

DOUBLE THE PAWPRINTS

Case Statement

Since early 2007, National Mill Dog Rescue (NMDR) has been carrying out its mission to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome former breeding dogs and to educate the public about the commercial dog breeding industry. To date, we have successfully rescued and placed over 18,000 breeding dogs.

In the Fall of 2008, the organization moved from the “canine cottages” in Black Forest to a rented kennel facility in Peyton Colorado. Five years later, through the generosity of a growing number of supporters, NMDR purchased the property and over the next 10 years, many outstanding improvements were made to the facility.

Today, NMDR employs 30 staff members and operates an impressive 20,000 square foot shelter and care facility, including 80 spacious kennel runs, a fully staffed, state-of-the-art veterinary clinic, several large indoor and outdoor exercise/enrichment yards, and a 10-run behavior and rehabilitation center. As well, from rescue through adoption, dozens of exceptionally dedicated volunteers assist in executing our mission every day.

Over the years, in an effort to maximize the number of dogs we could rescue, we’ve developed transfer partnerships with shelters and breed specific rescues across the country. Approximately one quarter of the dogs we rescue each year are placed through these life-saving partnerships.

Today, shelters from coast to coast are reporting drastically low adoption rates and declining community interest largely due to their selection of available dogs. Many larger dogs are being overlooked as the demand for dogs under 30 pounds is rapidly growing, most often due to rental restrictions.

At the same time, we are rescuing record numbers of dogs each month, many of which are smaller breeds, making the timing perfect to grow our transfer partnership program and greatly increase the number of dogs we’re able to rescue and send to safe destinations. A key partnership goal is that in providing more desirable dogs for various communities, it will help to revitalize community interest, bringing people back to their local shelters to consider adoption.

Our ability to rescue double the number of dogs has been largely hampered by the operational challenges associated with the distance between our home base in Colorado and the most common places we carry out our mission throughout the Midwest. In 2022, we were gifted a very generous, one-time donation from the family of an adopter. This donation allowed us to purchase outright a property in Missouri perfect for our growing mission. The property is central to the states we conduct most of our rescue work in and well-centered geographically to accommodate transports with our partners. This former horse property has two large metal

buildings, one with a 60'x90' riding arena and 2-bedroom housing built in. It was easy to see how this one-time horse facility could be renovated to become a kennel holding facility and partner transfer destination.

With the generous support of a long-time donor, the initial renovation process is underway. We are working to raise additional funds to fully install the kennel runs that house the dogs, and for the operational costs that will allow us to run more rescues and begin saving our initial goal of twice the number of dogs within the first six months of operation.

This gift is the first step in allowing us to realize many goals:

1. Having a location in the Midwest where we can overnight our rescued dogs and teams safely and securely.
2. Having a location centrally located for our transfer partners, allowing NMDR to double the number of dogs rescued each year. NOTE: Using the facility as is, prior to renovations, NMDR was able to rescue an additional 110 dogs in one month late last year.
3. Having a location central to our work; allowing us to give tours, explain more about our mission and begin to expand our humane education programs.

With your contribution to our Double the Pawprints campaign, NMDR will be empowered to significantly increase the number of dogs we rescue and place into loving homes while continuing to serve and educate the individuals and communities we are working with.