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NEWS RELEASE

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Humane Society Emergency Surgeries Have Exponentially Increased in 2021

La Plata County Humane Society Spends Thousands to Rehabilitate Homeless Pets

Durango, CO – La Plata County Humane Society (LPCHS) has seen an immense increase in emergency medical cases since the beginning of 2021. A recent case, Douglas, a cat brought in as a stray in February was in a terrible state when he arrived. Douglas had been missing for over 2 months and the non-breakaway collar he was wearing, entangled his front leg that then became embedded under his arm and into his chest. After an initial examination of the damage, LPCHS medical department performed emergency surgery to remove the embedded collar exposing a large wound and infection under his arm. Sunny, a 4-year-old Pit Bull mix came into the humane society suffering from Glaucoma. Glaucoma is an eye condition that damages the optic nerves. Sunny was experiencing excruciating pain and intense pressure, ultimately leading to blindness. Making a tough decision, the medical department decided to remove Sunny's eyes completely so she could live a pain-free life. Douglas is recovering from his injuries and reunited with his family. Sunny is quickly adapting to her life without sight and has been recently adopted.

Douglas and Sunny are just two of the many animals LPCHS has performed emergency surgery on in 2021. Other cases include Draco, a cat whose leg was mangled and required an emergency leg amputation. Amaya, a cat with multiple hernias, who also required a leg amputation. The total cost, including post-op care and rehabilitation has since surpassed \$5,000 for these cases.

"We've seen a rapid increase of pets in need of emergency surgeries this year. The pet's we have rehabilitated will be able to live full and healthy lives due to our dedicated medical department. With the financial impact that COVID has had on our shelter, we are asking for assistance to help support our emergency medical fund that allows us to continue to help pets like Douglas and Sunny.", stated Chris Nelson, Director of Animal Services.

With the growing need for emergency medical surgeries, LPCHS is asking for donations to help support their medical fund that treats pets like Douglas, Sunny, Draco and Amaya. To give a gift and make an impact in a homeless pets life, visit lpchumanesociety.org to donate.

La Plata County Humane Society (LPCHS) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in Durango, CO. LPCHS is an open-admission shelter that has been helping animals since 1971. LPCHS was created to provide shelter and find forever homes for homeless animals, rescue animals in distress, assist in the investigation and prosecution of reported cruelty or abuse and encourage kindness and responsibility toward all living things through humane education. For more information about La Plata County Humane Society and how they are helping to make a difference in the lives of so many animals in the community, visit lpchumanesociety.org.

To hear the full story of Douglas on how LPCHS reunited him with his owners, contact Chris Nelson, Director of Animal Services is (970) 749-5798.

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