

LocalLife

Foundation helps keep pets with owners



Cynthia and Dave Bullock founded Harley's Hope Foundation after losing their beloved dog Harley (pictured here) to cancer. The foundation's mission is to keep pets with their owners. *Courtesy photo*

At a glance

Foundation needs donations
Prevents homeless animals

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Every day pet owners are forced to surrender their pets because of economic situations, moving, allergies or because they simply do not know where to go to receive the help they need in caring for their pets.

That's where Harley's Hope Foundation comes in. The foundation's lone goal is to keep pets and their owners together.

"We're trying to keep animals in homes and prevent future homeless animals," Executive Director Cynthia Bullock said.

And while they can't save every animal, the foundation is doing what it can to keep that human-animal bond from being broken, while reducing the number of ani-

mals sent to shelters.

The foundation is in its infancy, having just been founded in July, but plans to provide financial assistance, animal care resources and educational information. It is the only nonprofit organization in Colorado of its kind.

Financial assistance is offered to qualified candidates in order to assist them with major or emergency veterinary care they may otherwise not be able to afford.

"It's not intended as a hand-out but a hand up," Bullock said, adding that if the pet owner is able they can pay the money back so it can be used to aid another pet.

The foundation also provides pet resources on its website, where there is a list of services and providers such as veterinarians, animal hospitals and dog trainers that have partnered with the foundation.

Bullock said many veterinarian emergencies can be

prevented and that is why the foundation provides educational information. "Education is key," she said.

The web site will eventually include pet care and safety tips, including what plans are safe to have around pets, which human medications can or can't be administered to pets and even the warning signs of cancer.

"We will provide information on pet proofing and disease prevention through vaccinations," Bullock said.

In the near future the foundation is also planning to offer an educational series. Workshops will be held at the Pikes Peak Humane Society and will be structured around that human-animal bond and keeping the animal safe and at home.

Bullock said they are also looking into a program for seniors and the disabled that would help them with taking care of their pets should they need to go into the hospital

for any reason. Many seniors and disabled people do not have anyone available to take their pets if they are hospitalized or go out of town.

Additionally, the program would also help get their pets to the vet if needed.

Harley's Hope Foundation was founded by Bullock and her husband Dave after losing their dog Harley to cancer. They had the resources they needed to provide the care Harley needed but after Harley was gone they realized not everyone is able to do the same for their pets.

They created the foundation in memory of Harley and the other pets that have been a part of their family. Bullock has a background working in animal rescues and all of the family's dogs have been fostered and adopted.

For more information about the foundation, to read Harley's story or make a donation visit www.harleys-hopefoundation.org.