

A NEW OPTION FOR PET CARE



TOP LEFT: Casey Renegade Thomson wears aviator glasses before his double eye surgery because of severe cataracts and eye ulcers.

TOP RIGHT: Cleo sits in her carrier after Carol and her son bring her to Options Veterinary Care for a follow-up exam after tests to see why the cat couldn't keep food down.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dr. Jeannie examines Sara's painful face while Cynthia holds the dog.

Donate

You can learn more about Options Veterinary Care and help pets in need by visiting optionsveterinarycare.org/donate.

One little known but heartbreaking statistic

is that three times more pets are euthanized each year at veterinary clinics because their people cannot afford necessary treatment than are put down at animal shelters.

It's called "economic euthanasia," and it's a growing problem as the cost of veterinary care has increased in recent years.

This was the inspiration for a new nonprofit clinic called Options Veterinary Care in Reno – the first of its kind in Northern Nevada.

"If you view your pet as a member of the family, as more than two-thirds of Americans do, you can imagine how heartbreaking it would be to know that your pet needs veterinary care that you can't afford." said Denise Stevens, clinic director of Options, "For many senior citizens, whose pets may be their primary companion, this is a real problem. We see people in this very situation every day."

Options opened in December and it quickly became apparent that seniors, especially those on fixed incomes, were some of those most in need of an affordable, high-quality veterinary clinic like Options. Washoe County Human Services reports that 1 in 4 seniors in the county are moderately or highly isolated, making the companionship of a pet even more important to quality of life.

One example involves a little Shih Tzu named Gypsy who started having trouble eating because of problems with her teeth. Gypsy's person Della didn't know where to turn.

Della is retired and her husband passed away a few years ago. Her son

would love to help, but he's dealing with medical bills resulting from his partner's cancer treatment. He delivers meals to the home-bound and homeless in Sun Valley, and Della fills in when he's unable to go. This little dog is the love of their lives.

Gypsy got the treatment she so desperately needed at Options nonprofit clinic, thanks to the generosity of donors.

Cleo is another case. She's a seven-year-old cat who's not a fan of most people, except for Carol. It took her a while but Carol finally won over this shy cat by employing lots of love and patience. They've gotten very close. Carol is 73 years old and she is living on a very limited income, so when the cat began having trouble keeping her food down, Carol got really worried. That is, until she got connected with Options.

The clinic did blood work and radiographs and provided needed treatment including dental care. A recent follow-up appointment showed Cleo had made a big improvement, which decreased Carol's stress.

Casey Renegade Thomson is a Bichon Frise who came to Options with cataracts and eye ulcers so severe that double enucleation – removal of both eyes – was required. His person Debbie had been able to take him regularly to her own private veterinarian to treat his diabetes. But her son was killed overseas in the line of duty a few years ago, and her health took a steep decline. Because of her own mounting medical costs, she couldn't afford to get treatment for Casey Renegade Thomson's eyes – until she learned about Options.

"The community makes what we do possible," Stevens said. "When people donate to Options, we put it to use immediately helping pets who would not otherwise get veterinary care."



TOP: Debbie holds her Bichon Frise named Casey Renegade Thomson, whose damaged eyes required removal.
BOTTOM: Dr. Pearson holds Rizzo after a three-hour surgery at Options Veterinary Care to remove cloth and plastic the dog had swallowed.

Any size gift helps.



OPTIONS
VETERINARY CARE
a nonprofit clinic