



In the year 2009, Helping Hands Humane Society (HHHS) has seen its highest admittance numbers ever. In the past 10 weeks, HHHS has admitted over 1,500 animals or an average of 150 animals per week. If the numbers remain at this rate, HHHS will have its largest animal intake year ever. For a shelter built to manage only 5,000 animals per year, the staggering numbers reflect the packed kennels and the reality that there are not enough adopters. As an open-admission shelter, HHHS refuses to turn any animal away. HHHS believes all animals are equal, important and worthy of a safe place. HHHS admits every animal that comes to its door despite breed, health or temperament.

HHHS has found some hope for the nearly 11,000 animals that are predicted to enter the shelter this year if the animal intake numbers remain steady. A large and successful friend from the west has stepped in to admit many of HHHS' animals into their care.

Denver Dumb Friends League (DDFL) is the largest animal welfare organization in the Rocky Mountain region. It boasts two shelters, one in Denver and one in Castle Rock. They are an open-admission shelter that provides care for nearly 28,000 animals per year, adopts nearly 17,000 animals a year to new families and often has a shortage of pets. HHHS will be transferring as many animals as possible monthly into the care of DDFL. Twice a month, HHHS will transport animals to Colby, KS, where they will meet representatives from DDFL who will take the animals on the rest of their journey. The first transport to meet DDFL in Colby will be Wednesday, February 18. HHHS staff members will load the animals and depart from the shelter between 6:00am and 7:00am. The trip is almost 600 miles and will move the animals from the capital of Kansas to the most populous city of Colorado where they are assured in finding new homes.

The generosity of DDFL will provide HHHS more space for the endless amounts of animals seeking refuge and greatly reduce the shelter's need to euthanize animals for space reasons. For more information on Dumb Friends League, please visit their website at www.ddfl.org.

