the evolution of Project Fetch and the difference it makes

Project Fetch allows Animal Humane to rescue at-risk pets from across our state. The program sprung forth because we recognized that partnerships with shelters in our metro area, and well beyond the borders of central New Mexico, would save more lives. In 2009, Animal Humane transferred in 750 at-risk pets throughout our state. By 2015, this count grew to nearly 1,700 (a 125% increase) with 70% of these pets coming from rural New Mexico communities in tremendous need of support.

Our substantial program growth is linked to our long-standing aggressive spay/neuter efforts. Since opening our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic in 2007, our talented Clinic Team has altered over 55,000 cats and dogs. This count, comprised of shelter and owned cats & dogs and community cats, is the only effective way to combat pet overpopulation. Animal Humane acknowledges every private donor making contributions to our valuable spay/neuter efforts, as well as PetSmart Charities, Inc., for making substantial investments in our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. We also extend our gratitude to the loyal trappers in our community who care for feral colonies and transport felines to our shelter to be altered... and return them to live healthier and happier lives. Given that 80% of kittens arriving at shelters come from feral mothers, TNR is a well-recognized component to combating pet overpopulation.

All of our spay/neuter work led to the desired results: dramatic reductions in pet births and lower Owner Surrender Intakes. And in turn, we were able to amplify our resources for homeless pets throughout New Mexico.

Sam Blankenship, Adoption Operations Director, personally works with dozens of shelters and rescue groups throughout the state... fielding daily phone calls, texts and email pleas to orchestrate our 1-3 weekly transfers that bring at-risk pets into our daily population. “Project Fetch allows us to rescue pets from rural areas and bring them to our shelter where more adopters will see them. Our transfers increase each pet’s chances of being placed in loving homes,” says Sam.

Pets like Piper, who came to us from Stray Hearts Taos Animal Shelter, were given a second chance through Project Fetch. This 7-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback cross had spent well over a year at our partner shelter Stray Hearts. After only 17 days in our care, Piper was adopted by a woman who immediately fell in love with the gentle senior. Today, Piper is enjoying her golden years in the permanent home she had traveled many miles to find.

And let’s not forget about the felines. Our TNR program has been so effective we delightfully experienced a cat shortage earlier this year. Not to worry; Sam proactively reached out to numerous shelters, but was successful in finding available felines in Farmington. Farmington Animal Services has happily transported 80+ felines to our campus so far this year. Given that many arrived altered, we were able to place them up for adoption shortly after their arrival and these lovable cats quickly found homes.

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Animal Humane also partners with Rez Dog Rescue during reservation roundups and directly with animal control officers through the Navajo Nation Puppy Program. In other situations, we work directly with owners who have far too many pets and are in danger of losing them all. By building trust, we are able to accept their pets, a few at a time, until their hoard is decreased to a number they can properly care for. And this past June, we jumped to the aid of the Torrance County Animal Shelter and Bernalillo County Animal Control during the Dog Head fires. Our Team brought much needed supplies to the remote camp set up for owned pet evacuees and transferred homeless cats and dogs from their care to our shelter.

As with all pets we intake, upon arrival each transferred dog and cat receives a full medical evaluation where any necessary medical procedures are scheduled afterwards or performed immediately, based on urgency. Additionally, all pets undergo a behavior assessment, so that training schedules may be built for those requiring improvements in their social skills prior to adoption.

Overseeing the movement and expert, comprehensive care of 200+ pets on our campus, and another 30-170 in loving Foster Care homes daily requires many talented hands and diverse skills across our Adoption, Animal Care, Clinic & Foster Care Teams. Simultaneously, we are working in unison to ensure we consistently offer a diverse population of healthy, well-behaved cats and dogs at our two locations and eight Cats Around Town business partners. We work diligently to minimize the length of stay for each of our pets — while ensuring that all receive a unique treatment plan that promotes well-being and sets them up for success in their new homes.

Sam Blankenship plays the lead role in managing this well-choreographed, seamless performance that our shelter conducts non-stop, 365 days a year. He, along with our entire shelter team, and outstanding volunteers who work side-by-side with us, feel privileged to serve every pet that comes to us... from near and far. And we thank you for granting us the profound honor of saving their lives. We are the agents, but you make every day possible at Animal Humane.

Donna M. Stumpf
Executive Director

Animal Humane extends an enormous thank you to all Westside residents, and all those visiting our new Adoption Center to find their next best friend or shop in our Mercantile! Your enthusiasm for our 10141 Coors Blvd. NW location allows us to find new homes for an additional 60-80 pets monthly.

Pets like Rogue, a 2-year-old Siberian Husky mix transferred from Torrance County and adopted after only two weeks in our care. Rogue’s new mom, Vittoria, was looking for a companion for Crixus, a Labrador Retriever cross she had adopted in 2012 from Animal Humane. Her main goal was finding a compatible companion for her beloved dog, so she appreciated all the ways our Westside Team helped ensure Rogue was a good fit for her family. “I like how the dogs are displayed online, and the detailed descriptions really help give a sense of each dog’s personality. Also, being able to bring Crixus over for a meet and greet with Rogue was so great, not to mention convenient! They were able to walk around and play together in a fun, relaxed environment and decide if they liked each other.” They did, and the pair has been inseparable ever since!
Albuquerque’s premier pet lover’s event is just around the corner. Please join Animal Humane New Mexico for our 34th Annual Doggie Dash & Dawdle on Sunday, November 6 from 8 am - 2 pm at Balloon Fiesta Park.

This year’s event includes:

- 5K Dash & our popular Dawdle fun walk/run.
- Rent-A-Dog (if you don’t have a dog of your own, rent a shelter dog for an hour... or a lifetime!)
- Doggie Carnival Games & Contests
- Canine Agility Park
- Barketplace Vendors & Food Trucks
- Live Music
- Nosing Around Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Agility Show featuring Peggy Weigle & Kim Terrill
- Barrel Racing Dogs
- Small Dog Sprint
- Pup-arazzi Photo Booth (Create silly photos with your pooch!)
- Bernalillo County K-9 Unit Demonstrations

100% of net proceeds from Dash benefit homeless pets in Animal Humane’s loving care and our community programs. It’s not just about dogs — event proceeds support our cats & cat programs too!

We are thrilled to announce that Peggy Weigle and Kim Terrill will be showing off their acclaimed agility skills during our 34th Annual Doggie Dash & Dawdle Agility Show! Peggy has been showing and competing since she was a little girl and Kim has been involved in dog training since 1993.

Kim’s success in agility and obedience have included winning over 30 High in Trial and High Combined awards at competitions and winning at both the AKC Agility Nationals and the USDAA Nationals. Kim is most proud of how her pet students excel in agility and obedience and she routinely makes it to the podium with all of her dogs. Kim also competes and wins regularly in the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge with three of her dogs, winning 1st place in June’s Western Regional Large Dog Agility category and 1st place for 30 Weave Up & Back in the 2015 National Finals. Kim and her dog Steeple won both the National Agility Championship and the Preferred National Agility Championship, being the first ever to win both in AKC history! She is also the first person to put a Triple Championship (Breed, Obedience & Agility) on a Border Collie, named Frisco!

For Peggy, Animal Humane New Mexico’s Executive Director from 2006 – 2016, entering Luke and her other dogs in agility contests is a big part of her retirement plan.

DON’T MISS OUR NEW AND EXCITING AGILITY SHOW!
With your support, Animal Humane provides second chances, every year, to thousands of pets coming from all circumstances and stages in life. From quickly adopted puppies and kittens, to older, wiser pets; shy cats and goofball dogs, we’ve been privileged to save so many lives thanks to your generous support. We’d like to share the story of two of these pets, who prove that while the road home can be long, the reward is beyond measure.

**Duchess: a devoted mother gets a fresh start**

Duchess is a beautiful 1-year old cat who came to us in April as a transfer from Farmington Animal Services. When she arrived, she was nursing three brand new kittens. Our Clinic Team examined each member of the family and discovered Duchess was battling an upper respiratory infection and that several of her front teeth were badly inflamed. The young mom was treated with antibiotics for her infection, underwent a dental procedure to extract three damaged teeth, and was placed, with her healthy kittens, in Foster Care.

Over the next two months, Duchess nursed and cared for her young kittens in the homes of two loving Foster families. She proved to be a very attentive mother, keeping a sharp eye on each of her boys and frequently interrupting their young play to groom them. When the kittens were old enough to be weaned and neutered, the four felines were brought back to Animal Humane to be readied for adoption. Less than a week later, Duchess, Dusky, Duke and Dragon were adopted — Duke and Dragon together — and happily embarked on the next chapter of their lives.

With your support, Duchess and her family were sterilized to prevent the sizeable contribution they could have made to the homeless pet population, and were placed in loving homes. Our vital Project Fetch program allowed Animal Humane to write a new beginning for Duchess and each of her kittens. Your compassion, along with our amazing Clinic, Adoptions, Animal Care and Foster Care Teams, wrote their happy ending.

**Allie: more than a little help from his friends**

Allie (affectionately nicknamed Uncle Allen by our Team) is a young Heeler Mix who was found as a stray in Thoreau, New Mexico. When he arrived last November, Allie was incredibly shut down and unresponsive — almost to the point of being feral. He would avoid all physical contact with people and would retreat into corners, even avoiding eye contact. In response, our Behavior Team structured a two-week plan for Allie to provide him the training, love and guidance he needed to come out of his shell.

In sharp contrast to his demeanor around people, Allie quickly revealed an affinity for other dogs, and would both initiate and welcome play sessions with others. With the help of several outgoing dogs in our shelter and the skills of our expert Behavior Team, Allie developed the confidence he needed to approach people, walk comfortably on a leash, and enjoy many blissful sessions of fetch and tug of war. Allie’s tremendous progress was rewarded two months later when he was adopted by a woman with a dog of her own in need of a friend.

Once transferred into our care, we were able to gain Allie’s trust and help him blossom into the confident and joyful dog we hoped he would be. Today he is happily playing with his furry best friend and enjoying a life that seemed nearly impossible only six short months ago. Your generosity helps Allie, and over 4,100 additional pets annually, escape the hardships of homelessness to enter the safety and security of a new, loving home.
volunteer photographers show the beauty in every pet

You have probably noticed the beautiful photos of our gorgeous shelter cats and dogs that we have in our newsletters, website and our printed materials. What you may not know is that these photos are taken by our wonderful Volunteer Photography Team. Led by long-time volunteer Cathy Atkinson, these 11 dedicated people play an essential role in our work.

Animal Humane’s Volunteer Photography Team was founded in 2009 by Carolyn Levy when she asked other volunteers how we could take better photos of our pets. Cathy took over the photography program in 2010 and it has been in her capable hands ever since.

More than ever, good photos of our pets are essential to our successful adoption, marketing and fundraising programs. Most adopters, for example, visit our website as a first step toward finding their new companion before visiting our Main Campus or Westside Adoption Center. The expressive and engaging photos of our cats and dogs are what catch their attention and interest.

Cathy explains there are several reasons why our volunteers capture such stunning photos. She believes it is essential that volunteer photographers are pet lovers first, photographers second. “It’s not about the artistry of the photographer,” Cathy said, “but making our pets look great.” The entire team follows guidelines, including taking the dogs outside whenever possible for photo sessions, filling the entire frame with the pet, taking photos at the pet’s level and above all patience!

Volunteer photographers spend as much time with the pets they are photographing as our dog walkers and cat cuddlers. They will even have multiple photo sessions with a pet until they have the best pictures possible. As photographer DeAnn Zwight says, “For new cats, I try to spend enough time with each to capture a picture that will make people drive down to meet them.”

Bruce Beach is a great example of this special group of volunteers. Like Cathy, he was a volunteer who worked with our pets first, then joined the photography team because it has been a lifelong hobby of his. When he’s not on our campus, which is every week, he fosters cats and kittens. Bruce says about Animal Humane, “I love the cats and the people too.”

Other members of the photography team told us why they love taking photos for us:

“Thank you from all of us at Animal Humane to our dedicated and talented Volunteer Photography Team! You let every shelter pet’s unique wonderfulness shine through!”

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer photographer, please contact Jessica Langer, Volunteer Manager, at 505.938.7884 or JessicaL@AnimalHumaneNM.org.
Please join us for our Free Financial & Pet Planning Series!

**Planning for Your Pet’s Future:** Pet care beyond your lifetime
4 pm Pet’s Journey Tour; 5 pm Presentation

**Planning for Health Care in Retirement**
1 pm Campus Tour; 2 pm Presentation

To reserve a seat or for information on including Animal Humane New Mexico in your estate, call or email Stefanie English at 505.938.7885 or StefanieE@AnimalHumaneNM.org

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**The Lorings, Humane Heroes for homeless pets**

I grew up in the era of “Lassie,” which was the name of my very first dog — a Collie, of course — and my love for canines has only grown since then. My family always had strays throughout my high-school and college years, but a decade of travel for Terry’s job kept us, sadly, dog-free.

That all changed in 1995 when we went to Animal Humane and fell in love; my husband with LuLu, a little Lab/Husky mix, and me with a blue-eyed Rhodesian Ridgeback cross named Newman, who changed my world and remains the canine love of my life. Learning more about our beloved dogs led us into animal rescue, and we began donating to organizations helping dogs, volunteering with various groups, fostering/adopting dogs, and advocating for better animal protection in local and state governments.

Missing Animal Humane’s Doggie Dash & Dawdle in 2000 compelled me to start ABQDog.com. If I couldn’t find dog events, I figured other dog lovers couldn’t either, so the website started with a calendar of events, then grew into helping people to adopt dogs and educating them about pet health and services. ABQDog is now in its 15th year and a new, expanded version recently launched with even more information for ABQ dog lovers.

We’ve been monthly donors to Animal Humane for over five years. I believe that our donations have helped save dogs’ lives, which is my number-one priority. Please consider becoming a Humane Hero monthly donor and help save more dogs (and cats!) — it’s quick, easy, and so important!

— Rebecca Loring
Planning for Your Pet’s Future:

Please join us for our Free Financial & Pet Planning Series!

Pet care beyond your lifetime

505.938.7885 or StefanieE@AnimalHumaneNM.org