saving more lives—treatables, the next frontier

At Animal Humane we are committed to saving more lives. It is our mission and our stated goal. Since 2006, our euthanasia rate has dropped by 65% and our save rate has increased to 91.7%. A shelter’s save rate is defined as the number of pets that are successfully re-homed as a percent of total intakes. By way of example, if we take in 5,000 pets and re-home 4,500, our save rate is 90%.

As an open admission shelter, we have no control over the number or adoptability of the pets we receive. The only pets we turn away are those that pose a safety risk to our staff, volunteers or the public. Yet, for 28 consecutive months, we have re-homed 100% of all our healthy pets and the majority of the treatable pets in our care.

So what does treatable mean? A treatable pet is one that is not currently healthy, having either a medical or behavioral condition. Yet, if given appropriate care, training, socialization, medical treatment, or foster care they could become healthy or have a sufficient enough quality of life to be adopted. Treatable pets’ issues are divided into manageable and rehabilitatable. For example, a cat with food allergies or a dog with arthritis, are considered to have treatable conditions that are manageable with a proper diet or pain management medication. Similarly, a cat with a broken leg or a dog with food bowl aggression, are considered to be treatable and fully rehabilitatable if provided medical care or given behavior modification training.

Other examples of conditions that would fall under the treatable category in our community would include neonatal puppies or kittens, upper respiratory (URI) disease in cats or kennel cough in dogs. Treatable behavioral conditions would include shyness, some types of aggression, history of house soiling or possession (toys, food, etc.).

Saving 100% of treatable pets is certainly possible and is the next frontier in Animal Humane’s quest to save more lives. We are currently saving the majority of treatable pets, but not all. In some cases, they cannot be saved because at the present we do not have quarantine facilities to safely treat for contagious conditions such as ringworm. In every case, treatable pets take an extra investment of time, medical or behavioral expertise and resources to allow a prospective adopter to imagine this pet in their lives.

Last month, the Samaritan Counseling Center awarded Animal Humane the Hopkins Award for Excellence in Ethical Practice by a Non-Profit Organization. Samaritan partners with the UNM Anderson School of Management for the annual selection and recognition of highly ethical businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals in New Mexico. We are honored to be the 2012 recipient of this prestigious award!
It's an investment Animal Humane believes is worth making since it saves more precious lives. Sometimes that investment is pure dollars to fund these treatable pets' rehabilitation or surgery. In other cases, the investment comes in the form of love, caring and time spent to reveal that diamond in the rough. We are more than fortunate to have many helping hands making that difference in these pets' lives.

The Petables is a group of volunteers who banded together to focus on the needs of our harder to adopt dogs. Started by veteran volunteers, Cathy Atkinson, Donna and Bob Bradley, Janet Columb, Dick and Patty Danforth, Maureen Grindell, and Pam Nichols, they have since been joined by nine other members. Together, they work with our Behavior Team to select, train, nurture and promote dogs that need life skills or manners, shy dogs and high energy dogs. Each dog has its own training curriculum, is beautifully photographed by Cathy Atkinson, then given a compelling write-up by Donna Bradley. Together this compassionate team has helped save many behaviorally challenged dogs by shaping them into well-adjusted, adoptable pets.

Maps (pictured) is one such lucky dog to benefit from the Petable's efforts. He was one of our most handsome, adorable, unruly, puppy-mouthed, indefatigable dogs. For such an intelligent breed, this shiny-black Labrador Retriever mix was wired-up and unfortunately had a blank slate instead of a list of skills. He was at the top of the Petables list to be worked with every day until he mastered sit, down, stay and getting the hang of our agility equipment. All successes, big and little, were applauded. Everyone could see the awesome potential in Maps. Petables uses doggie dates to help de-stress energetic dogs. So Maps was taken on a long hike in the foothills and a new side to his personality started to ooze out. He was in his element. Back at campus, with a fresh outlook and a better appreciation of his human partners, we like to think Maps had a desire to say, “thank you” and “I’ll be happy to learn more.” Maps was adopted by an active young couple who already had a fun dog. Now they have two! Thank you, Petables!

Our Adoptions Team has taken up the challenge as well. Every adoption advisor has a Pet Project animal. Like the Petables, the team selects and works with dogs and cats that need extra training and attention. The advisor becomes that pet’s advocate, chartered with finding them just the right home. Many of our 100+ day residents become Pet Projects to give them the extra push needed to connect with the perfect family. Kudos to the Adoptions Team for their many successes with our Pet Project graduates!

Our expert Behavior Team takes on the most behaviorally challenged candidates, from food bowl aggression to pets so scared they are terrified to be petted or even be near a person. Susan Randall, Lyndsay Anderson, CPDT-KA, and Rex Nowacki skillfully assess and devise a plan for each of these behaviorally challenged pets. The dogs often live in their offices to gain maximum human exposure away from all the noise and stress of being in our kennels. They are nurtured and brought out of their shells, like Leonard.
Leonard was a 3-month old Australian Shepherd/Terrier mix who came to us from the tiny shelter of Carrizozo in February through Project Fetch, our transfer program. We soon realized upon intake that Leonard had never interacted with people...at least not in a positive fashion. He was frozen in fear, would not walk, and would urinate and defecate if you attempted to go near him. That fear soon turned to defensive aggression, growling, lunging and snapping if anyone tried to touch him. The poor little guy was frightened of the big scary world, and all of the people in it.

Susan Randall designed a world where people were made of cheese and hotdogs, and everyone gives kisses and love and even the big scary dogs were fun to meet. After spending Day 1 in Susan’s office, Leonard’s little brain started to relax. Day 2 started his therapy, meeting a smaller, safe, neutral dog in Sue’s office with lots of cushy places to chill while receiving treats and attention. Day 3 brought Leonard walks in our campus dog park to meet bigger dogs in a playgroup with his new friend leading the way. Of course all his fear reactions were met with CHEESE! Soon Leonard is going on walks around campus and everyone he finds the courage to go up to has MORE CHEESE. Days 4, 5, 6, continue re-enforcing this happy feeling...now THE WHOLE WORLD is made of CHEESE and everyone is wonderful and he cannot get enough of people and strangers and other dogs and life!

Leonard graduated our Behavior Modification Program and soon after was adopted by a wonderful family. Leonard’s owners were counseled to continue his progress and they enrolled in our Train Humane classes. Leonard graduated Puppy Preschool with flying colors. This is a happy ending. Leonard has a loving family and now his vision is clear...life is good!

As we have written before, saving lives is expensive. All of us know the investment is well worth it and often the positive outcomes come in the form of extra love, time and focus to bring out the best in the homeless pets we serve. Sincere thanks are owed to ALL of our team members, volunteers and donors who make this life-saving work possible.

Peggy Weigle
Executvie Director

save the date for our 30th

Save the Date: Our 30th Doggie Dash & Dawdle, presented by Garcia Subaru, is Sunday, November 4th at Balloon Fiesta Park. Special events and entertainment to delight all ages of humans and pets! See all breeds strut their stuff to support our efforts to save lives. So, lace up your running shoes, grab a leash and gather up the kids (two or four-legged!). Come for the race, stay for the fun!

For sponsorship opportunities and registration information (for individuals, families and/or teams) please visit AnimalHumaneNM.org or call Karen Morales at 505.938.7939.

camp adopt-a-pet

Prepare for our 2nd annual round-the-clock adopt-a-thon! Our Adoptions Team has committed to camp out at our Main Campus, staying open for 56 hours straight, with the goal of placing 125 pets in loving homes!

how you can help:

- Adopt a pet and help us reach our goal! Open your heart and home to a deserving pet.
- Spread the word! Help us reach our goal by sharing event happenings with your friends and family. Check our facebook page for updates: facebook.com/animalhumanenm
- Donate. The average cost of care is $531 per pet (health care, nutrition, exercise, housing) for the 4,800+ pets we will adopt out this year.
the journey of Isla & Quin

Isla & Quin, four-year-old Kuvazs’, were transferred to our care from the Valencia County Animal Control. These two siblings arrived extremely fearful. Animal control officers had to use catch poles to capture them, resulting in injuries to both dogs. Isla & Quin were bleeding and completely shut down when we first met them.

Animal Humane’s Behavior Team quickly conducted SAFER™ assessments, including dog-to-dog testing, and determined Isla & Quin were not aggressive. They concluded that Isla, in time, would recover emotionally. Quin was a different story. He did not move while receiving vaccinations. He eliminated when touched and laid lifeless in his own urine on the floor. The only bright note was that Quin was highly attached to Isla.

Our Behavior Team, led by Susan Reaber, CPDT-KA, began working with Isla & Quin daily. Susan began by slowing luring Isla out of her run, a few feet at a time, using hotdogs. Once Isla found the courage to exit her run, Quin would follow. Over the period of a few weeks, Susan Reaber, Lyndsay Anderson, CPDT-KA, and Sue Randall were able to relocate Isla & Quin to Susan’s office.

This is when their grooming began. Although Quin was very frightened, he would allow Susan, Lyndsay and Sue to comb him. This activity led to bags of fur being removed from his coat. Isla, on the other hand, was covered in 4” thick mats; hence, a professional groomer who often donates her services came to our rescue. Given the condition of her fur, our groomer had to shave Isla, leaving her pink skin exposed on portions of her body.

Four weeks later, Isla & Quin started coming out of their shells. They LOVED spending time in Susan’s office and interacting with staff and volunteers who stopped by to visit. In fact, when Quin gained enough courage to eagerly approach people on his own, the two were made available for adoption.

Soon the perfect adopters came forth—a family with Kuvazs experience living on five-acres in the East Mountains. The perfect couple adopting the perfect pair!

Your valuable contributions make life-saving stories like this possible year-round. We thank you for granting us the opportunity to give pets like Isla & Quin a second chance at happiness.
I always wanted to work with animals, but after high school I set out to become a school teacher—earning two degrees in history and working with pets only on the side. I joined Animal Humane’s team in 2008. Teaching others about pets through work in Adoptions, as an instructor in training classes and through our 505 Pit Crew Program, I learned that humane education is where I truly belong.

The development of our Humane Education & Outreach Department opens a new era in the way Animal Humane educates our community. Although we have always offered educational programs they have been spread across several departments. Now we bring all of them together: if it aims to teach our community more about pet care, animal welfare or behavior, its home is in Education & Outreach. This consolidation allows us to better identify what education is most needed, ensures our instruction meets the needs of teachers, pet owners and the community as a whole, and that it is easily accessible for all.

With all of our educational programs under one roof, it is easy to see everything Animal Humane currently offers. Our Learn Humane® and 505 Pit Crew classroom presentations reach into local schools. Tours of our Main Campus and informational booths at public events teach our neighbors of all ages about our life-saving programs. SpayNM.org, and our Behavior Helpline (505.938.7900), private behavior consultations, and articles on pet behavior in local publications provide pet owners the spay/neuter and behavior assistance resources needed to keep pets in homes and out of shelters. Animal welfare and veterinarian professionals learn new ways to provide quality care at the annual New Mexico Humane Conference proudly hosted by Animal Humane.

Yet, as the hopeful faces of the pet residents of our kennel and Cat House tell us, there are certainly more opportunities for education & outreach. The coming year should bring big growth to our humane education and outreach offerings, all aimed at improving the lives of pets and their owners. We are already exploring new curricula for the 2012/2013 school year that includes bite prevention, humane education combined with an anti-bullying message, and youth leadership challenges for students interested in making a difference.

In April we started offering more Behavior Education workshops and seminars for pet owners. Our workshops, aimed to supplement our Train Humane® dog training classes with more training opportunities, include Loose Leash Walking, Reliable Recall, and Manners Tune-Up. Seminars will teach owners more about animal behavior and communication. These began this month with Understanding Dog Body Language. Information on all our new upcoming workshops and seminars can be found at AnimalHumaneNM.org under our Training Calendar.

As our Humane Education & Outreach Department takes off, we hope to reach many more people with our educational programs and continue to make Animal Humane the resource for those interested in learning about and helping pets.

Ellen Schmidt
Senior Manager of Education and Outreach
Sam Blankenship, Adoptions Director

Sam Blankenship joined the Animal Humane team in 2009. He started his climb up the Animal Humane career ladder as an Adoptions Advisor. Sam absolutely loves adopting out dogs. When he’s not managing his great Adoptions Team, he keeps himself mentally and physically in a shape by playing on a weekend soccer team. Sam’s other passion is performing as a drummer and piano player in a local rock band. He is guardian to two dogs, a 3-year-old Pit/Lab mix named Olivia and Bama, a 2-year-old Corgi adopted from Animal Humane, plus two cats, 7-year-old Cricket and 3-year-old Montgomery.

Alden Gilligan, Program Manager

Animal Humane welcomes Alden Gilligan as Program Manager. Alden spent her youth in the mountains of Northern New Mexico where she worked at a summer camp, making her way from dishwasher to logistics coordinator, and finally to assistant director. Attending school at the University of San Francisco, Alden earned a BA in Visual Arts with an emphasis in Graphic Design. After several years in design and project management, Alden gave in to her passion for animals. She enjoys hiking, soccer, gardening and running with her husband and their two dogs, Chloe, what Alden refers to as her “standard brown dog” and Stella, a black Lab/Heeler mix.

Buy A Cookie, Save A Pet

Animal Humane is sincerely grateful to Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee for the generous donation from the proceeds of their 8th Annual Buy A Cookie, Save A Pet Campaign. For eight years their support has made a profound difference in the lives of homeless pets, and we wish to extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all of you who enjoyed and gifted cookies as well as those of you who demonstrated your support for Animal Humane in other ways!

Stephanie Rodriguez, and her two friends, came to our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic on a Wednesday with her dog, Lil’ Diger, Jr. Stephanie is deaf and so are her friends. Given that we had no sign language expertise in-house, all communication regarding her injured dog took place in writing.

A local veterinary practice had directed Stephanie to our Clinic after x-rayimg Lil’ Diger’s fractured elbow—images they graciously emailed to our campus.

Given that the injury was already seven days old, Dr. Jackie Blanchette, our Chief Medical Officer, felt the chances of a successful repair were low...at best. However, through streaming tears, Stephanie wrote passionately that she wanted to give her Lil’ Diger, Jr. “every chance she could to keep his leg.”

Stephanie had $200 to contribute towards the required $500 surgery...not a penny more. When Dr. Blanchette conveyed to her that monies from Animal Humane’s Pet Save Fund would cover the remaining costs, Stephanie thanked her over and over again!

We are pleased to report that Lil’ Diger’s surgery was a success! He is currently recovering with physical therapy at home with his grateful owner.

written words turned to action
Animal Humane’s Planned Giving Luncheon

Since 2009, our annual luncheon has allowed us to dine with compassionate, pet-loving people who have committed a portion of their estate to perpetuate Animal Humane’s growth while simultaneously ensuring their legacy. Given that cherished gifts of life insurance, IRAs or a residual portion of their estates will always be alive and working on our campus, the luncheon allows us to show our donors firsthand the long-lasting impact of their bequests and express our profound thanks in person.

If you have previously shared news of your intentions to bequeath assets to benefit homeless pets in our care, your luncheon invitation will arrive shortly. If you wish to attend our luncheon and pets in our care, your luncheon invitation will arrive simultaneously ensuring their legacy. Given that who have committed a portion of their estate us to dine with compassionate, pet-loving people.

honorary & memorial list
Jan 16, 2011 - April 1, 2011

In Honor of People

Lucille Apodaca
Mary & Paul Lasala
Dennis & Denise Arthur
Denise & Ian Arthur
Eileen Beggs
Leslie Brooks
Leah Bendersen’s Birthday
Lisa & Sean Fitting
Carole & Ray Simms
Susan Young
Colista Bloss’ Birthday
Judith & John Hauba
Ophelia Lee Castron
Anonymous
Sarah Codden’s Birthday
Glenda Young
Janice Corecorom
Stacey & Albert Baumgartner
Dr. Typical Hefie
Cindy & Randy Edwards
Gay Donnenboom’s Birthday
Mallory Siwek
Mr. & Mrs. David Dodge
Arn & Irm Dallas
Eddie
Josephine A. Lambert
Soren Ericksen’s Birthday
Bronnie Ericksen
Mary in the Mail
Kathleen M. Brouillet
LaKo Freed
Judy Minke
Mark Gallipoli
Susan E. Lewis
Meyer Garzke
Rob A. Held
Hank
Jimmy & Taylor Elliott
Kay Hauser
Grechen & Mark Bass
Sandi Hungerford & Jack Bates
Mary Grunfell
Mary & Vic Jury
Kathleen Garcia
Kati & Angela
Eric & Ramon Garcia
Dee Keis
Margaret Laney
Daniel Kergan
Carol & Larry O’Brien
Kate Kuligowski’s Birthday
Lisa & George Frenzen
Karen Lame’s Birthday
Abi & Ashley Arndt
Albert A. Mantes
Patricia Pacheco
Mary & Al
La Farms Restaurant
Lois & Richard McClave
Robin McClave
Natasha Nakao
Dianne M. Jones
Andrew Montano & Ostoi
Janet Montano
Terry Morris & Sprig
Melissa L. McInnes
Giselle Ronzone’s Birthday
Lorrie Ericksen
Trey
Wayne E. Bennett
Pat Scharrer’s 80th Birthday
Margaret E. Altisstra & Don A. DePasero
Claudia B. Bonnet
Betty R. Chownering
Bobbs Cloud
Melody Dudley
James H. Gould
Dru Hager
Fran & Don Hardy
Mildred A. Kemp
Marine Melbourne
Mary & James Moreno
Juanita & Joaquin Ortega
Linda Patterson
Patricia L. Stone
Virginia & Alan Tuyser
Betsy Walters
John & Leah Wattersberg
Judy P. Whittington
Paul Stanford
Raymond Valero
Mark Welch’s Birthday
Stanley Wagner
Nancy Wilkin’s Birthday
Cheryl & Frank Sieradzki
Allison Willner
Carla S. Walgenbach
John Winn & Bessie
John A. Snyder, Jr.
Becky Wirtnuburg
Nancy Parker
In Memory of People

Aunt Dorothy & Winnie
Lorraine Frank & Charles Pavel
Helein M. Allhouse
Toby & Dan Friedman
Maurizio M. Anderson
Jo Anne Evans
Linda S. Atwell
Mary Ann Boston
Kenneth “Ken” Badgert
Eloise B. Badgert
Carol Jean “Lee” Barnett
Carol C. Darnes
Falka & George Hamnett
Patricia & Paul Hageman
Margaret Martin-Trach &
Michael D. Loach
Joyce E. Walpole
Millie Bamforth
Mary Ann Sloan
Jo Anne Fidel
Charlotte R. Beagle
Les Ann Austen
Sunny Benjamin
Grace & Stanley Betzer
Edith Blatt
Lynn Learner
Floyd B. Bowditch
Ann T. Benschlag
Julia B. Bowditch
Father & Robert Fleming
Mimi Charlotte Brannon
Anonymous
Mary Carlyon
Jamie Colson
Cheryl English & Betty Hunyady
Thomas Hanson
Gene & Donald Harrison
Nancy & Dennis Krentz
MareAnn Reid
Alisa A. Simon
Carolyn & Richard Smith
Bernice Walter
Patrick Walter
Karen & Robert Wambough
Faye Briscoe
Dr. Patricia Casier Renken &
James Renken
Dorothy R. Brooks
Jackie & Larry Guadarrama
Michael Buckner
Sharon & Dick Neuman
Florence Marie Cavanaugh
Eyvindra Lula Tramadollis
Susan Clark
Dana Reid
Baron Vincent Clifford
Lulu, John, & Stephen
Tramadollis
Barbara Sue Cox
April Ellis
Pat C. D’Arco
Robert E. Braun
Joan & John F. Black
Richard M. Clery
Harold A. Doonar
Faculty & Staff, Rio Rancho
Planning & Zoning
Nina Howard
William C. Marchiondo
Eileen McDowell
Karen & Allen Nickleason
Matthew Spangler &
Christopher Paccheco, P.A.
West Wood Realty, Ltd.
Conway Writers & Hot
Springs Realty
Hank DeBruin
Lynn Learner
Robert Dickerhoof
Pam Dickerhoof
Peggy Dressler
William A. Dressler

Join us on

Wednesday, June 13th
11:30 am - 1 pm at our
Main Campus at 615 Virginia St SE

Cougars, a stunning Savannah-Flame Point Siamese, adopted through our Cats Around Town Program on 3/13/12.
we've moved!

Animal Humane's Retail Thrift and Consignment Shop's new location at 4646 Menaul Blvd NE, features large front windows for easy viewing of furniture and merchandise plus a convenient donation drop off in the back of the building. Retail is a critical funding source for our operations, so we welcome your donations to help us save more lives.

Inside, 13-foot high ceilings boast beautiful wood beams combined with 6,000 square-feet of space, make for an attractive and roomy presentation of hundreds of gently used items for sale.

We offer free pick-up of furniture and large donations. Please call 505.938.7912 to schedule your home or office pick-up.