

COLORADO



PANTRY

A food bank for family pets

STORIES OF IMPACT

FROM THE COLORADO PET PANTRY

CLIENTS & PETS WE SERVE





KIMBERLY, CHANCE, FINN & LUCY

A BRIDGE IN TOUGH TIMES

For Kimberly, her pets have always been her anchor. She found her two cats, Lucy and Chance, as strays, and adopted her dog, Finn, from a rescue. They were by her side through the best moments — and the hardest.

In 2014, Kimberly's life changed instantly when a truck struck her in a crosswalk, leaving her with two cracked ribs and a traumatic brain injury. "It is not an exaggeration to say my pets saved my life," she says. "They provide me with love, comfort, structure, and accountability. I would severely struggle to function in daily life without them."

The accident meant she could no longer work full time, and caring for three pets on a greatly reduced income became overwhelming. "Before I became a client at Colorado Pet Pantry, there were times when I had to feed my pets human food and I didn't eat at all," she recalls. "There were times when they went without annual exams and were behind on vaccines. Receiving food from Colorado Pet Pantry saves me money that allows me to keep up with basic medical care."

Finn and Chance have since crossed the rainbow bridge, but Lucy is still her constant companion. Knowing Lucy will always have food in her bowl gives Kimberly peace of mind — and increases her ability to keep her healthy, which is exactly why Colorado Pet Pantry exists: to help families care for their pets so they can stay in the homes where they are loved.

For Kimberly and thousands of other pet owners, Colorado Pet Pantry is a lifeline in challenging times. Our pet food assistance provides a portion of a pet's food, so families can stretch their limited resources further. This support allows people to afford essentials like veterinary care, rent, and utilities, helping to keep pets in loving homes and out of already-overburdened shelters.

Your gift today will help pet owners like Kimberly make it through tough times without having to give up their beloved companions. Together, we can make sure no one has to choose between feeding themselves or feeding their best friends.



JUDY, IZZY, KITTEN, LEE, RITZ, TUX, & WILD

CARING FOR THE PACK

Stealing hearts across the world and renowned for being loved by royalty, we all know those faces: Corgis. In Ignacio, Colorado, near the Four Corners region, Judy and her husband share their home with three Corgis and three cats. Say hello to the dogs: Izzy, Lee and Ritz, and cats: Kitten, Tux and Wild. This family has a lot of personality, a lot of fur, and needs quite a bit of pet food.

"I would cut down on our food before adjusting the cats' and dogs' food," Judy said, when asked what she would do if she didn't have enough to go around. This is a phrase commonly heard at our monthly pet food pantries across the state. When pets are a part of your family, you do whatever it takes to make sure everyone gets a meal.

Judy joins Colorado Pet Pantry by way of the human food bank in Bayfield: Pine River Shares. In May of 2024, while receiving food from Pine River, Judy was grateful to learn about Colorado Pet Pantry.

"My husband and I only receive Social Security. He is 83 and I'm 74." Living on a fixed income and with costs only continuing to rise, Judy has been working hard to make ends meet, taking advantage of all resources available. "My husband has macular degeneration and dementia, so he can't do a whole lot," Judy shares. The assistance she receives from Pine River Shares and Colorado Pet Pantry is vital for her family.

"We originally had a 401K, and when my husband retired, we invested it. If the economy hadn't been so bad, we would have been ok, but it ran out several years ago." With limited income, buying enough pet food became a challenge — and because Colorado Pet Pantry's supplemental pet food assistance program exists, Judy has an ongoing resource available for the foreseeable future.

Every donation makes a difference and helps families like Judy's continue to make ends meet. It is incredibly important to keep families like this together, for the health and wellbeing of all members. Consider supporting a pet family each month by making a recurring donation to Colorado Pet Pantry. Just \$30 per month would supply this pack and its six members with 30 days worth of pet food.



COLLEEN, PARKER & SAPPHIRE

HEALING TAILS

"When I'm upset, they're my sunshine, and when I'm angry, they are my silent voice of reason." That's how Colleen, a Colorado Pet Pantry client from Penrose describes her pets—her kids, her family. "My pets mean everything to me. They calm me, they keep my stress down, and without them, I don't believe I'd be here."

Science backs her up. "Pet owners are less likely to die," said Harvard Medical School clinical assistant professor Beth Frates, citing the American Heart Association's finding that owning a furry companion reduces a person's mortality rate by 24 percent.

But like many Coloradans, she has been hit hard by the rising cost of living. Feeding her pets sometimes felt impossible, forcing her to consider selling cherished belongings or, unthinkable, rehoming her animals. Giving them up wasn't just a financial choice, it would have been an emotional breaking point.

That changed earlier this year when a friend told her about our Colorado Pet Pantry distribution at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cañon City. "Your services have helped in a very crucial time for my family," she said. "If it wasn't for the pantry, I don't know what I would do. They're not just pets—they're family. Without this help, I wouldn't be able to keep them."

Now, Colleen leaves our pantry with enough food to breathe a little easier, knowing her pets will stay where they belong: home. And with that comes something money can't buy: peace of mind, emotional stability, and the joy that only a beloved animal can give.

In the past year alone, our Cañon City location served nearly 900 families. That's 900 households who kept their pets—many long-time companions, rescues, or emotional support animals, because of one simple but life-changing resource: pet food. Without Colorado Pet Pantry, people may face impossible choices: surrendering pets to already overcrowded shelters, skipping their own meals, or coping with hardship in isolation.

At Colorado Pet Pantry, we believe no one should have to choose between feeding themselves or their pets. Every bag of food is a lifeline. Every distribution is an act of hope. And every family we help stays whole, because pets aren't just pets. They're therapy. They're stability. They're family. Consider supporting the healing power of our furry loved ones with a monthly donation. Your impact would help us nourish not only physically, but mentally, the people and pets in our community.



LAURIE, CHARLIE, FIREFLY, JOE GREY & LADYBUG

PARTNERS IN CARE

"My cats get fed before I do." That's how Laurie, one of our clients from Alamosa puts it, showing the deep love and priority she gives her pets: Charlie, Firefly, Joe Grey and Ladybug—each a beloved companion with their own personality and story. "My pets are my life. They keep me going with their love, affection, and silly antics. They are my world."

Like so many pet owners across Colorado, she knows how quickly one unplanned situation can turn into a crisis. She first heard about Colorado Pet Pantry through her local food bank, La Puente, two years ago. This year, that single location has nourished nearly 4,000 dogs and cats—keeping them healthy, happy, and by their families' sides.

The need in the San Luis Valley is growing. Local reporting from The Citizen shows that in Alamosa, roughly one in three residents relied on food assistance last year—many visiting multiple times as financial pressures mounted. La Puente's Food Bank Network Director, Annalise Baer, notes that while these pantries provide crucial emergency supplements for families, the demand continues to rise. In the past year alone, the number of households using a food bank for the first time has jumped 42%, even as federal funding cuts force human food banks to work harder to meet their community's needs.

This is where Colorado Pet Pantry plays a vital role—partnering closely with human food banks to maximize resources and streamline services. By providing species-specific food and supplies to our food pantries throughout Colorado, we help keep pets fed without burdening human food pantries, which can then focus on delivering nutritious groceries to people.

When times are tough, Laurie prioritizes her pets, often feeding them before herself. "Without the pet food pantry, I would have to feed my pets less and a lower grade of food," she said. With continued support, she can give her cats the care and nutrition they deserve without compromising her own well-being.

At Colorado Pet Pantry, we believe pets are family—and that feeding them properly is essential to their health and the emotional well-being of the entire household. We are honored to support families in Alamosa and beyond, ensuring pets receive the right food and nutrition, while human food banks concentrate on their vital work, feeding people. Consider the impact a monthly donation would make—helping feed pets each month while easing the burden on human food banks. Together, we can keep families whole and pets thriving when it matters most.



DERRICK, BOLO, BOUBOU & CHEEZIT

SAFE TOGETHER

When Derrick lived in California, he was about to enter school and had a stable job at the Chevron factory in the Bay Area. With his dog, Bolo, at his side, life was shaping up pretty well. All of that changed when, in an accident at work, he fell four stories leaving him permanently disabled. Things suddenly crumbled. "I lost everything, my job, and had to leave the state," Derrick said. But one thing remained constant: Bolo's reassuring and therapeutic presence.

"I have PTSD and depression. These things would definitely kick in if I didn't have my animals to keep me steady," Derrick shared.

Next, while taking Bolo for a walk, something incredible happened. "As we were passing an irrigation ditch, he pulled me right up to an abandoned bag of cats." Bolo sensed the need for help and led his person right to the spot. Derrick brought the cats to the local shelter and rescued an orange tabby, naming him Cheezit.

In a string of events, Derrick's animals continued to bring each other into the family through incredible acts of faith and good judgement. Cheezit, just like his big brother, Bolo, led another animal-in-need to Derrick. Enter BouBou, a feral cat, brought right into the apartment by Cheezit.

"After BouBou became comfortable with my presence, I brought him to Soul Dog Rescue while I was living out near Keenesburg. They vaccinated, and tipped his ear, since he was feral."

Taking advantage of all resources available, Derrick learned about Colorado Pet Pantry while receiving human food from the Action Center in Lakewood. With supplemental pet food assistance, Derrick can continue to care for his furry family well into the future. His story exemplifies the fact that when we first acquire our companions, we do not know what life has in store for us. There is no way we can clearly see what the next 10 to 15 years will bring. But if life throws us a curve ball, we should never have to say goodbye to our best furry friends because of it.

Colorado Pet Pantry exists to give peace of mind to pet owners who need a little help feeding their pets. Thanks to our pet food partnerships, we can take a \$5 donation and feed one dog or cat for 30 days. Consider supporting pet families in your community by donating today.



MELONY & LUCY

SUPPORT THAT HEALS

Melony adopted Lucy from a shelter in Pueblo more than a decade ago, and the two have been inseparable ever since. Now 13 years old, Lucy may be blind and deaf, but she's still full of affection, tail wags, and the quiet companionship that only a lifelong friend can bring. "She's my best friend," Melony says. "She's been with me through everything."

As a senior living on a fixed income and facing health challenges of her own, Melony has had to stretch every dollar — but she's never compromised on Lucy's care. When Lucy began suffering from chronic urinary tract infections, her vet recommended a prescription diet to manage the condition. It worked, but the cost quickly became more than Melony could afford.

Caring for a senior pet can cost hundreds — even thousands — of dollars each year, especially when prescription diets are needed to manage health issues. At Colorado Pet Pantry, prescription food is often available to our clients thanks to partnerships with veterinary clinics and pet food brands that collect donations on our behalf, and to generous pet parents who pass along their pet's prescription diet food when their beloved companion passes. These partnerships make it possible for pets like Lucy to stay healthy and comfortable in their golden years — without placing an overwhelming financial burden on the families who love them.

"I can't even articulate the depth of my gratitude," Melony shared. "Lucy's UTIs were so bad that she had to have a crystallized stone surgically removed in 2020. But she's been UTI-free since we started getting her prescription food from Colorado Pet Pantry. She wouldn't have such a healthy diet without your help."

Getting this food through Colorado Pet Pantry didn't just improve Lucy's health —it lifted an enormous weight off Melony's shoulders. Without the constant worry of how to pay for prescription pet food or another costly vet bill, she's been able to focus on what matters most: enjoying every moment with her best friend. The savings have given her the breathing room to cover other essentials, while knowing Lucy is getting exactly the nutrition she needs to stay healthy and happy.

Consider supporting pets like Lucy with a monthly gift. Your support is not just feeding a pet — you're giving them health, comfort, and more happy years with the people who love them. Together, we can make sure every pet, no matter their needs, gets the chance to thrive.