Moby’s miracle

At Animal Humane miracles happen every day because of you. Moby’s transformation from hurting to healed is one of our favorite stories from 2017. It truly captures the positive effects of your commitment to the homeless pets in our care.

Moby, a 7-month-old Australian Cattle Dog, was found wandering the reservation near Gallup, New Mexico. He came to us as part of our Project Fetch transfer program, and we are thankful he did. Moby was suffering from a case of generalized Demodex Mange — a parasitic infection causing hair loss and crusty skin. His case was severe, and the hair loss combined with his exposure to the elements had resulted in skin that was sunburnt, infected and painful to the touch.

Dr. Kimberly Hamel, Chief Veterinary Officer at our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic recalls, “When his skin was touched it would ooze pus and he would recoil.” Demodex Mange requires several months of treatments but, because of you, our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic & Foster Care Teams had the resources necessary to ease Moby’s discomfort.

We treated Moby with a range of antibiotics to address the infection, a parasiticide to kill the Demodex mites and medicated baths to soothe his irritated skin. After a month in veterinary care and four months with an experienced Foster Care family, Moby was ready for adoption — and it didn’t take long for this playful canine to find his perfect match.

We continued to see more of what you made possible in 2017 on page 4.
where are they now?

There’s no greater joy than witnessing one of our shelter pets choosing someone before your eyes. Or witnessing someone’s face light up when they decide to make a special cat or dog their own. **The creation of a family is a gift that keeps on giving**, as you have the pleasure of receiving updates as the years pass and the love between pets & owners grows.

We often share news of how your support allows our miraculous team to ready our shelter pets to meet their perfect people. Today, I’m turning the tables & highlighting two special alumni who found their life-long owners years ago. I hope you enjoy their stories, which are a true celebration of the love shelter pets bring to our lives.

Wishing happiness to you & your four-legged friends,

Donna M. Stumpf
Executive Director

Marco Polo

Marco Polo was a yard dog before being surrendered to Animal Humane. He was clearly not used to being inside. When we arrived at home and I took off his leash, Marco immediately jumped on the dining room table to see what was up there. When we went upstairs he trotted into the bathroom and leapt into the (empty) bathtub.

I was looking for a Border Collie when I found Marco. I had started doing agility with my Schnauzer, Red, and my Lab mix, Knox, but neither of them really loved it. I wanted to run a dog that was as addicted to the sport as I was. Marco started basic agility as soon as he finished obedience and you could easily see it was a good fit for him. We progressed through the levels from Novice to Masters and at 11 he earned his highest award, the Preferred Agility Championship (PACH). He retired just last summer at age 12.

At the same time he started his agility training, Marco began training to be a Therapy Dog through Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers. After completing our training & certification, we enrolled in a ’Read to the Dogs’ program held at public libraries. The program helps children become comfortable & confident readers. Parents and teachers may correct a mispronunciation, but a dog will simply listen to the story. Some of my most rewarding moments are when parents tell me how much Marco has helped their child relax and enjoy reading. From Marco’s point of view, our visits consist of lying on a rug beside me, being pet by anyone passing by & receiving a treat when a child finishes reading. Marco knows the drill well and he eagerly leaps to his feet for his reward the moment a child closes their book.

Marco Polo was 3 ½ when I adopted him 9 years ago. **I had some concerns that his age might prevent us from bonding closely, but I was wrong.** It would have been great fun to know him as a puppy, but I don’t know how we could be any closer or have more fun together.

Thank you Animal Humane!

—Amy Tanler
2017 Adoption Advisor of the Year:
Nathan Herrera

Our Adoption Team often know the dogs and cats in our care better than the back of their own hands. They spend seven days a week working with our pets & helping them find contentment in new homes. Last year, Nathan Herrera, our 2017 Adoption Advisor of the Year, facilitated the formation of a new family an amazing 291 times.

When asked, it was easy for Nathan to pick his favorite pet success story. He recalls, “We thought Moo was going to have to be an only dog. But the right family appeared and Moo had a great meet & greet with their dog. Now, Moo’s doing brilliantly in his new home. It is always such a treat to see a dog, one I have grown to know and love, find such a perfect fit!”

It was a lifelong passion for pets that drew Nathan to animal welfare. About to celebrate his third anniversary as a member of the Animal Humane family, Nathan has already joined the 700 Club, an exclusive group of Adoption Advisors who have helped 700+ cats & dogs find forever homes. When asked about his goals for 2018, Nathan didn’t hesitate — he wants to reach the 1,000 adoptions milestone.

With your wonderful support, we’re sure Nathan will achieve his goal while he helps another 300 lucky pets find loving homes in 2018.

— Carolyn Levy

Tom

Years before Project Fetch was initiated, people would sometimes bring a cat or dog to Animal Humane from a shelter outside of Albuquerque. **Tom arrived as a stray from the Valencia County Animal Shelter,** where a volunteer noticed him because he was so sweet and people-oriented. She decided to bring Tom to Animal Humane thinking he would find a home more quickly in Albuquerque.

As luck would have it, I was volunteering at Animal Humane one Sunday when a long-time Animal Humane team member, James Bonecutter, brought Tom into the cattery. Once in his new cage, Tom proceeded to eat his entire bowl of dry food. Wow, I thought, “this cat must be very hungry, so I gave him a bit more, that he also ate. I took Tom out to brush him and he responded affectionately with a very loud purr — a purr so memorable he was destined to join our family.

Tom’s extroverted nature makes him the official greeter when the doorbell rings and a natural therapy cat. When Animal Humane received a request for a cat to visit a woman nearing the end of her life, I volunteered Tom since I knew he would not be afraid in a new setting. In fact, he was very sweet and loving to her, and subsequently the woman asked to see a kitten! According to the woman’s daughter, seeing and petting felines over the next few weeks helped to extend her mother’s life several additional months.

Over the years my partner Kay and I have fostered many cats, kittens and dogs, and invariably Tom steps in to show them the way things work at our house. Because Tom is not afraid of dogs, he has often been used as a “test cat” to see if a dog would be friendly to felines. He’s also good with little children. This has been great since we moved to Houston to be near Kay’s grandchildren.

In April, Tom will be 14 years old. He still is his same sweet self, chatting with our housekeeper, helping the plumber and electrician when they come to make repairs and, of course, greeting and entertaining our dinner guests. His appetite still remains hearty, and his favorite activities in his golden years are naps in the sun and binge watching Netflix with his humans.

We’ll always be grateful to Animal Humane for helping save our Tommy.

We absolutely adore him!
2017 at-a-glance
see what you made possible!

92% Live Release Rate
4,082 cats & dogs found new homes through our Adoption program

132 homeless pets received behavior support from 4 shelter behaviorists.
1,703 at-risk pets transferred from rural & municipal shelters through Project Fetch.

948 families assisted through our FREE Behavior Helpline.

86 YOUTH CAMPERS + 9 JUNIOR VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS attended Camp Humane and Winter Adventure Camp.

6,166 STUDENTS & EDUCATORS studied humane education through Camp Humane and Winter Adventure Camp.

8,879 EDUCATIONAL CONTACT HOURS @ 67 SCHOOLS.

644 pets were nurtured by Foster Care families.

110,000 POUNDS OF PET FOOD from our Pet Food Bank helped 241 struggling households feed their pets each week.

428 VOLUNTEERS contributed a total of 46,273 hours. This is equivalent to an additional 22.25 full-time employees.

$313K raised during Doggie Dash & Dawdle for homeless pets — surpassing our goal.

926 pets received
1,597 VACCINATIONS
506 MICROCHIPS
through our ASPCA® Community Partnership.

263 and 531 received SUBSIDIZED SPAY NEUTER SERVICES

1,119 canine students attended 363 Behavior, Agility & Specialty classes.

10 world-class, certified trainers on staff at The Center.

77% of our $2M Center fundraising goal reached with the help of extraordinary donors.

Chris Sakamoto Foster Volunteer

Meet Alba, our longest resident of 2017

Thank you for making these extraordinary accomplishments a reality.

TEN DAYS average length of time pets received pre-adoption behavior support

Families assisted through our FREE Behavior Helpline.

Longest Stay: 168 DAYS
Shortest Stay: LESS THAN 1 HOUR

Meet Alba, our longest resident of 2017

Foster Volunteer

HOMEPET

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Thank you for making these extraordinary accomplishments a reality.
we’re lucky to have a friend like you

According to an Irish proverb, “A good friend is like a four-leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.” Animal Humane is certainly lucky to have a friend like Lisa Dillon!

Every year for the past two decades, Lisa has held an ever-growing St. Patrick’s Day party to benefit our shelter’s homeless pets. Lisa explains, “The first year, we had about 12 people and it just kept growing.” In recent years, Lisa and her rescue dog, Presley, have welcomed nearly 100 guests to the annual event. Relatives come all the way from Colorado and Arizona to prepare for the party and to help Lisa & Presley make the world a better place for homeless pets.

Revelers enjoy traditional Irish favorites like corned beef, cabbage and soda bread. In return, Lisa requests a donation, monetary or in-kind, to benefit the cats and dogs awaiting new homes at our shelter. For Lisa, bringing all the toys, food, and cash to our campus is truly the highlight of the event.

Guests also send in their donations directly, letting us know their support is in honor of Lisa and her life-saving party.

Lisa says she originally picked our shelter 20 years ago because she loves animals, loves Animal Humane and wanted to keep her giving local. Go raibh maith agat Lisa, from the thankful pets and people of Animal Humane New Mexico. Your support over the last two decades has made a significant difference in the lives of homeless pets! We look forward to celebrating the next 20 St. Patrick’s Days with you.

In the words of another Irish proverb, “May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty.”
imperfectly flawless: Geordi finds a forever home

Flawless and perfect are frequently used as synonyms. But those with a heart for pets realize that they are not precisely the same thing. In fact, it is often a pet’s flaws or quirks that make us love them all the more.

Geordi, a Domestic Short Hair cat, was abandoned by his owners. After a kind soul brought him to us, our Animal Care Team quickly discovered that, among other minor ailments, he was blind.

Your compassionate support allowed our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic Team to treat him for an upper respiratory infection and conduct testing on Geordi’s eyes. We determined that his blindness was likely not the result of trauma; rather, this sweet, playful feline had been blind since birth.

Your generosity created a place of love and acceptance for this precious cat. Without you, we couldn’t have provided the veterinary care Geordi needed to resolve his URI. We couldn’t have provided him with the nutritious, grain-free meals he needed to relieve the symptoms of a grain allergy. You made it possible for us to make Geordi healthy, safe and comfortable while he waited for the right adopter to appear.

While there is no such thing as a flawless pet, there is such a thing as a perfect one and when Adrianné met Geordi, it was love at first sight. When the perfect pet is before you, minor flaws — such as the inability to see — are less important than the love that flows between you.

According to Adrianné, “I took a gamble adopting a blind cat to integrate into my home, knowing that it might be difficult to introduce him to my crew of rambunctious & rowdy dogs. Geordi adjusted within days. He struts around like he owns the place, chases toys, climbs his cat tower, scratches my couch, plays with the dogs and curls up by my feet at night. Most days, I forget that he’s blind and Geordi doesn’t know life any other way. I’m very lucky to have a perfectly imperfect cat to call my very own!” For Geordi & Adrianné, and every family you’ve created, thank you!