



Louie & Rosie

Humane Colorado

The Buddy Center - Animal Rescue Center located in Castle Rock

Each month, Louie Lee of The Lee team uses this space to shine the spotlight on a nonprofit organization that’s making our community a better place to be in with the hope of generating support from the people who live here. Louie is proud to highlight the Buddy Center this month. If you have a nonprofit you would like highlighted in Making A Difference, please contact Louie.

For over two decades, the Buddy Center has been a cornerstone of animal welfare in Douglas County. As a key facility of the Humane Colorado, the Buddy Center provides a dual-purpose service to the community: It offers a safe haven for surrendered animals and is a primary shelter for stray pets.

“We foster good relationships in the community, and we want to make it easier to bring an animal to us rather than make the heartbreaking choice of having to dump that animal,” said Elaine Wood, Animal Care Manager at Humane Colorado.

Located at 4556 Castleton Court, the Buddy Center operates with a two-pronged mission. It serves as a

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—ELAINE WOOD



surrender site for people who can no longer care for their pets and acts as a contracted facility to house stray animals for jurisdictions including Douglas County, Castle Rock, Lone Tree, Parker and Centennial.

The Buddy Center is part of the larger Humane Colorado network, which includes the organization’s main shelter in Denver, the Harmony Equine Center in Franktown and a low-cost veterinary hospital.

In 2024, Humane Colorado served more than 7,000 animals through vaccine clinics in neighborhoods across the Denver metro area, reached more than 13,000 children and adults through its education programs and provided more than 300,000 nights of safety to vulnerable animals in the community.

The Buddy Center is a place people who want to welcome a pet into their home, such as local real estate agent Louie Lee, can go to adopt one. “When I adopted Rosie from the Buddy Center, I thought I was giving her a home, but she



ended up giving me so much more and became part of my family,” Lee said.

While the Buddy Center has successfully placed countless animals over the years, it’s witnessed a gradual decline in adoption numbers over the past decade. Wood encourages anyone considering a new pet to visit the shelter and consider adoption.

“If they’re not looking to adopt, donations are always appreciated,” Wood said. “The average cost per animal is \$800 to \$900 during the length of their stay. We see 22,000 animals per year across all the shelters.” Humane Colorado also has hosted the Furry Scurry for the past 32 years. The annual two-mile walk in Washington Park supports the organization’s mission to end pet homelessness and animal suffering.

Next year’s Furry Scurry — the 33 rd annual — will be held on May 2. For more information about the Furry Scurry, visit furryscurry.org

For more information about the Buddy Center or to donate, visit humanecolorado.org/locations/buddy-center/. Thank you for your generosity.



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