pet food and supply donations
- Petco Love
 - Vaccine grants for free community vaccine clinics





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- Petco Love Lost
 - Helping to get lost pets home safe
- Cache Animal Shelter
 - Pet 66 adoptions and program support
- Turd Burglars, LLC
 - Donations and donation drives
 - Long and short-term foster family
 - Community work parties
 - Community education
- Lucky Buck's Coffee Shack
 - Adoption events
- Angela Schertle- Farmers Insurance:
 - Fundraising events
 - Pet Health Insurance with 15% of the proceeds going to the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation
 - Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation public education and awareness
- Meeting with a Purpose
 - Donation and education support
- Your Pet Sitter
 - Pet care and dog walking at client's home
 - Pet food and supplies transportation
 - Community education
- Fast Signs
 - Community donations
 - Community project support
- Heart and Soul Pet Rescue, LLC
 - Pet fostering
 - Veterinary care financial assistance
 - Lost pet reunification
- Lawton Veterinary Hospital
 - Veterinary care
 - Donation support
 - Board of directors Veterinary Advisor
- Lawton Farmers Market
 - Event support
 - Vaccine clinic location
- MIGHT Community Development and Resource Center
 - Developing pet friendly shelters in Comanche County



Comanche County
Pet Resource
Foundation

FREE
Pet Vaccination
Clinic
Sunday July 23, 2023
9am-12pm
Lawton Farmers Market
77 SW 4th St
Lawton, Ok.



- No appointment Needed
- Dog and Cat Vaccines
- Pets must be at least 3 months old
- Dogs must be on leash
- Cats must be in carriers

Sponsored By:



Hosted By:





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Changing The Way Our Community Cares For Pets and Their People

Enhancement of the Pet 66 Program

This is one of our newest programs with a mission to help match pets with veterans and military families. Gail Bott is our new Pet 66 program director, and she is really focusing on working with military veterans and families to match shelter pets with the right family. Gail also helps military personnel find temporary fostering, or in some cases new homes for their pets while the owner is on deployment. To date we have 2 dogs and 3 guinea pigs in long-term foster. Gail has also found homes for dogs who have been adopted through our partner, Cache Animal Shelter.



Short and Long-Term Foster Program for Families in Need

This is one of the first programs developed with the mission to keep pets at home and out of shelters. The main goal of this program is to help families by placing their pets into foster homes until they can get back on their feet. This may be from a financial crisis, such as a loss of income, illness where the caregiver needs to enter a medical facility, domestic violence, homelessness, or other emergency events that affect a family's ability to care for their pet.

To date, we have had 8 pets in long-term foster care. Most pets stay in foster care for a few months. Some need to stay longer.

When a pet goes into foster care, the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation will provide food, supplies and veterinary care while in the care of the foster family. Often this includes vaccinations and veterinary care, such as spay/neuter, parasite control and in some cases minor surgery.

Many pet owners will not seek the medical care or help they need because many facilities do not offer pet care while the family member is getting back on their feet. The foster program is a major element of keeping pets at home and our community has done a great job in assisting with fostering during times of crisis.





Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation
Changing The Way Our Community Cares For Pets and Their People

Working with local government to educate about current companion animal care standards and encouraging funding and support for Comanche County Animal Welfare organizations.

Homeless Task Force: Lawton City Government tasked the CEO of MIGHT Community and Development Center to lead a task force to end homelessness in Comanche County. The Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation became part of this task force to assist Comanche County shelters in the leading the development of pet friendly facilities to encourage pet families who need emergency sheltering to have the ability to bring their pets to the shelters with them. This is such an important part of ending homelessness in Comanche County. This program will help to strengthen and encourage the human-animal bond that is so important in all our lives. This is especially important for the homeless, where their pets are the only love and compassion the homeless population has. Pets are also a source of protection while they are on the streets. We find that the homeless population is completely dedicated to their pets and will often stay on the streets and out of shelters because local shelters do not accept pets. Homeless people with pets would rather stay in the heat/cold/streets than to surrender their pets. Our mission is to allow the homeless to keep their pets and not have to make such heartbreaking, and in some cases, life-or-death decisions just because area shelters don't accept pets.



Comanche County Commissioners and Government Officials: The Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation has been regularly attending the Comanche County Commissioners meetings to introduce and give updates about the status of the Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation. This is a new relationship with the County and we are beginning to establish how we can help within Comanche County Government.

One of the programs that we hope to be involved in is assisting Comanche County Emergency Management in the development of disaster plans to ensure livestock and companion animals are cared for when disasters strike. This would include animal sheltering, transport out of disaster areas, food and supplies storage, veterinary care and lost pet reunification.





Financial Report

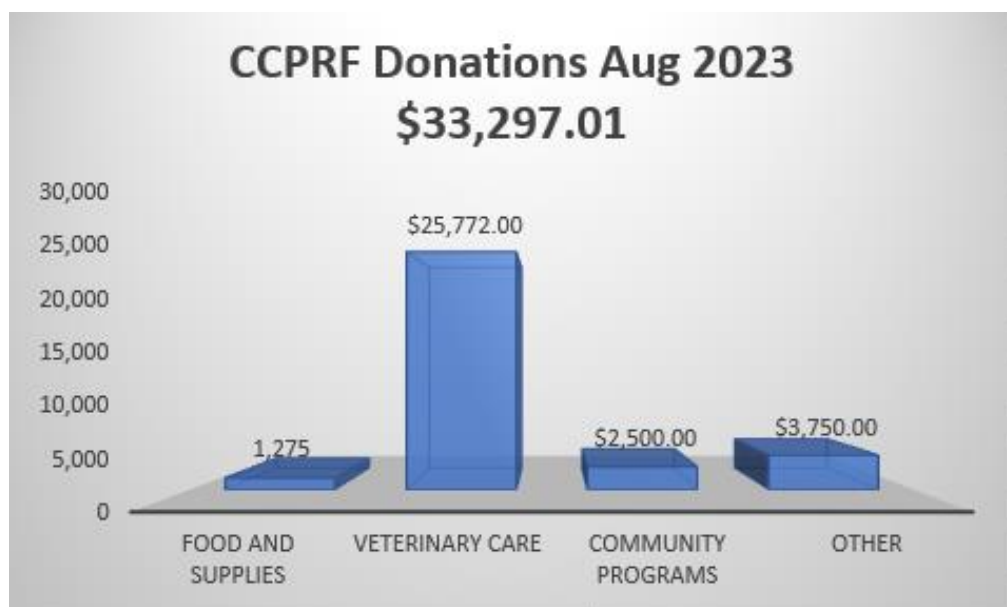
The Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation is dependent on community donations, funding, sponsorships and support. We are so pleased to share the status of our financial position, all of which could not have been possible without such a giving community.

Our community cares about pets. Our community is ready for change in how we care for our pets. As a community, we will make our dream of keeping pets at home and out of shelters a reality.

We can't thank you enough for your continued support. You have made such a difference in so many pets and pet family's lives.

Financial status as of August 2023

Total donations including food donations, monetary funding, and financial support = \$33,297.01

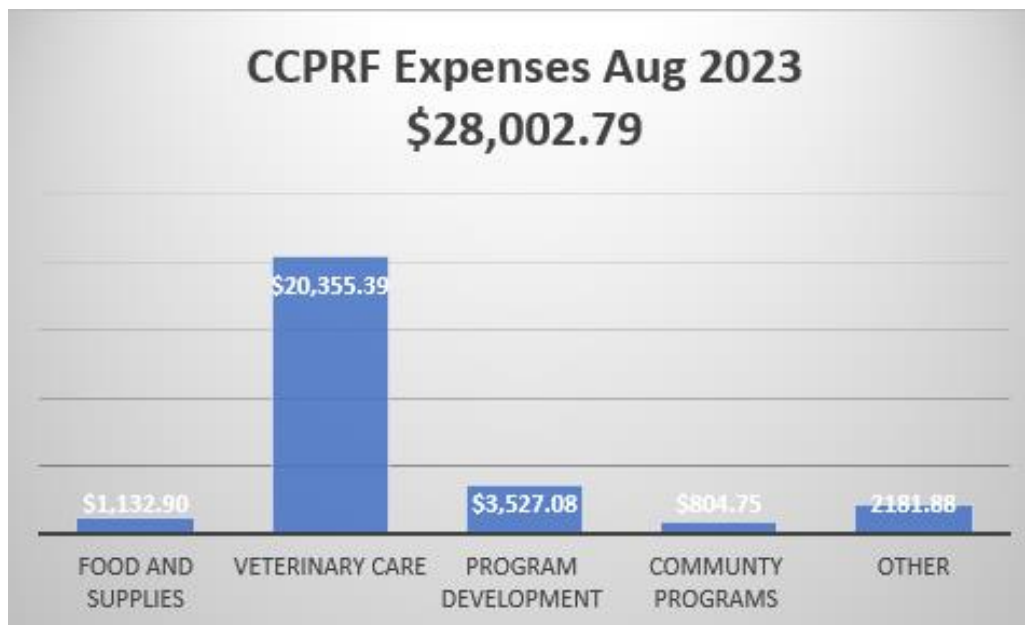


- Food and supplies are the estimated value of pet food and supplies donated to the Pet Resource Foundation
- Veterinary care covers funding that was donated to the care of pets in need
- Community Programs include donations given for specific projects
- "Other" income includes adoption fees and miscellaneous donations



Comanche County Pet Resource Foundation
Changing The Way Our Community Cares For Pets and Their People

Total expenditures as of August 2023, = \$28,002.79



- Veterinary care is by far the costliest expenditure we have had this year. We are bringing in critical need pets, many of which would be euthanasia cases without help. This also shows how much we need low-cost veterinary care within our community. We are truly in a time of crisis with pet care and support.
- Program development expenses are expected to increase as we grow our programs such as vaccine clinics, spay/neuter programs, microchip programs and our keeping pets at home initiatives.
- There have been times when our food pantry has been depleted. We have had to spend very little funds on pet food and supplies because of the community's ongoing support in this area.
- Other includes assistance in housing, funds for advertising and miscellaneous expenses

Next Steps

The rest of this year, we will be fundraising for the development of pet care programs such as low-cost spay/neuter vouchers, low-cost vaccination clinics and free microchip clinics.

As we grow the Pet Resource Foundation and the programs that support it, we will be looking into developing relationships with business's that will sponsor specific programs. These fundraising ideas will be brought to business leadership in hopes of gaining sponsor support as we expand our programs and outreach within Comanche County.

While our pet community has been a great support, we can't do it all. It's time to engage our business community for support and ongoing sponsorship of our much-needed pet care programs. These programs will have a big impact on our pet overpopulation crisis, infectious disease problem (such as parvo) and getting lost pets home safe.

The Comanche County Pet Resource Center (facility) will have a community education center, a low-cost veterinary clinic, and an adoption center. The adoption center will have the primary goal of working with



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the animal shelters within Comanche County to bring in pets that are on euthanasia lists or are deemed “unadoptable”.

Instead of being euthanized, these pets will be transported to the adoption center for behavior evaluation, veterinary care, training, and then sent into foster families and/or put up for adoption. Having this capability will greatly reduce the overcapacity crisis that Comanche County animal welfare organizations are currently facing.

The Comanche County Pet Resource Center will also be a resource for all of Comanche County. Currently, if a pet is outside of city limits, the pet is turned away from existing city shelters. The pets have no where to go, leaving pet owners with no other option than to abandon their pets. The Comanche County Pet Resource Center will be the first facility that will aid all of Comanche County, not just to those living within city limits.

The grounds surrounding the facility will have a managed dog park, walking path with mural type artwork (art walls) and a café with picnic benches and seating. The goal of the Pet Resource Center is to make the facility and grounds a community asset, not just a place for pets to wait for forever homes. The Comanche County Pet Resource Center will be a center that is welcoming to our community. We will offer volunteer and paid positions. We will establish programs for our youth to learn how to humanly care for a pet, offer pet reading services, dog walking opportunities and working to encourage our youth to get into nature and enjoy nature walks surrounding the facility. The facility landscaping will be developed using native plants that will encourage the return of native animal species. But... we are getting ahead of ourselves! This will be a multi-year project and it will be a tremendous effort to fund this facility.



For more information about the Pet Resource Center please visit our website
<https://www.comanchecountypetresourcefoundation.org/the-facility>