

Diane Robinson

*Animal Emergency Services instructor (since 2006)
Red Star responder (since 2006)*



In her capacity as training instructor and curriculum developer for American Humane's Animal Protection Division, Diane Robinson both writes and teaches some of the organization's signature workshops. Diane is co-author and instructor of Disaster Sheltering for Companion Animals and Basic Equine Care and Handling for the Investigator, and she is currently developing new curricula for American Humane's Leadership Development Program. She also teaches Basic Animal Emergency Services and Animal Rescue Training for First Responders. Diane is a member of the Douglas County (Colo.) Search and Rescue Team and a senior responder on American Humane's Red Star Animal Emergency Services team, with whom she has deployed to 13 disasters since 2006.

Diane's diverse background includes a bachelor's degree in photography from Penn State, a master's degree in Pedagogy of Physical Education from the University of Northern Colorado, and positions coaching track and field, working in a high school art department and teaching at a K-8 charter school in the Physical Education and Adventure Education program.

Says Diane, "I'm fortunate that I get to teach what I love to do. It's great to be around people who are so passionate about animals. They get so excited by what they're learning and so motivated to use the information to prepare for their own disasters or to become part of the Red Star team. I also love responding; it reminds me how important my job is for the animals and people we help. And it feeds my adrenaline junkie needs!"

Of her two dogs, one cat and two horses, Diane says, "All came to me in their own unique way. My golden was given to me when his owner couldn't control him; he was an 80-pound 1-year-old who had not been trained. My 2-year-old rescue -- a golden/shepherd mix -- is my reminder of why I do this job; he was a feral puppy who could have had a tough life on the streets or worse. Instead, he is a kind and loving dog who loves his dog brother and cat sister, who was also born to a feral mother. My half Arabian horse is my partner on the trail, and our latest addition is a Clydesdale found on a rescue website. True to the draft breed, he is a kindhearted and gentle giant."