



2025
annual
report

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DACHSHUND RESCUE**

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welcome note

Hello, Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue (RMDR) exists to ensure dachshunds in need receive compassionate care, appropriate medical treatment, and the opportunity to find loving forever homes. As a no-kill rescue, our work remains focused on rehabilitation, advocacy, and thoughtful placement of dachshunds throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Dachshunds continue to rank among the most popular dog breeds in the United States, a trend amplified by social media and increased demand. Unfortunately, popularity often brings challenges, including overbreeding, poor breeding practices, and rising surrenders due to life changes such as relocation, health issues, or the loss of an owner. These realities make RMDR's work more important than ever.

In 2025, RMDR experienced meaningful growth, welcoming new fosters and volunteers across Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana. We were also excited to welcome Dr. Lynette Sakellariou, DVM, who joined RMDR as Veterinary Advisor to the Board, strengthening our ability to support dogs with complex medical needs. As we grow, we remain committed to improving how we serve both dogs and people. In 2025, RMDR refined its intake, foster, and adoption processes and made thoughtful updates to our website to better support dogs with medical and behavioral needs while reducing barriers for fosters and adopters.

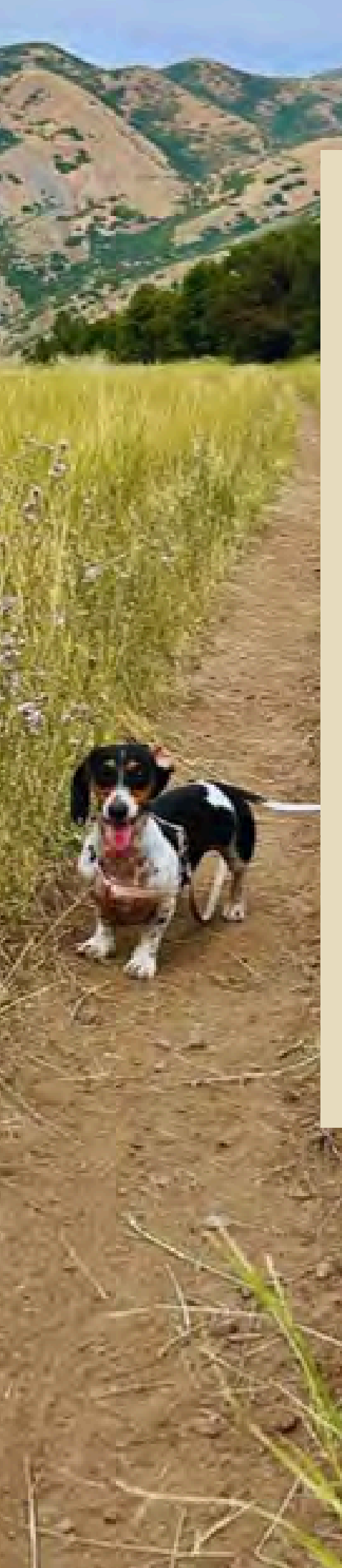


Thanks to the generous support of foundations and individual donors, RMDR helped more than 80 dogs in 2025, providing everything from routine preventive care to advanced medical treatment, including IVDD surgery. To our volunteers, fosters, veterinarians, donors, and supporters, your dedication makes this work possible. On behalf of RMDR and the dachshunds we serve, thank you for being part of our mission.

With gratitude,

Eric

Eric Nikolaisen
President, Executive Director



what's inside

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

our board



ERIC NIKOLAISEN

PRESIDENT

Since stepping into the role of President in 2024, Eric has brought dedication and thoughtful leadership to RMDR. As Executive Director, transport, event volunteer, and a foster, Eric stays closely connected to the mission of RMDR and the daily work of the rescue.



AMBER MCILRAVY

SECRETARY

Amber supports RMDR in many roles, serving as Secretary, Fundraising Coordinator, Transport Volunteer, and Foster. Working alongside Assistant Secretary Renee Burns, she helps keep the rescue organized, responsive, and focused on its mission.



JANELL HALL

TREASURER

Janell oversees RMDR's finances with care and transparency while also staying directly involved with the dogs through transport and fostering. Her attention to detail, paired with her commitment to rescue work, helps ensure every dollar supports dogs on their journey to safety and loving homes.

vision & mission

OUR MISSION & VISION CONTINUE TO GUIDE OUR WORK IN 2025.



VISION

Our vision is to eliminate fear, abandonment, suffering, while rehabbing dachshunds needing care and bringing dachshunds, doxie mixes and their forever families together.



MISSION

Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue rescues, rehabilitates, and rehomes dachshunds and dachshund mixes in need. We provide compassionate care and advocate for the breed.

Our mission includes building a supportive community for adopters, fosters, and dachshund lovers. Together, we strive to give every dog in our care a second chance at a happy, healthy life.

foster dog & his story



FRANKIE: IVDD WARRIOR

- Vet Costs: \$3,800.23+ (IVDD, no surgery.)
- RMDR Adoption Fee: \$150

Frankie came to us from Cedar City, Utah. After talking to us in 2024 about surrendering him, his owner decided to keep him and spent the next year working with him using physical therapy tools, doing everything she could between work and family life after he had received his diagnosis of IVDD.

In the end, she reached out once more. Sometimes surrender isn't giving up—it's choosing help. The foster who had wanted to help Frankie the year before stepped forward again without hesitation.

When Frankie arrived from Cedar City, he had a UTI, blood in his urine, and bladder stones that required immediate surgery. Neighborhood Vet helped with his intake, setting him on a safer path forward. From there, Frankie headed to his foster home in Myton, Utah where Uinta Veterinary Services removed his quarter-sized bladder stones and his veterinarian continued his physical therapy with weekly laser therapy, and exercises to do at home.

His foster family adopted him and ran a fundraiser to help fund the next steps in his care. When they were able to schedule the MRI. What the imaging revealed changed the plan for surgery: a pool of fluid where key spinal connections were meant to be meant surgery wasn't the answer—but physical therapy still gave reason to hope he might walk one day.

Frankie is now scheduled to continue follow-up care with Alta Veterinary Physical Therapy. He has been getting around in his wheelchair—and has even gotten up and ran across the yard when it started to rain dachshunds and weather, right?!

Today, Frankie's family includes three fur siblings, all RMDR alumni. He is safe and surrounded by those who understand his needs. We're happy to still be helping.

foster dog & her story



BELLA

- Vet Costs: \$405.58
- RMDR Adoption Fee: \$500

Bella came to us from Tooele County, Utah alongside another dachshund, Snickers. While they arrived together and were initially thought to be bonded, their foster family quickly recognized that they were better suited to separate homes. A trial separation confirmed this, and Snickers went on to another foster family who became his permanent home.

Bella arrived needing to lose weight and during her initial intake, she experienced an unexpected vaccine reaction and needed emergency veterinary care.

Once settled into foster care on her own, Bella began to thrive. With regular walks, activity, and encouragement, she started to lose weight and explore the world in new ways, even wading into streams on outings with her foster family.

After completing her veterinary care and making meaningful progress with her health, Bella was adopted. While every effort is made to ensure the best possible match, sometimes circumstances change despite careful screening. Bella was returned when her adopter experienced an unexpected life change and was no longer able to provide the additional care Bella needed following her weight loss.

Bella stayed with us while she had time to decompress and regain her footing – emotionally as well as physically. Transitions like these can leave an imprint, and she needed patience, routine, and reassurance.

With time, she was ready once again for a permanent home. Bella's next chapter began at Wheeler Farm, where she met her new family and their family dog. The introduction went well, and Bella was welcomed home for good. Today, she is an integral part of her family – a happy, confident dappled girl with brown and tan markings, finally settled where she belongs.

foster dog & his story



MAC & CHEESE

- Vet Costs: \$420.47
- RMDR Adoption Fee: \$250

Mac & Cheese came to us as a senior dachshund from Colorado, estimated to be between twelve and fifteen years old. His family believed he needed a home that could offer him more calm and fewer stressors than they were able to provide.

Mac had originally been adopted through Denver Dachshunds Rescue and Transport, who worked with us to ensure he could move directly to RMDR rather than returning to their program.

When Mac needed immediate placement and we did not yet have a foster home available, our colleagues at Golden Bark Foundation in Ogden stepped in to provide a safe, temporary landing spot – a powerful example of how rescue organizations work together when time matters.

From there, veterinary evaluations helped clarify what Mac had been struggling with: significant vision loss. He had low vision in one eye and could see only shadows in the other, making sudden movement and close contact especially unsettling.

Mac's anxiety was rooted in perception, not aggression. In a busy household with very young children still learning boundaries, he often felt startled or overwhelmed. He communicated discomfort the way many dogs do – first with warnings, and occasionally with a nip and then a bite when those warnings weren't recognized. Medication helped reduce his anxiety, but it could not replace the calm environment he truly needed.

Today, Mac & Cheese is living a peaceful life as an only dog in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. RMDR acted quickly, and worked with other rescue's to ensure that his next chapter would be one of safety, dignity, and rest.

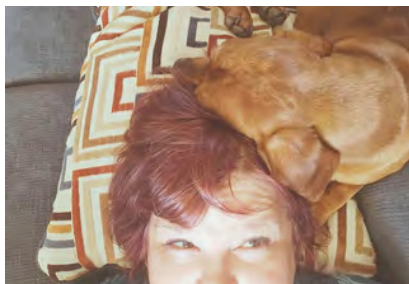
With gratitude to Denver Dachshunds Rescue and Transport, and Golden Bark Foundation for their partnership.

operations & coordination



RMDR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Eric Nikolaisen, President
- Amber Mcilravy, Secretary
- Janell Hall, Treasurer



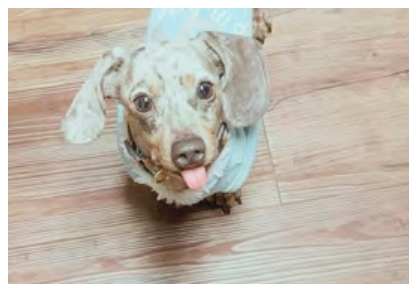
BOARD ADVISORS

- Lynette Sakellariou, DVM, Board Veterinarian
- Hannah Venske, Colorado Team Lead
- Nancy Dailey, Medical Advisor
- Taylor Snow, Science Advisor
- Renee Burns, Adoption Coordinator
- Suzanne Nikolaisen, Ex Officio, Pres. Emeritus



RMDR OPERATIONS TEAM

- Anne Babuin, Rescue Ops
- Renee Burns, Adoption Coordinator, Rescue Ops
- Mary Christiansen, Foster Training & Coordination
- Jackie Christiansen, Nevada Lead
- Avery DeSimon, Foster Applications
- Heather Dimond, Intake Coordinator
- Kaylee Joergens, Foster Coordinator, Intake
- Amber Mcilravy, Fundraising, Rescue Ops
- Mary Mumme, Events Lead Colorado
- Eric Nikolaisen, Executive Dir., IT & Web, Rescue Ops
- Suzanne Nikolaisen, Foster Coordinator, Rescue Ops, Creative & Digital Media
- Taylor Snow, Volunteer Coordinator, Events Lead Utah
- Sharon Turner, Social Media Coordinator



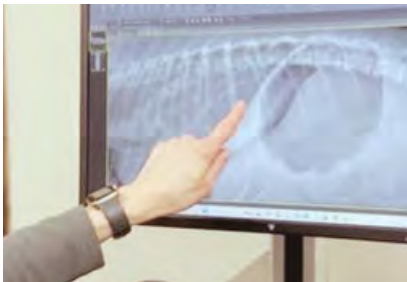
RMDR FOSTER FAMILIES

You are the heart and soul of everything we do. You open your homes, your hearts, and your lives to dachshunds in need, providing them with love, stability, and a safe haven.

welcoming board veterinarian



Dr. Lynette with her dogs Feta and Olive.



Dr. Lynette explaining Luna's ME condition.



Puppy, Indie receiving deworming medicine.



Foster dog, Dozer waiting for his appointment.

WELCOMING LYNETTE SAKELLARIOU, DVM RMDR BOARD VETERINARIAN

Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue is powered by volunteers – but the medical needs of our dogs often require expert guidance. We are deeply grateful to have Dr. Lynette serving as our Board Veterinarian, advising our board and supporting our fosters through complex medical cases with clarity and compassion. From IVDD to emergency diagnostics, chronic illness to end-of-life care, Dr. Lynette's consultations help us navigate difficult decisions with confidence.

Dr. Lynette demystifies conditions, recommends next steps, facilitates referrals when needed, and ensures that every dog in our care receives thoughtful, appropriate medical support. Her guidance has directly reduced suffering and improved outcomes for dogs like Luna, Drake, Jessa, Dozer, Copper, River, Indie, Merri, Chip, Molly, Axel, and many others.

A Colorado native, Dr. Lynette graduated from Colorado State University in 1988 before moving to Utah, where she spent more than three decades caring for the valley's beloved companion animals. In 2020, she founded Neighborhood Veterinary Care, built on a lifelong commitment to compassionate medicine, client education, and community service.

At home, she and her family share life with their dogs, Feta and Olive – a daily reminder of why this work matters. We are honored to have her experience, steadiness, and heart guiding RMDR's medical mission.



adopter reviews

REVIEWS FROM ADOPTERS

"I adopted my dog Henry from RMDR and they were great through the entire process. Henry's foster family was great and willing to work out meeting times and ensured he was a good fit for me. I can't thank them enough! It is so relieving that such a sweet breed of dog can be looked out for like this. Thank you again, RMDR for the newest member of my little family :)" - IN

"We had an awesome experience with RMDR. They were quick to reach out and help coordinate a meeting to bring our little dude home! The application, communication and partnership was top notch. I can't recommend them enough." - DG

"Thank you Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue! Little doxie mix Clarence found his forever home with me! He's the sweetest little pup, and it's clear he was lovingly fostered before coming into my life. The adoption process was incredibly thorough which I appreciate as it is very important to ensure safety and a great match for pets and their potential owners. Clarence is settling in beautifully—such a happy camper exploring his new world." - JP

"We received our handsome dapple long hair today. Our foster mom was wonderful to deal with and did a superb job getting him ready for our home. The staff at RMDR has been professional & on mission." - MV

RMDR is a Utah-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We help homeless dachshunds in the Mountain West.

Licensed by Colorado Department of Agriculture
Pet Care Program (PACFA), license #: LIC2025001033-2.

**2025 RMDR
OPERATING FUNDS**

95.7%

DIRECT RESCUE
PROGRAMS &
FOSTER DOG CARE

4.3%

ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSES

84

DACHSHUNDS
HELPED IN 2025
(42 IN 2024)

\$85,252

TOTAL COST
OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL SERVICES

vet bills & hope

HOW YOUR DONATION HELPS THE DOGS

- **Vaccinations**
- **Spay and neuter**
- **Wellness and dentals**
- **Blood, heartworm and fecal tests**
- **Prescriptions (including RX food)**
- **Supplies: dog basics, post surgery**
- **Specialists, surgery, physical therapy, and ongoing treatment**

COMMUNITY OF INCLUSION

Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, creed, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected status in its programs, activities, volunteer opportunities.

Gold
Transparency
2026

Candid.

RMDR earned the Gold Seal of Transparency from **Candid**, the nation's leading source of nonprofit information. This recognition reflects our commitment to openly sharing information about our mission, programs, finances, and impact.

Guided by Compassion. Committed to No-Kill.

5 WHO ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

In 2025, five very loved dogs—two RMDR foster dogs: Rocky and Oscar, and three alumni; Sasha, Buck and Elsie crossed the rainbow bridge. Each of these dogs was cherished by their foster or forever family.

ROCKY came to RMDR with IVDD complications affecting mobility and continence. Despite devoted foster care in Colorado and Utah, a critical IVDD complication arose. With vet guidance, compassionate euthanasia prevented further suffering.

OSCAR arrived from a Nevada shelter already fragile and declining. Though welcomed into foster care with hope, he passed at the veterinarian’s office the next morning – cared for, advocated for, and loved in his final hours.

Our promise remains unchanged: we are a no-kill rescue, committed to every dog we rescue—for as long as they need us, and for as long as they have.

RMDR dogs are treated as family, and every decision is guided by compassion, dignity, and quality of life. Every dog in our care receives essential medical care, including vaccinations, treatment, surgery, and rehabilitation.

RMDR FOSTER DOGS



RMDR ALUMNI



community & events

2025 Yard Sale

RMDR has held grassroots yard sales with donations from our community to help us fundraise.

Doxie Derby

RMDR assisted the organizers of the Millcreek Doxie Derby on the day of the race by assisting with in person registration and check-ins for race heats. This event provided an opportunity to meet new friends and share information about RMDR.

Ave's Street Fair

RMDR had a booth at The Avenues Street Fair, held on 3rd Avenue, SLC, Utah, Our goal was to engage with the public, share information about the work we are doing.

Rally in the Alley

RMDR helped with the Heavy Metal Shop's annual Rally in the Alley dachshund race. Onsite with our booth and volunteers on hand to assist with the event.

Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

RMDR had a booth at the show to help with community awareness and to fundraise for the dogs we work with.

U of U Halftime Doxie Race

U OF U WOMEN'S SOCCER
Bark in the Park | Halftime doxie race.

SLC Downtown Farmer's Market

Our booth at the SLC Downtown Farmer's Market allows us to share that we are available to help our community.

Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue focuses on supporting homeless dachshunds in the Rocky Mountain region. If you or someone you know needs assistance with finding a new home for a dachshund in the Mountain West please contact us www.rmdr.org

2025 financials

<p>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</p> <p>Adoption Fees: \$13,921.00 Cash Contributions: \$158,234.53 In-Kind Donations: \$1,568.06</p>	<p>\$173,723.59</p>
<p>VETERINARY CARE This remained RMDR's single largest expense in 2025. Due to an exceptional level of donor support during the year, veterinary expenses represented approximately 49% of total income, reflecting increased donations rather than a reduction in medical care provided.</p>	<p>\$85,252.66</p>
<p>DIRECT RESCUE EXPENDITURES These expenses include veterinary care, foster dog supplies, training, grooming, and travel. Direct rescue expenditures represent the true cost of caring for dogs while in RMDR's program.</p>	<p>\$90,158.02</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES These costs include essential operating expenses such as banking and processing fees, software, licensing, staff training, and organizational infrastructure that allow RMDR to operate responsibly and compliantly.</p>	<p>\$1,907.86</p>
<p>NET INCOME RMDR is a nonprofit organization and does not operate for profit. Funds remaining at year-end are intentionally retained to support future veterinary care, emergency intakes, and ongoing rescue operations in 2026. Maintaining reserves allows RMDR to respond quickly when dachshunds with urgent medical needs require help.</p>	<p>\$77,679.91</p>

In 2024, RMDR spent 95.1% of every dollar on veterinary care during a year of extraordinary medical need. In 2025, increased donations allowed us to continue providing extensive veterinary care while also strengthening financial stability. This ensured RMDR could continue saving lives without interruption.

In 2025 RMDR was able to help 84 dogs. Based on 2025 outcomes, RMDR plans for an average cost of approximately \$1,000-\$1,100 per dog to provide lifesaving care in 2026. Your support makes lifesaving work possible—today and into the future.

Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue fiscal year is from January 1 to December 31.

foundations, sponsors & donors

The work of Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue is sustained by a community of foundations, sponsors, donors, and volunteers who believe every dachshund deserves compassionate care and a second chance. We are deeply grateful for the generosity that made our 2025 work possible.

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

We extend special thanks to the foundations whose significant support strengthened our ability to provide advanced medical care and thoughtful placement:

The Lauren Bailey-Townsend Donor Advised Fund supports a range of charitable causes, with a special focus on animal welfare and dachshunds. Inspired by two beloved dachshunds, the fund works to strengthen compassionate communities for both animals and people.

The Allen Foundation, established in 1991, continues the philanthropic legacy of its founder, Marion Mathis Allen, whose lifelong commitment to community service shaped its mission. Now led nationwide by her grandson, David Casarotto, the Foundation honors her memory each year by supporting a wide range of charitable causes.

The Casarotto family's commitment reached beyond financial support. In addition to their generosity, they opened their home to foster and ultimately adopt a dachshund surrendered with IVDD, embodying the very heart of rescue.

The Margo Henston Foundation

Every act of generosity strengthens our ability to respond when a dachshund or doxie mix needs us most.

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

We are grateful to the businesses and organizations that supported RMDR through sponsorships, events, services, and in-kind contributions:

- Dog 2 Dog
- Dollar for Doxies
- Fisher Brewing
- The Heavy Metal Shop
- Matrons of Mayhem
- Millcreek Commons Doxie Derby
- Mobile Cat/Dog Nail Trimming
- National Wiener Dog Racing Association
- PawPlacer
- Petfinder
- Slack
- Wasatch Gem Society
- Xmission (generously donating internet services)

These partnerships strengthen our visibility, operations, and connection to the community we serve.

DONORS & SUSTAINING SUPPORTERS

Individual donors and sustaining monthly supporters form the backbone of RMDR. Their contributions directly fund rescue efforts, from routine vaccinations and preventive care to life-saving surgical intervention.

We are committed to financial stewardship and transparency. In 2025, 95.7% of operating expenses were directed to rescue-related care and programs, ensuring resources are used efficiently and responsibly.

Supporters can make a difference by:

- Making an ongoing monthly donation
- Sponsoring veterinary care for specific conditions or individual dogs
- Making a memorial bequest or tribute gift
- Purchasing items from our Chewy or Amazon Wish Lists
- Checking whether their employer offers donation matching

future plans

GOALS AT A GLANCE

CONTINUE INTAKE OF COMPLEX MEDICAL CASES

With sustainable funding and available and appropriately matched foster families, responsibly accept more dachshunds with conditions such as IVDD, megaesophagus, pregnancy, behavior support, etc.

HELP DACHSHUNDS AND DOXIE MIXES AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

Continue providing care for dachshunds of all ages and circumstances, including seniors, pregnant dogs, and those with medical or behavioral needs.

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Maintain and expand resource guidance, including our after-hours webpage directing individuals to appropriate help for found animals and other breeds.

PROTECT LONG-TERM HEALTH

Continue our delayed spay/neuter protocol for puppies to promote orthopedic development and reduce IVDD risk.

MISSION:

Helping dachshunds needing a new home get the care they require and find loving forever families.

CLOSING NOTES

As we reflect on 2025, we are grateful for the donors, fosters, volunteers, and supporters who make Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue's work possible. Each dachshund rescued, rehabilitated, and rehomed reflects the power of compassion and community. Your generosity provides lifesaving medical care, offers hope in difficult moments, and ensures these special dogs find safety and love in forever homes.

Thank you for your support and for being part of our community. We look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.

Warm wags,
Rocky Mountain Dachshund Rescue

contact us

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DACHSHUND RESCUE

PHONE: (801) 432-0785

EMAIL: CONTACT@RMDR.ORG

WEBSITE: RMDR.ORG

ROCKYMOUNTAINDACHSHUNDRESCUE.COM

SOCIAL MEDIA: FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR UPDATES AND ADORABLE DACHSHUND CONTENT!

NOTE: ROCKY MOUNTAIN DACHSHUND RESCUE IS A HOME-BASED FOSTER NETWORK WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION.

MAILING ADDRESS:

1953 S 1100 E, UNIT 522461
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84152



FACEBOOK: [ROCKYMOUNTAINDACHSHUNDRESCUE](https://www.facebook.com/ROCKYMOUNTAINDACHSHUNDRESCUE)
INSTAGRAM: [ROCKYMTNDOXIES](https://www.instagram.com/ROCKYMTNDOXIES)



(left) Leo is a miniature dapple dachshund and a patient foster brother. (right) RMDR foster dog Luna, surrendered due to megaesophagus, is a kaninchen dachshund.