

Rocky Mountain Coker Rescue, Inc.

Organization Info:

Name of Organization: Rocky Mountain Cocker Rescue, Inc.

Website: www.RockyMountainCockerRescue.org

Address: PO Box 482, Parker, CO 80134

Mission Statement: The mission of Rocky Mountain Cocker Rescue, Inc. is to rescue, foster, train and rehabilitate unwanted Cocker Spaniels that have been mistreated, abused, neglected or abandoned and to place them in permanent, pre-qualified homes.

Contact Person for Questions:

Kathryn Glass, President; email: Kathryn@RockyMountainCockerRescue.org

Cocker line: 303-617-1939; Cell phone: 303-358-2725

Please check the most appropriate issue dealt with by your organization:

Children Elderly Hunger/Homelessness Disaster Relief Animal Welfare
 Health/Wellness Environment Human Rights

What is the deeper issue behind your organization?

Our all-volunteer, non-profit, charitable organization rescues dogs, places them in foster homes, treats them for any medical conditions, trains them to make them more easily adoptable and finds them forever homes.

If we do not have foster homes, we cannot accept a dog into the rescue, so we are always recruiting foster homes for our dogs. Many people volunteer to be foster parents, but then fall in love with their foster dog and adopt. While this is a good thing, it often means that they are no longer in a position to foster. Therefore, we are in a constant search for new fosters. Because many of the dogs we rescue come to us with behavior issues, house training issues, or are under-socialized, it takes a special person to accept these dogs into their home and help train them to be adoptable to the general public.

If we do not have the financial resources for veterinary care, we cannot properly care for the dogs nor find them permanent homes (we do not adopt out sick dogs), so we continually require fundraising and donations for veterinary care. Our adoption fees are designed to cover the cost of food while in foster care, basic veterinary costs, grooming and dental care if necessary, and micro-chipping. Many of the dogs that come into our rescue organization arrive with health issues requiring veterinary care that far exceeds the adoption fee. Unfortunately, these are the dogs that need us the most, yet funding issues often require that we carefully consider the cost when accepting dogs into rescue. We would love to be in a position to accept the ones that need our service the most without consideration of the cost to bring them back to health in order to find them a loving home for the rest of their lives.

If we do not have volunteers willing to do fundraising, request donations, recruit foster homes, staff adoption events and raise awareness of our organization and what we do, we cannot survive as a rescue.

What programs or services does your organization offer?

We provide a community service by rescuing unwanted or abandoned dogs, caring for them in loving foster homes until they are ready for adoption, and then finding them great permanent homes with families. We raise awareness of the poor conditions of puppy mills (and the associated chronic health and behavioral issues associated with dogs from mills) and the pet over-population issues caused by reckless breeding of all companion animals.

Do you have an interesting story about your organization or programs to share with the students?

Currently we are raising funds so that a 4 year old cocker spaniel with cataracts in both eyes can have surgery and will be able to see for the first time in her life. Helena came to us from a local shelter where she was surrendered because of her eye health. She is young, vibrant and very loving. Unfortunately, she will have trouble finding a forever home because to the stigma associated with her blindness. She compensates for her disability very well; however public perception is that she would be helpless and basically useless as a pet. The surgery will allow her to regain her vision and will make her a better candidate for adoption. The surgery costs \$3500.00 and is not without risk; however without it, she will most likely remain in foster care for a very long time. Each dog that remains in foster care means one less dog that we can rescue from an abusive home or possible euthanasia in a high-kill shelter. Often times dogs we receive need expensive medical attention before they can be adopted.

How can students help through specific, tangible cash grants?

The kids could sponsor fund raiser at their school or special events. We always need financial support for dog food and medical attention, (ex: \$25 feeds 1 dog for 1 month, spays and neuters cost \$75.00).

Students that are self-motivated could solicit local pet supply stores to request donations of supplies such as food bowls, collars, leashes, toys, bedding, wheat-free dog food and treats. Many supply stores might be willing to donate damaged bags and cans of food that they would otherwise not be able to sell.

How can students help through service grants?

Because of our rescue structure, we do not have a shelter facility. Since all of our rescued dogs are kept in private homes, student service is limited.

Do you provide volunteer opportunities for youth?

We have regularly scheduled adoption events at local Petco stores in the Denver metro area. Students would be welcome to assist in providing public awareness of our organization, handing out literature and requesting donations during these events. Because working with rescued dogs is not without risk, any youth volunteers would have to be monitored by an adult to make sure they were safe. We make every effort to avoid taking dangerous animals into rescue, but we cannot always tell what might cause a dog to become aggressive without warning. The safety and security of our volunteers, especially youths, is paramount to our organization.