

Clear Creek/Gilpin County Animal Shelter – *Charlie's Place*

Commissioner Update

Gilpin & Clear Creek Joint Meeting

February 17, 2025



“Charlie’s Place, the Clear Creek/Gilpin Co. Animal Shelter, is to be a safe haven for any and all animals. Priority will be given to local animals, but Charlie’s Place will remain open as a no-kill facility to any animals in need of sanctuary. These are my wishes.” (2/9/08).

The Inspiration

Helen L. Buck, a county resident and lifelong animal lover, donated the 7 ½ acres of land the shelter sits on in honor of her favorite German Shepherd, “Charlie.” The current 5,400 square foot facility opened in July, 2007, replacing the old structure built in the 1970s, located in the County Shops in Dumont, which had deteriorated beyond the point of repair. Citizens strongly supported the new building by passing a mill levy in November, 2005. The shelter’s dedication plaque states that Charlie’s Place is “dedicated to saving the lives of companion animals.”

Why do we need an Animal Shelter?

Caring for animals that we have domesticated, is basic and humane. Providing care and shelter for animals has community benefits as well.

- Medical care, like spaying and neutering, reduces overpopulation.
- Shelters provide a place for lost or stray animals that can pose public safety risks like bite incidents or car accidents
- Shelters help reduce the spread an animal borne disease
- Communities with high rates of pet ownership are healthier and happier
- Shelters elevate public education and understanding on responsible animal companionship and reduce euthanasia.



Operating the Animal Shelter

- **Governance** - Animal Shelter's are regulated and governed by local ordinances and by state level regulation. In Colorado this takes place via the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act (PACFA)
 - PACFA declares that homeless animals deserve care and enrichment, and requires timely medical and behavioral care.
- **Budget** – Charlie's Place 2026 annual expense budget is around \$361,200, Gilpin County contributes \$77.8k.
- **Hours & Staff** – the Shelter operates 10 hours a day, 7 days a week and 3.675 FTEs. This level of FTEs does not sustainably allow for there 2 people to on shift for all hours of operation.

Key Program: Holding Facility Services

Animal Holding— A key statutory service, all law enforcement entities in CC and Gilpin including the municipalities, utilize Charlie's Place for Animal Holding.

- Impounding strays, surrenders,
- Law Enforcement holds,
- EMS holds
- Redeeming animals



Just as when you have a holding facility for humans, it is more than putting them in a cage, feeding them and walking them. And PACFA requires that medical care and enrichment be provided. **Providing Holding Facility Services means:**

- Medical care, training and/or enrichment when they are there
- Transitioning them out of the Shelter:
 - Finding or working with their owner
 - Networking for adoption, fostering or rescue

Key Program: Community Partnerships & Volunteers

Friends of Charlie's Place (FOCB) is a key partner providing funds to cover key services:

- Basic Veterinary Care
- Spays and Neuters
- Vaccinations
- Emergency Medical Care
- Training & Enrichment
- Pet food and supplies.



Evergreen Animal Protection League

- Accepts placement of certain strays like litters of kittens and puppies

Volunteers

- Robust program of daily and weekly volunteers who assist with enrichment and animal care and shelter chores like laundry and cleaning.
- Charlie's Place in Q1 2025 has averaged 61 hours a week of volunteer support.

Key Program: Resident Services

Services & Clinics – Charlie's Place delivers extensive, meaningful community services:

- Low cost vaccination & microchipping
- Access to low-cost spay/neuter surgeries
- Free, now weekly, dog training clinics
- Adoptable Dog Program
- Trap/neuter/return program for feral cats

- Providing referrals to outside resources
- Listings for community members re-homing their animals
- Humane trap loan
- Emergency evacuation assistance



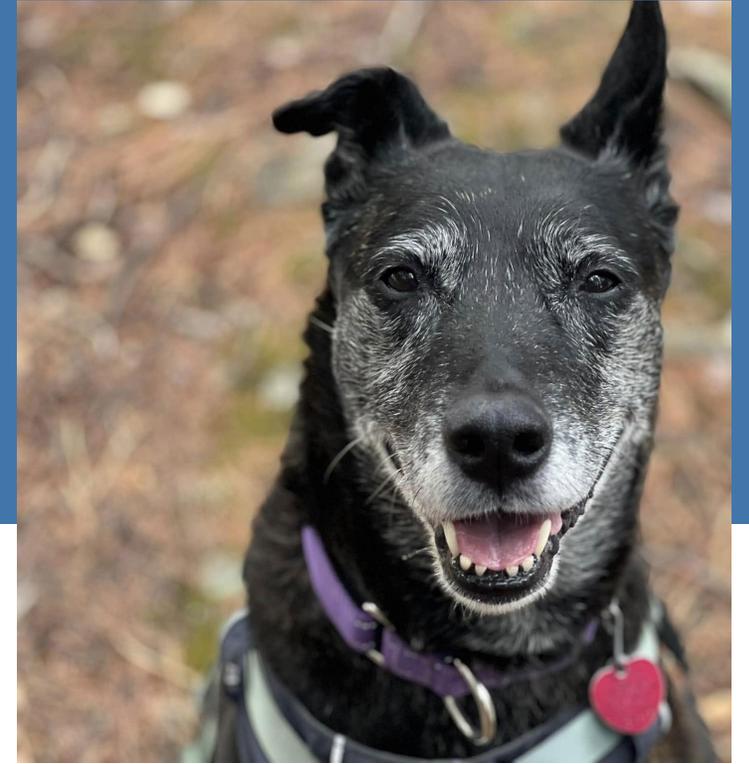
Shelter Goals

Goal	Tactic
Maintain relationship with FOCF	Continue to operate as a no-kill shelter
Bring more companion animals to the community	Expand Adoption and Foster Programs.
Responsible use of public funds	Quality care, training, staffing that allows visiting hours
Support humane treatment of animals	Rescue partnerships, and access to low cost vet care
Provide community education and support	Spay neuter, vaccination & training clinics & resources
Find new revenue streams	Adoption fees, kennel leasing, animal holding service fees

Funding of Animal Shelter Services

This chart shows the extent of support that comes from partners; the key supporter Friends of Charlie's Place and other supporters like veterinarians and pet rescues. Much of this support covers medical and enrichment support; services that are legally required by PACFA. If these partners were not providing this support, we would have to cover it.

*Hidden revenues				
Service	Approx. CCC Expense	FOCB contributions	Other Partner contributions. Volunteer time & donations	What it really costs
Staffing	\$303K	\$0	\$16K-25K	~\$325K
Facilities & Admin	\$27,500	\$0	\$0	~\$27.5K
Medical Care/Spay, Neuter	\$4500	\$61K	\$2-4K	~\$70K
Training, Care & Enrichment	\$12,500	\$27K		~\$39.5K
Food & Supplies	\$12,500	\$33K	\$5K	~\$50K
Total	\$361K	\$121K	\$30K	~\$512K
Less 20%: Gilpin County Revenue	-\$77,808			



Questions?