one half century of caring and progress

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to an entire year celebrating our 50th Anniversary with our community. The passionate work started by Thelma and Colonel Edmund Evans in 1965 continues to this day. Perhaps it is because their vision was so clear that all of the programs they started—low-cost spay/neuter, adoption and Lost & Found services, humane education, and legislative initiatives—are still very much a part of our organization.

The Anti-Cruelty Federation of New Mexico was founded in 1965 at the Evans’ kitchen table on 2400 Morrow Road NE. The earliest activities focused on providing a Lost & Found service and cruelty investigations. Stray dogs were boarded at local veterinary kennels until the organization moved to our current location at 615 Virginia Street SE in 1969. From the very beginning, Ed focused on legislative initiatives to improve the lives of animals in our state, while Thelma’s passions were spay/neuter programs, adoptions and humane education.

Providing spay/neuter services has been a constant priority. Our first initiative was a rebate program started by Thelma, which paid $25 to any pet owner presenting a receipt for “sterilization.” Adopted pets went home with a spay agreement, with the services outsourced to local veterinarians. In 1977, a generous bequest from the estate of George C. Whittell enabled us to build our Veterinary Clinic, which provided veterinary care to shelter animals. In 2007, our Clinic was renovated and low-cost spay/neuter services were made available to the public in addition to all shelter pets; services for feral cats began in 2008. Fifty years and thousands of spay/neuter surgeries has made a difference! In 1975, it was estimated that there were 50,000 – 60,000 homeless pets in the City of Albuquerque. In contrast, in 2014 intakes city-wide (between the two CABQ shelters and Animal Humane combined) have plummeted to 26,500 and our combined Live Release Rate is a commendable 87%.

Finding perfect homes for homeless pets has been another key mission. In the early years, the adoption and Lost & Found programs were 100% volunteer-run. Today, we are able to hire highly trained full-time employees to run these and many other vital programs. We recently spoke with 98 year old Evelyn Blisard who volunteered for 8 years and was given an award for her service by Thelma and Ed in 1991. She devoted her time to our Lost & Found program, performing adoptions, as well as training and supervising volunteers. Evelyn remembered her time at Animal Humane as the best years of her life. Sadly, Evelyn passed away in January.

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Our adoption policies have evolved as well. When Thelma was running our shelter, homeless pets were given three weeks to find a home before they were humanely euthanized. In Thelma’s view, this was only fair so that the maximum number of animals were given the opportunity for adoption. Today, we have **no length of stay limits**. In the 1980s, neither the City nor Animal Humane adopted out pets during the Christmas season, no black cats on Halloween, and no Pit Bulls due to the concern they would be used in fighting. Today, we delivered newly adopted pets on Christmas Day, adopt cats out regardless of the holiday or myth, and adopt out over 1,500+ Pit Bull-type dogs annually, our state’s third most popular breed.

Other programs that have excelled through the years include our humane education programs, currently called Learn Humane, and our youth summer program, Camp Humane, which was Camp-Love-a-Pet in an earlier iteration. In the late 1990s, we also had a Junior Humane program.

Over our 50 years, we were either fundraising to build or building better housing for our pets and programs. **This constant drive to improve, expand and upgrade our Virginia Street Campus has seen us evolve from our original brick “Heritage Building” bought in 1969 on 2 acres to our current post-Project Humane 4-acre campus with 10 buildings.** With final renovations underway to improve the Mary Claire Bachechi Learning Center and to expand our Clinic into the Heritage Building, we will be ready to deliver on our Mission into the next half-century. We look forward to you joining us in this next life-saving chapter for Animal Humane and New Mexico’s homeless pets!

Peggy Weigle, Executive Director

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**Margaret visiting with Jax while he awaits his forever home**
Melissa Jackson, our longest employee

I started working at Animal Humane on September 5, 1998. I applied for a “working with pets” ad in the newspaper. It’s been 17 years and I still love my job. It’s great to know that I’m able to do something good for homeless pets every day. Plus, I can only adopt so many, and those that I can’t adopt I can take care of until they find new loving homes!

John Merritt, Executive Director 2004-2006

Through Thelma and Edmund Evans’ hard work, and the work of those who came after them, Animal Humane has been the premiere animal welfare organization in New Mexico for 50 years, helping thousands of pets and people. In its 50th year, Animal Humane, its staff, volunteers and supporters is to be commended for following their vision and expanding the organization in ways that the Evans never imagined.

long-time volunteer, Nancy Wilkins

From humble beginnings in the Evans’ living room, to a state-of-the-art animal shelter, Animal Humane has made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of dogs, cats, and families in New Mexico. I am proud to have been a volunteer with many ‘hats’ over the past 40 years (and more to come!) and witness to our extraordinary transformation and impact. If I was a homeless critter today, I would want to come to Animal Humane for my second chance for a loving family!

Nancy’s ‘Hats’ Past & Present

- Foster Parent
- Eight-time Adopter
- Adoptions Counselor
- Lost & Found Assistant
- Thrift Shop Volunteer
- Photography Team
- Volunteer Leadership Council Chair
- Board Member, including President
- Interim Executive Director
- HR Training Consultant

Nancy, comfortable at home with Abby and Teddy Bear, both adopted from Animal Humane

Please send us your stories! Email your Animal Humane experiences to Celebrating50@AnimalHumaneNM.org
2014 AT A GLANCE

We achieved a groundbreaking 94% Live Release Rate for pets entering our care!

We transferred 1,550 at-risk pets into our care from 15 overcrowded rural shelters statewide through Project Fetch. A 22% increase over 2013!

We helped 3,921 homeless pets find loving new families and returned 226 lost pets to their owners through our Adoption program.

We provided FREE assistance to 1,083 people and their pets through our Behavior Helpline 505.938.7900.

We helped 408 families learn how to have happier, healthier relationships with their pets through 95 Train Humane classes, in addition to saving 65 shelter pets with comprehensive Behavior Modification programs.

We reached 4,796 students through 8,577 educational contact hours in our Learn Humane education programs, which were offered in 31% of APS schools. A 28% increase in numbers of students over 2013!

We were supported by 467 passionate Volunteers who provided 48,998 hours of service—the equivalent of 24 full-time employees.

We provided 895 vaccinations, 1020 microchips and 503 spay/neuter surgeries to pets through our ASPCA Partnership, in addition to serving 303 pet owning families at Pet Health Fairs and events.

We distributed 104,476 pounds of pet food to 2,260 families through 7,193 individual visits to our Pet Food Bank.

We provided FREE assistance to 1,083 people and their pets through our Behavior Helpline 505.938.7900.

We partnered with Paws & Stripes, helping 39 Animal Humane shelter dogs be evaluated for their program, with 13 dogs successfully paired with Veterans and adopted into loving homes.

We cared for 1,144 infant and adult pets in need through our Foster Care program, thanks to the help of 235 foster families.

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2014 Adoptions Employee of the Year: Angelica Maldonado!

Animal Humane is lucky to have a group of passionate pet lovers that comprise our spectacular Adoptions Team. Every day, they work diligently to find the perfect homes for each of the 140+ homeless pets in our daily care. In addition to being excellent matchmakers, they manage our Admissions program, work on our Behavior Team, run our Foster Care Program, and oversee our Retail operations and our Satellite and Mobile Adoptions activities. Once a year we recognize one of these stellar individuals as our Top Adoptions Advisor for placing the most pets in loving homes. Please join us in congratulating Angelica Maldonado for finishing 2014 with a massive 263 adoptions! This is the second year in a row that Angelica finished in our top spot. We are grateful for Angelica’s hard work, and for our entire Adoptions Team for their ongoing commitment to our life-saving mission!
quality veterinary care for everyone

Veterinarians in private practice are often forced to face difficult and emotional challenges when owners present an ill or injured pet and cannot afford the treatment that is necessary to save their pet’s life. These caring doctors work hard to compromise by providing alternative, less expensive (but potentially less effective) treatment options. They use their intuition and experience to gamble on a diagnosis because they skip medical tests that owners cannot afford. They may have to recommend euthanasia for a pet who is suffering, even if the pet could be cured with treatment that owners do not have the financial resources to cover. Sometimes the reality is that owners are forced to forego quality and necessary treatment due to their financial constraints.

But here in New Mexico we have a unique resource: Animal Humane New Mexico. Here, my heart does not have to break having an owner forego quality treatment solely because the cost of care sits outside their budget. At Animal Humane, there is always another option.

This is the reason I come to work every day: because pets should not have to suffer because of the financial constraints of their owners. I am so grateful to be a part of an organization that provides a high standard of care, a full range of medical services, quality surgery and life-sustaining, relationship-sustaining treatment to both homeless and owned pets needing veterinary care. Everyone deserves a chance to maintain their cherished pet’s health and happiness, even if they need a little help to do so.

Of course, the bigger and necessary picture is to foster more responsible pet ownership and to help end the overpopulation and homelessness of pets. Our Clinic Team gratifyingly plays a role in this mission too: through our low-cost preventive health services, our large scale spay-neuter efforts and our mandatory sterilization rule for pets. We are working hard to prevent unwanted litters and maintain the health of beloved pets... and we thank you, our devoted donors, for granting us this amazing privilege.

— Dr. Kim Hamel (pictured with her rescued dog Angie Roo)  
Chief Veterinary Officer

we provided the following services to the public in 2014

- Monthly Vaccination Clinic Patients*: 1,299
- Spay/Neuter Surgeries: 2,363
- Special Surgeries: 400
- Exams and Follow Up Appointments: 6,963
- Pets of Low-Income Families: 1,054
- Trap-Neuter-Return for Feral Cats: 978
- Pets in the care of Rescue Groups: 84
- Full Service Veterinary Care for Pets of Low-Income Families: 4,619
- Dental Care & Cleanings: 181
- Special Surgeries: 528
- Urgent Care: 362
- Routine Preventive Care: 3,548

* open to the general public

we provided the following services to shelter pets in 2014

- Spay/Neuter Surgeries: 2,363
- Special Surgeries: 400
- Exams and Follow Up Appointments: 6,963

In 2014, we treated many shelter pets, helping them become healthy adoptable companions. Our passionate Veterinary Team is supported by a skilled Animal Care Team, who administered 9,270 life-saving vaccinations to homeless pets, in addition to providing the following pets with loving care. Below are the numbers of shelter pets successfully cared for and treated by our Veterinary Team:

- 18 puppies with Parvo
- 40 cats and kittens for Ringworm
- 69 dogs and puppies with Kennel Cough and Upper Respiratory Infections
- 197 cats and kittens with Upper Respiratory Infections

Animal Humane believes that no pet should be denied care to improve or save its life, solely because its owners do not have the financial resources necessary for treatment.
It’s hard to remember a time when pets have not been members of our household. Usually, we have had at least one dog and one cat—often more—to share our lives with. Most of them have been rescuees, and we have a special affection for them.

Maybe it is our imagination, but they do seem to bond with us—and we with them—in a special way. In fact, our previous dog, Greta, actually picked us out by reaching through her cage and grabbing and holding John’s leg with her paws. How could we say no? Our newest dog, Miloh, is young, boisterous, and has quite the personality, yet he shares an uneasy truce with our geriatric cat, Bella.

We have been so pleased to have been involved with Animal Humane for many years as donors and adopters. When Kris joined the Board of Directors, our involvement increased considerably, which we consider to be a blessing to us. **Animal Humane is doing such important work and does it with clarity of mission and exemplary effectiveness.** Animal Humane not only meets the most basic needs of these special homeless pets, but through their comprehensive care, they attend to their physical, emotional and behavioral needs too, enabling cats and dogs to become ‘perfect pets’ for their new families.

Recently, we reviewed and updated our estate plans. In doing this, we considered which organizations we would like to include in our bequest planning. Animal Humane’s strong and important mission, its history and ethic of effectiveness, and our identification with the organization and its people made it clear to us that it should be included in our estate. Now we know that we can help them to continue to achieve their mission beyond our lifetimes.

— Kris & John Stichman

Kris & John Stichman with their dog Miloh, adopted from Animal Humane

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If you are making your estate plans and would like to make homeless pets the beneficiaries of your estate, life insurance policy or IRA, please contact Donna M. Stumpf, Senior Director of Development & Marketing at 505.938.7888 or Donna@AnimalHumaneNM.org for further details. We welcome the opportunity to discuss legacy gift options with you.

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**Beyond our lifetimes…**
In addition to finding homes for thousands of homeless pets a year, 700+ families come to Animal Humane by adopting pets and fostering new pets, which helps to ensure the pets are healthy and ready for adoption. PNM continues to serve the needs of New Mexico’s people and pets!

In Memory of Pets

Abby, Ramy, Sally & Sugar
Donovan G. Reddick
Abby
Bev & Ron Quiring
Abby, Minnie, Rosie & Patay
Andrea M. Dodge
Ace
Julie A. Fields
Aiden, Rusty & Cato
Pam & Burt McKenzie

PNM continues to serve the needs of New Mexico’s people and pets!

In addition to finding homes for thousands of homeless pets a year, 700+ families come to Animal Humane seeking additional support to keep their pets in their homes. Our Pet Food Bank helps struggling individuals and families by nourishing their pets. PNM is supporting our vital program by providing funding through their Reduce Your Use Grant program. Their critical support will pay for the energy efficient lighting, insulation and heating for our food packaging and storage area for this valuable program, which serves some of the most vulnerable residents in our community. In addition, PNM is replacing two of its aged refrigerators, to help us continue to reduce our carbon footprint. We are grateful for the ongoing support and partnership of PNM Resources Foundation, and the great benefit their support provides to our community!
Lil Bit, Adopted from Animal Humane

Buster
Connie & Jacob Mendoza
Brian A. Tufnell

Colli
Sandy & Bruce Masson

Cho Cha
Mary E. Oros
ChaCha & "Y" (Wola)
Mary E. Oros

Cham. Frisco, Belle, Tammy Faye & Cowboy
Diana & Jeffrey Paul

Chancellors
Susanne Koester

Chantilly
Mary Lois & James Hulman

Cherrito
N. Karen Anderson

Chico
Bonnie Smith

Chocotaw
Carol A. Haller

Cinnamon
Victoria Campbell

Codgy & Grandiloquence
Lynda & Ronald Tolkien

Comet
Judy & Ed Vickers

Cookie
James M. Cottle

Cooper
Smokey & Alton Torpelsen

Cypher
Chassidy Chavez

D.J.
Jon & Brian Ray

Daisy
Kirkland & Roger Ryder

Dakota
Linda & Domenic Patano

Dali-Cat
Sven Stuart Svensson

Daisy
Jeffrey Herbert

Dixie
Carol & William Henderson

Dudley
Gail Feigenschaden

Duke
Mary Ann Bower

Dules
Margaretta & Philip Croft

Emily
Gerardine & Enno Cipa

Emma & Sophie
Michele & Bruce Fuller

Fancy & Tucker
Melissa Uyco-Kovachich

Fiona
Melissa McClung

Flo
Dr. Craig Pierce & Susan Smith-
Pierce

Flower
Nancy Ostreich

Foxy, Casey & Heidi
Bernadette D. Macmillan

Freddy
Jack H. Cole

Goldi
Glenna Joy Taylor & Marvin Dear

Gunner
David E. McCormick

Lily
Joan Robins & Denise Wheeler

Lobo
Debbie & Bobby Schenk

Lois
Robyn & Mario Cruz

Louise
Sean O’Connor

Lucky
Thomas E. Payne

Lucy
Jacqueline M. Claycomb

Lucy, Sydney & Blitzon
Lilly Doerrler

Mochel & Pico
Penny & Sean Bakke

Maci & Bobo
Stephen M. Cito

Mamie
Mary Lois & James Hulsman

Margot
Helen L. Horowitz

Marshall
Deborah & Anthony Rivera

Max
Victoria Campbell

Max & Xena
Carol K. Thomann

Missy & Poyoura
Mary E. Silk

Mister Einstein
Dr. Charlotte K. Jensen

Mizzen
Teresia Johnson

Mizzi, Scotty & Spock
Glenny E. Stall

Molly Dog
Judith G. O’Connell

Mona
Virginia Ross

Mover
Laura & Greg Garrett

Muffins
Terry L. Haller

Munchy
Lana Fausa

Murphy
Kathy Gallegos

Musta
Joy Diana Rebello

Myrtle Jackson
Hannah B. Best

Norman
Virdie R. Granko

Orion
Amanda Burgess

Oscar
Sarah & Francis Harding

Oscar, Mickey & Elmo
Zita & David Whorl

Pancho
Karen & Luther Garcia

Pat
George L. Deschweinitz, Jr.

Patches
Sasha K. Low

Paul
Gen & Leo Scully

Pawzi
Martha E. Ahlmann

Pearl, P.K. & Lynx
Mary E. Sweeney

Peaches
Linda & David Mason

Peeeee, Sadie & Chiquito
Anna & Danny Apodaca

Pesapalos
Karen Quileu McElhenny

Penny & Cookie
Margaret Phillips

Pepe
Dorit J. Clark

Pooch & Junior
Rosie & Danny Garcia

Pocka
Arleene & Don Romano

Portia, Winston & Luke
Cindy & Randy Edwards

Princess
Jane & Edward McCullough, Jr.

Pums
Jane & Edward McCullough, Jr.

Pumpkin
Ruth J. Reedy

PupPup, Pumpkin, Chocolate & Beau
Jeanette Galliard

Quinzie
Anne L. Hickman

Raptor
Diane Jacobi

Razan, Ashly, Kylee, Simon & Monti
Kathleen A. Pira

Ricky
Donella L. Fajardo

Rita
Charles McIlton

Rondelle
Daniel J. O’Brian

Rory, Katie, Burbank, Freeway & Cleo
Alicia & Ron Cordoba

Rosie
Heidi E. Fleischmann

Rowdy
Janet Salt

Rudy
Susan & Carter Cherry

Sadie
Esther & Robert Fleming

Sage, Toby & B.B.
Margie A. Gilliam

Sally
Mausha J. Smith-Bystrom

Samombo
Diane K. Sparagato

Peggy Weigle

Sammi
Rachel Kent

Sanny
Gael Feigenschaden

Sue & Jeremy Glesser

Sammy & Cheddo
Betty Hahn

Samson
Janet Salt

Sandy
Karen & Fred Gezain

Diana & Larry Koester

Sapo & Addie
Cheryl & Paul Torres

Sasha
Ellen & Garth Carey

Sasha
Dr. Jennifer Burns

Scooter
Stephanie A. Fuchs

Siedi
Edward Park

Serena & Patches
Dr. Susan Wilkinson Davis

Shane
Patti A. Turner

Sharpie
Barbara J. Wells

Shasta
Carlin & Robert Knapp

Shilajit
Athene Paglis

Shiloh
Judy L. Tripp

Sir Jack
Margarit Duran

Martha Muñoz de Martinez &
Dustin Martinez

Donna Marie Stumpf

Snopper
Donald Thoum

Snowball & Chissey
Michael A. Cash

Sophie
William C. Birlingsame

Susan Caveser