moving back into our kennels!

Phase III of Project Humane Wraps Up

In late March, we ecstatically moved our dogs out of the Quonset Hut and into our beautifully renovated Kennel Building. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our patient and dedicated Animal Care Team for their perseverance in expertly caring for 30 dogs in less than ideal conditions from October to March. A major THANK YOU is also due to our highly committed Volunteer Dog Walkers for making a huge difference for the well-being of these dogs as they walked and supported our pets during this challenging time.

Our Kennel renovation had two key goals: 1. to reduce stress and promote wellness of our canine residents with improved housing and 2. to provide an improved Dog Treatment area for sick dogs. Before this renovation, our kennels were extremely noisy, measuring in decibels just one level below that of a jet engine. The building also had horrible climate control. The old swamp coolers were incapable of cooling the massive building during our hot summer months and the gas heaters could never quite keep the building warm enough during the winter. Air exchanges were achieved by leaving doors open.

In our new design, the HVAC system delivers 10 -12 air exchanges an hour to help keep our dogs free from respiratory illness, following the recommendations of the latest shelter studies from UC Davis Koret School of Shelter Medicine. Refrigerated air will keep the building cool in summer and a “right-sized” heating system will keep our dogs warm in the winter. The building is heavily sound proofed to reduce noise and stress. Just as in Big Blue, you can feel the soothing hush when you enter the building.

Where possible, we provided runs and rooms with improved dimensions. As demonstrated in Big Blue, we are able to greatly reduce a dog’s stress level with our 14 new Real Life Rooms. In addition, there are now 14 wider runs for our larger dogs and 14 runs for small dogs, replacing the small cages we previously used for small dog holding. The total number of dog runs in our renovated kennels is unchanged.

Our new Dog Treatment area, generously funded by an anonymous donor in loving memory of their spouse, is a huge improvement over our previous loud, cramped dog isolation room. Now, we have a true isolation area which is closed off from the rest of the building. It has a dedicated ventilation system and is heavily sound proofed to reduce stress while our dogs are on the mend. Dog Treatment is outfitted with its own laundry and food prep areas to prevent cross contamination. These 14 runs are equipped with free access to outdoor runs during the day to help promote healing.

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Melody, a 1-year-old Cattledog mix, was transferred from Roswell Animal Control’s shelter one day before her scheduled euthanasia. Project Fetch gave her the second chance she deserved!

To assist our staff and volunteers in their work, we installed two computers so they may access information about the pets in residence or update their records in real time. We have also added a dedicated work area for our volunteers to make the best use of their valuable time.

As part of our overall plan, the kennels will not be open to the public. We will continue to operate with Big Blue as our adoption showcase. The public may view all dogs on our website and if they wish to see a dog that is in the kennels, we will bring the dog to Big Blue so they can meet their potential new family member. We have found that our adoption numbers are increasing with this practice of limited selection, a well-known retail strategy.

Because the public will not be in this building, we saved money by being conservative with finishes. For example, instead of tiling our floors, Facilities Manager Vince Mouser and our expert Facilities Team created beautifully stained concrete floors. The building looks amazing thanks to stunning paint colors from our new palette. We are also pleased that our kennels are now equipped with fire sprinklers for the safety of our staff, volunteers and pets.

We are approaching the finish line of Project Humane, with all construction and landscaping due to be completed by the end of August. We are extremely proud and grateful for all the improvements that you, our very generous donors, have made possible.

Thank you for helping us save more lives!

Peggy Weigle, Executive Director

the PEDIGREE Foundation is helping us save lives!

Throughout the year, our dedicated staff and volunteers drive to the farthest reaches of New Mexico to pick up cats and dogs from other shelters and rescue groups through our pet transfer program, Project Fetch. For over 10 years we have been partnering with shelters throughout New Mexico to support their work and give more pets another chance at a wonderful life. Once at Animal Humane, our professional and dedicated team performs health checks, schedules spay/neuter surgeries, SAFER behavior assessments, and finds comfortable lodging for these weary travelers. Our program gives homeless pets a second chance at finding a new life, and provides a valuable service to shelters across New Mexico. Animal Humane provides an opportunity for overcrowded rural shelters to transfer pets to us when they have no options, no resources, and no alternatives to euthanasia for the pets that reside in their care.

The PEDIGREE Foundation has generously provided Animal Humane New Mexico with a $15,000 grant in support of our efforts. The Foundation’s mission to help dogs by providing grants to 501(c)3 shelters and rescue groups and encourage dog adoption aligns with ours, and we’re honored to receive their dedicated support of our vital program. In 2013 we were able to help 15 shelters in 13 different counties by transferring 1,274 pets into our care, a 43% increase over 2012. We’re confident that the thoughtful support of the PEDIGREE Foundation will assist us in growing Project Fetch this year, so that we can make an even bigger impact statewide and save more lives.
When the school doors close in May and everyone steps out of the school-year routine for a few months, the chance for exploration begins. Summer is an exciting time for visiting new places, meeting new friends and enjoying experiences students may never have had before. As adults we remember our summer vacations years into the future, and Summer 2014 could be a very memorable one for animal-loving students you know if they spend part of it with us!

This year, Animal Humane is thrilled to introduce Camp Humane, a week-long day camp for students ages 8-11 years old. Over five exciting days, Camp Humane participants will be given a chance to explore bonds with animals, and will learn everything from what pets need from people and why, to how animals and humans work together and help each other.

Participants will meet different types of pets and learn about their needs, explore issues that affect animals in our communities, learn about topics that affect pet homelessness, and consider ways we can help animals through daily actions or by choosing an animal-related career. Through games, crafts, discussions, visits from guest speakers and hands-on interactions with animal visitors, campers will spend a fun, engaging week immersed in what it means to show empathy and how to be kind to all life.

And, younger campers aren’t the only ones who can join in on the fun! To make Camp Humane a success, we need help from youth volunteers interested in working with children and pets! Students ages 16-18 looking for a unique way to give back this summer can join the Animal Humane team as Junior Volunteer Counselors, learn more about Animal Humane and receive some wonderful real-world experience.

introducing the 2014 Montezuma Ball King & Queen
Pat Vincent-Collawn & Bob Collawn

As the head of New Mexico’s largest electric utility, Pat Vincent-Collawn is usually busy making sure PNM customers always have safe, reliable, and affordable power. But if you look over her shoulder during a meeting, you just might catch her on her iPad, checking the online camera at the doggie daycare to see if her dog Luc is playing nice with his friends. Pat, along with Bob Collawn, a real estate investor, are devoted to their “children”...three dogs, two cats, and a McCaw they have adopted over the years. Luc is a German Shepherd mix, Chico is a Border Collie-Shepherd mix, and Val (named because she was born on Valentine’s Day) is a German Shepherd adopted as a senior by Pat and Bob. The two cats are Tigger, an orange Tabby, and Rigel, a black and white Tuxedo. Rounding out the brood is Pirate, a blue and gold McCaw who can be very ornery. Pat contributes to Animal Humane New Mexico and considers herself an animal advocate. She is active in the Albuquerque community through organizations such as the United Way of Central New Mexico and the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves as Chair of the Kirtland Partnership Committee.

An adopted New Mexican since 2007, Pat says “I’m fortunate to have a position that allows me to serve and support many different constituents across our state, and to experience the wonderful attributes that truly make this the Land of Enchantment.”
the healing power of a canine companion

Terry is a former Specialist in the US Army. Many of her family members served in the military, and she was proud to be the first woman to do so. After completing her basic training at Fort Dix and medic training at Fort Sam Houston, she was deployed to Iraq at the start of Desert Storm. Terry served on the front line as a combat medic. She will feel the stress and experience of that duty for the rest of her life.

When her service ended, Terry joined the National Guard, and entered the reserves after moving to New Mexico. Civilian life was difficult as Terry experienced flashbacks, panic attacks and nightmares on a regular basis. Her symptoms were affecting her ability to function at work, at home, and even when buying groceries. Then, one life-changing day, her counselor showed her an article in *Time* magazine about service dogs aiding victims of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). While researching programs like Paws and Stripes, Terry found Tony, a dog who was brought to Animal Humane in July 2011 by a kind person who found him roaming the streets. A healthy one-year-old Boxer, Tony’s sweet temperament immediately caught Terry’s attention. Tony passed the Paws and Stripes evaluations with flying colors. During their six month training period, Terry and Tony began to work well as a team, and Terry’s confidence increased significantly. With Tony, now called Jax, by her side Terry has gained the confidence to access her community in ways she couldn’t before. In public, Jax alerts Terry to anxiety before she is aware of it and while she can still turn it around. At home, Terry sleeps easier knowing Jax is close by and that he will wake her from nightmares. As Terry says, “Life is beginning to feel normal.”

Over 20 years later, the brave young combat medic that tended to her fellow soldiers on the battlefield has found a way to move forward with her life. Her world is finally opening back up, thanks to a renewed sense of confidence from a four-legged hero adopted from Animal Humane, named Jax.
Anchors come in all forms

Latrice Jackson lost her mother last year and for six months she and her children mourned and missed a pivotal figure in their family. Then, Admiral arrived at their front door. A vocal, precocious kitty, Admiral walked into their home unannounced one day, changing it forever. Latrice’s daughter began feeding this funny stray cat, even though Latrice was clear that her family “didn’t even like cats.” But Admiral’s funny, demanding personality grew on them. One day he walked right into their living room begging for help. He had a huge cut in his side, possibly caused by being caught on a fence or post. Latrice’s family was great. It was then that Admiral came to Animal Humane’s Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic.

Our dedicated Veterinary Team treated Admiral’s wound through two surgeries, to remove infected tissues and treat the original injury. This funny kitty would not tolerate an Elizabethan collar and wanted to lick all the time, so our Team had to keep him in doggy sweaters. Admiral spent a few weeks in our Clinic, charming everyone with his cattitude and regal demeanor, all while complaining loudly about the indignity of sweaters.

Admiral is now home with the Jackson family. He is spoiled, loved, and kept inside to prevent future injuries. He spends his days bossing Latrice around and entertaining a new grandbaby in the family. Latrice couldn’t imagine her life without him, and truly believes that he came into their lives at just the right time to remind her of the power of love and family.
Gerald Lawrence Alberts remembers Animal Humane in his trust

Starting over 20 years ago, my step-father Jerry and my mother began adopting strays and rescue pets throughout Southern California. At one time, they had 6 dogs—all Heinz 57 types from Chihuahuas to Poodles to Terriers.

When they moved back to Albuquerque in 2006, they had three rescue dogs in their pack—a Silky Terrier for my Mother and two mixed breeds for Jerry. At one point, Jerry and my Mother made the difficult decision to turn a dog over to Animal Humane because he was causing problems that Jerry could not handle. It broke his heart to have to do this, but Animal Humane was there to assist him and re-home his pet.

After my Mother passed away in 2008, Jerry returned to California and resided in an assisted living facility. He brought his final rescue dog, Toy, back with him. Even Jerry could not care for Toy as time went on, her care was his top concern, so our family adopted her beloved pet. The two visited weekly during the last five years of Jerry’s life.

Throughout the 44 years that Jerry was my step-father, he was a dog lover. All types were his favorite. Even though he never had one of his own, Jerry adored our rescued German Shepherds. He loved their big ears and playfulness. He would relieve throwing the balls, teddy-bears, ropes and miscellaneous toys the dogs would bring for him to toss...over and over and over again. Jerry just couldn’t wear them out and it tickled him so!

I am so touched that his name will appear in Animal Humane’s Memorial Bequest Garden—as Jerry never forgot the kindness and understanding you showed him when he needed you most. I know Jerry would be honored to be added to the names of others who have included your shelter in their estate plans. He never was one for any recognition, but he should be remembered for what he has done for the dogs and cats of Albuquerque.

Jerry wasn’t picky about his dogs; he loved them all. He was a quiet and sweet man. We miss him, but knowing that his legacy will help disadvantaged animals is comforting during our time of loss.

Robertta Woods