



PROJECT RECOVERY

Participant Welcome & Program Guide

Keeping People and Their Companions Together Through Recovery

Welcome

We are honored that you have trusted Project Recovery to be part of your recovery journey.

We understand that one of the greatest barriers preventing individuals from entering treatment is concern for their companion animal. Many people delay or refuse treatment because they have nowhere safe for their pet to go.

Project Recovery was created to remove that barrier.

Our mission is to help individuals enter treatment without having to choose between their recovery and the companion who has stood beside them through life's most difficult moments.

While your companion is in our care, our team works alongside you to build a plan for long-term success. Recovery is about much more than temporary boarding—it is about helping you establish stability through treatment, employment, housing, community resources, and responsible companion animal care.

We are committed to walking beside you every step of the way.

Our Mission

Project Recovery exists to remove barriers to recovery by providing compassionate, pet-inclusive support services that help individuals achieve long-term stability while keeping families together whenever safely possible.

Our Program Goals

Project Recovery works with each participant to help them move toward long-term independence and stability.

Our team may assist with:

Recovery & Treatment

- Entering detox or inpatient treatment
- Treatment navigation and referrals
- Recovery coaching and case management
- Transportation coordination when available

Housing

- Housing navigation
- Pet-inclusive housing resources
- Landlord communication and advocacy
- Emotional Support Animal (ESA) documentation when appropriate

Employment

- Resume assistance
- Employment navigation
- Workforce readiness
- Priority consideration for available positions with Serenity Paws

Companion Animal Wellness

Your companion's health is just as important as your own.

When appropriate and based on available funding, Project Recovery may assist with:

- Boarding during approved treatment
- Spay and neuter services
- Required vaccinations
- Annual wellness care
- Veterinary coordination
- Basic grooming and hygiene
- Behavior support and training
- ESA evaluations and documentation when appropriate

Healthy, well-socialized companions often have greater opportunities for housing and long-term stability alongside their owners.

Understanding the Boarding Program

Project Recovery and the Healthy Pet Initiative (HPI) are **two separate programs**.

Project Recovery provides temporary boarding assistance during approved treatment.

The Healthy Pet Initiative provides financial assistance for continued boarding after treatment when participants qualify.

STEP 1

Entering Treatment

Project Recovery provides **FREE companion animal boarding** while you are participating in an approved treatment program that does **not** allow you to leave the facility.

These programs include:

Medical Detox

Typically 3–7 days

Intensive Inpatient Treatment

Typically 30–90 days

During these programs, your companion may board with us free of charge while you focus on your recovery.

Residential Treatment & Sober Living

Residential treatment, sober living, transitional housing, outpatient treatment, and similar recovery programs **do not automatically qualify for free boarding.**

These programs generally allow participants to:

- Leave the facility
- Work
- Visit their companion
- Attend appointments
- Participate in community activities

Because these situations are different, continued boarding assistance is evaluated individually.

STEP 2

30-Day Boarding Requirement

Serenity Paws is licensed by the **Colorado Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA)**.

Because our boarding facility utilizes **6' × 6' indoor kennels with daily walks and does not have outdoor boarding runs exceeding nine (9) feet in length**, Colorado regulations require us to limit continuous boarding stays.

For this reason:

- Every companion must be checked out after **30 consecutive days**.
- Your companion must remain out of our facility for **at least 48 consecutive hours**.
- Before returning, a **Re-Submission Form** must be completed.

This requirement is mandated by PACFA based on our facility's licensing classification and is **not a Project Recovery policy.**

STEP 3

After Completing Detox or Inpatient Treatment

Once you successfully complete detox or inpatient treatment, Project Recovery provides:

7 Additional Days of FREE Boarding

This transition period allows time to:

- Begin employment
 - Secure transportation
 - Locate housing
 - Meet with your case manager
 - Continue treatment planning
 - Prepare for your next step
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STEP 4

Healthy Pet Initiative (HPI)

If you require continued boarding after your free Project Recovery boarding ends, you may apply for assistance through the **Healthy Pet Initiative (HPI)**.

HPI is a separate financial assistance program.

Approval is based on:

- Financial hardship
- Employment status
- Program participation
- Current crisis
- Available funding
- Kennel availability
- Other individual circumstances

Approval is not automatic.

Each application is reviewed individually.

Boarding Costs

The preferred boarding facility (Serenity Paws) standard boarding rate is:

\$55 per day

Approximately **\$1,650 per month**

We understand these costs are simply not possible for many individuals rebuilding their lives.

For approved Healthy Pet Initiative participants, boarding costs are significantly reduced.

Monthly rates generally range between:

\$275–\$700 per month

The minimum monthly contribution is:

\$275

This represents a substantial discount made possible through donations, grants, and community support.

Participants are expected to contribute toward their companion's care whenever financially possible.

Maximum Boarding Period

The maximum boarding period is generally:

90 Days Total

This includes:

- Free Project Recovery boarding
- Healthy Pet Initiative discounted boarding

- Continued approved boarding

Extensions beyond 90 days are rare and considered only under exceptional circumstances

- Please remember after every 30 day continuous boarding, your pet must be checked out for the 48 hours and a resubmission form must be completed to come back for another 30 consecutive days.

Employment Opportunities

One of the primary goals of Project Recovery is helping participants achieve long-term independence.

After treatment, participants may apply for available positions at Serenity Paws.

Please understand:

Employment is **not guaranteed**.

Hiring depends upon:

- Available positions
- Successful completion of the hiring process
- Meeting company standards
- Demonstrating reliability and readiness for employment

Whenever positions are available, Project Recovery participants receive priority consideration.

Housing Support

Finding housing that accepts companion animals is one of the greatest challenges our participants face.

Although we cannot guarantee housing, our team works diligently to help participants overcome these barriers.

We assist with:

- Pet-friendly housing searches
- Landlord communication

- ESA documentation and certifications
- Companion training and recommendations
- Housing resource referrals

Our goal is to help keep families together whenever possible.

Participant Responsibilities

Project Recovery is a partnership.

To remain eligible for services, participants are expected to actively participate in their recovery and maintain communication with Project Recovery staff.

Treatment Compliance

Participants must:

- Remain actively engaged in treatment.
- Follow recommendations from treatment providers.
- Notify Project Recovery immediately if treatment status changes.
- Inform staff if leaving treatment early or transferring facilities.

Failure to remain compliant may affect program eligibility.

Communication

Participants are expected to maintain regular communication with their Project Recovery Case Manager.

Please notify us of changes involving:

- Treatment
- Employment
- Housing
- Contact information
- Emergencies
- Discharge dates

Communication is essential to your continued participation.

Financial Responsibility

Participants approved for the Healthy Pet Initiative agree to:

- Make agreed-upon monthly payments.
 - Notify staff of financial changes.
 - Work proactively with staff if payment difficulties arise.
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Employment & Housing

Participants are expected to actively pursue long-term stability by:

- Applying for employment
- Participating in workforce development
- Searching for housing
- Completing applications
- Working closely with case managers

Project Recovery will help navigate these barriers, but participants must also remain actively involved.

Companion Animal Responsibilities

Participants remain the legal owner of their companion.

Participants are responsible for:

- Maintaining communication regarding their companion.
 - Authorizing veterinary care when needed.
 - Picking up their companion on scheduled dates.
 - Completing required paperwork before every check-in.
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Visiting Your Companion

We understand the importance of maintaining the bond with your companion during recovery.

Participants are welcome to visit their companion **during normal business hours** by:

- Calling ahead to schedule the visit.
- Checking in with staff upon arrival.
- Following all safety instructions while interacting with their companion.

Visits may be adjusted based on the companion's schedule, veterinary care, grooming appointments, or other operational needs.

Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco-Free Environment

Project Recovery and Serenity Paws maintain a healthy, recovery-focused environment.

The use of the following is **prohibited** while participating in program activities or while on Serenity Paws property:

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Marijuana
- Cigarettes
- Cigars
- Vape devices
- Electronic cigarettes
- Smokeless tobacco

This policy includes:

- Inside the facility
- Parking areas
- Building entrances
- Outdoor areas surrounding the property
- **Mary Kyer Park**

Participants are expected to arrive free from the influence of drugs or alcohol and comply with all program expectations.

Program Expectations

Participants are expected to:

- Treat staff, volunteers, and fellow participants with respect.
 - Follow all Project Recovery and Serenity Paws policies.
 - Be honest regarding their circumstances.
 - Complete requested paperwork promptly.
 - Attend scheduled meetings.
 - Keep appointments whenever possible.
 - Notify staff if they cannot meet program expectations.
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Our Commitment to You

Recovery is difficult.

You do not have to face it alone.

Our commitment is to help remove as many barriers as possible by providing compassionate, judgment-free support for both you and your companion.

We will do everything we reasonably can to help you:

- Enter treatment.
- Keep your companion safe.
- Access veterinary care, vaccinations, wellness services, and spay/neuter assistance.
- Improve your companion's training and behavior when appropriate.
- Find employment.
- Navigate housing.
- Connect with community resources.
- Build long-term independence.
- Help with transportation needs.

While we cannot guarantee permanent housing, employment, or indefinite boarding, we promise to advocate for you, support you, and work alongside you throughout your recovery journey.

Participant Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Project Recovery Participant Guide.

I understand that:

- Project Recovery and the Healthy Pet Initiative are separate programs.
- Continued boarding assistance is based upon eligibility and available resources.
- Free boarding applies only to qualifying detox and intensive inpatient treatment programs.
- I am responsible for maintaining communication and complying with program requirements.
- Boarding beyond approved periods is not guaranteed.
- My participation is dependent upon remaining compliant with Project Recovery policies and my treatment program.

I understand that Project Recovery's goal is to help me achieve long-term stability while keeping my companion safe and helping us remain together whenever possible.

Participant Name: _____

Companion Animal(s): _____

Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Project Recovery Representative: _____

Date: _____

"Recovery should never require you to choose between your future and the companion who has stood beside you through your past. At Project Recovery, we believe healing is stronger when families stay together."

Program Partnership Disclosure

Project Recovery is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to removing barriers to recovery for individuals with companion animals. To provide many of the animal care and workforce services offered through the program, Project Recovery has established a strategic partnership with **Serenity Paws Pet Stylist**.

Serenity Paws has been selected as Project Recovery's preferred service provider because of its experience working with companion animals belonging to individuals experiencing crisis, its commitment to safety, and its ability to provide the specialized care many of these animals require.

Through this partnership, Serenity Paws may provide services that include:

Companion Animal Services

- Safe transportation of companion animals when available
- Temporary boarding
- Daily care and enrichment
- Grooming and hygiene services
- Behavioral support and basic training
- Veterinary coordination
- Assistance with vaccinations, wellness care, and spay/neuter services when approved through Project Recovery

Workforce Development

Project Recovery recognizes that long-term recovery often depends upon stable employment.

For this reason, Serenity Paws has also been selected as the program's preferred employment partner and serves as the primary workforce development site for qualified Project Recovery participants.

Eligible participants may have the opportunity to:

- Apply for available employment opportunities
- Receive workplace coaching and mentoring
- Develop job skills
- Build employment history
- Transition toward long-term financial independence

Project Recovery participants are given **priority consideration** for available positions at Serenity Paws; however, **employment is not guaranteed**. All applicants must successfully complete Serenity Paws' standard hiring process, meet company qualifications, and comply with all employment policies and expectations.

Independent Organizations

Although Project Recovery and Serenity Paws work closely together, they are **separate organizations with separate purposes and responsibilities.**

- **Project Recovery** provides case management, recovery support, navigation services, participant advocacy, and financial assistance programs when available.
- **Serenity Paws** provides animal care services and employment opportunities under its own business policies, operational standards, licensing requirements, and employment practices.

Participation in Project Recovery does not automatically guarantee boarding assistance, financial assistance, or employment with Serenity Paws. Likewise, employment with Serenity Paws does not guarantee continued eligibility for Project Recovery services.

Both organizations share the common goal of helping individuals achieve lasting recovery while preserving the human-animal bond whenever safely possible. Together, they strive to remove barriers, promote personal responsibility, and create opportunities for participants to build stable, healthy, and independent lives alongside their companion animals.

