Paws for thought

Animal Humane has rehomed pets since 1965. In recent years, with valuable support from the ASPCA and in partnership with the Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department (AWD), we’ve richly expanded our resources to keep pets with their owners.

2017 marks the 4th year of our innovative ASPCA Community Partnership in collaboration with our valued colleagues at AWD. To date, the ASPCA’s Partnership investment in Albuquerque exceeds $823,000 and has funded numerous efforts that reduce the risk of owner surrender.

Through the ASPCA’s generosity, our teams have developed Safety Net services to:

• Build and repair fencing so that beloved dogs do not escape and risk injury or displacement from their families.
• Cover rental deposits, so that this financial barrier is eliminated.
• Offer community Pet Health Fairs in low-income neighborhoods where pet owners receive collars, leashes, harnesses, microchips, vaccinations, and vouchers for $10 spay/neuter services.
• Award medical vouchers for emergency veterinary care.
• Provide behavior consultations, so that undesirable habits are replaced with enduring traits.

Our unique Partnership programming has granted much needed access to resources that have helped thousands of families and their treasured pets dating back to 2014. In turn, the gratitude felt by people served has strengthened our relationship with them, as they now view Animal Humane as a trusted partner; equally important, as owners rely on our services they are simultaneously increasing their bonds with the pets that fill their lives with joy.

In addition to focusing on keeping beloved pets out of shelters, the ASPCA funds effective promotional efforts and care packages for pets that benefit from extra resources to aid acclimation in new homes. Our highly successful event, Klear The Kennels, an Animal Humane/Animal Welfare Department joint adoption promotion placed 261 cats & dogs in loving homes in just 72 hours last June! Our creative pet promotions continue year-round as increased marketing highlights long-term (100+ day) residents.

IN 2016

218 Pets Stayed In Loving Homes
• 107 received medical treatment
• 62 benefited from behavior training
• 41 were protected with new & improved fencing
• 8 stayed with their owners in new homes with rental deposit aid

781 Pets & 435 Owners Served At Pet Health Fairs
• 1,392 vaccinations to keep pets healthy
• 418 microchips to help pets find their owners
• 237 spay/neuter vouchers to reduce pet overpopulation
• 1,000 collars, leashes & harnesses to keep pets safe

Our Partnership efforts that began in 2014 have led to a 2016 community-wide Live Release Rate of 88.5% — a remarkable level that stands at the forefront for communities our size nationwide. Many hands, hearts & heads were behind this achievement, and two that deserve special recognition are our ASPCA Partnership funded positions held by Leah Remkes & Melissa Hubbell.

“I love meeting the families who are so proud to introduce us to their pets during our Pet Health Fairs! Visiting these communities allows us to begin positive relationships with those who may have never heard of Animal Humane and, through our Spay/Neuter and Safety Net program, we are able to become a pet care resource for those who need us most.”

— Leah Remkes, Partnership Outreach Manager

“Because of the Partnership, we’ve grown closer ties with AWD through joint adoption promotions as well as our combined efforts in our Safety Net program. I’m proud that we are able to work together to keep families intact when they think that their only option is surrender, because we are able to make much more of an impact in our community when we are united with the goal of helping pets and their people.”

— Melissa Hubbell, Partnership Adoption Events Manager
Adopting homeless pets is one side of the equation. Keeping pets with their owners is the other. With ASPCA’s continued funding, inventive programs and collaborations with AWD, our community is addressing animal welfare from both sides. This is truly an achievement we can all celebrate... as we reached this new frontier together.

With profound appreciation for your continued investment in our life-saving work,

Donna M. Stumpf
Executive Director

where else can spring cleaning save lives?

As the seasons change, many of you may be boxing up your family’s winter coats and reorganizing cramped closets, de-cluttering storage spaces, or just looking for a fresh start. Our Thrift Shop is the perfect place to donate your gently used items while giving the ultimate fresh start — a new home and loving family — to the deserving homeless pets in our care. All donations are tax-deductible and the revenue earned from every item we sell funds Animal Humane’s life-saving work throughout New Mexico.

We invite you to visit us at 4646 Menaul Blvd. NE today! **Whether you’re making a donation or shopping for treasures, you truly make a difference for cats and dogs in need.** Since opening our current, gorgeous 6,000 square-foot space in 2012, our Thrift Shop has become the destination for dedicated pet lovers and bargain hunters alike. This spring, help our Thrift Shop continue expanding its critical role in funding Animal Humane’s comprehensive Circle of Care and ultimately saving lives!

**Shop or donate today!**
We are open daily from 9 am - 6 pm, with donations accepted Monday through Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm.

We accept gently used clothing, household goods, furniture, collectibles, pet supplies, antiques, electronics and more!

Please call 505.938.7915 for more information or to schedule a FREE pickup of large furniture donations.
2016 Adoptions Employee of the Year: Grazia Sarpero!

Finding a perfect match for the homeless pets in our care is an essential part of our mission at Animal Humane, and a task our Adoptions Team carries out daily with both skill and grace. One of the ways in which we recognize this Team’s hard work and dedication is to select an Adoptions Employee of the Year, someone whose efforts embody our vision and values in an exceptional way. This year, this special honor goes to Grazia Sarpero.

Grazia joined our Adoptions Team in November of 2015, having first spent time learning about Animal Humane as a volunteer. Her deep love of all animals, as well as her passion for learning, made Grazia a great fit for her position.

In her first full year as an Adoptions Advisor, Grazia found new, loving homes for an astounding 312 pets! For Grazia, working with pets is a joy in itself, but the true reward comes each time one of our cats or dogs meets their perfect family and is adopted. Many of the homeless pets she works with are easily matched with a wonderful new parent, and they go home after just a few days in our care. Pets (especially dogs) who need extra time and attention are Grazia’s clear favorites. She described with enthusiasm how rewarding it is to see a long-term resident — or a fearful dog she’s helped — find their forever home.

As an example, Grazia lovingly shared Mary Mae’s story. In 2012, Mary Mae was a long-term resident before being adopted, loved and, four years later, returned to our care due to the failing health of her owner. Grazia worked with the 8-year-old Bulldog, who had some health ailments of her own, to become more self-assured. Two months later, Mary Mae’s confidence and poise radiated beautifully when she met and won the heart of her new adopter. As Grazia summarized, “It feels really good when you send home a dog that you worked closely with.” On behalf of every pet you’ve helped to receive a second chance, thank you for your dedication and congratulations on this well-earned recognition!
meet AHNM’s veterinarians

Animal Humane New Mexico’s Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic sees more than 10,000 dogs and cats per year. As the only full-service veterinary practice exclusively serving low-income pet owners in the state, we provide low-cost quality services for people who otherwise would not be able to afford veterinary care for their beloved four-legged companions. Our Clinic staff of 20 also provides all of the veterinary medicine for Animal Humane’s shelter pets.

We invite you to learn a bit about our three amazing, dedicated full-time veterinarians. Together, they set a standard of excellence throughout our Clinic that brings relief and healing to thousands of cats and dogs each year.

We are extremely thankful every day that they choose to share their skills, talents and passion in support of Animal Humane’s mission.

How long have you worked at Animal Humane?

Kimberly Hamel, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer - 4 ½ years
Tomomi Lager, DVM - 3 years
Rebecca Yarne, DVM - 5 ½ years

Why did you become a veterinarian?

Dr. Hamel - My motivation stemmed from a life-long passion for animal welfare and advocacy. I decided that, as a veterinarian, I would gain the most practical tools to create a positive impact for pets with my own direct actions.

Dr. Lager - I embarked on a second career as a vet after my dog Lia and I underwent nearly two years of oncology treatment for her. Lia made me realize how a pet can inspire one’s life. I wanted to help as many pets and their owners as possible by utilizing my years of scientific background as a medical researcher.

Dr. Yarne - I thought working with animals would improve the quality and character of my life. I saw it as an opportunity to incorporate my love of animals with my interest in medicine and my desire to learn and perform surgery.

What do you like most about working at Animal Humane?

Dr. Hamel - Our shelter is blessed with resources that most shelters do not have. Because of generous donors, we are able to provide treatment for pets that goes above and beyond what would be possible in other shelter settings. It is also rewarding to help needy members of our community care for their pets.

Dr. Lager - Thanks to generous gifts from our donors, we can provide optimal care for homeless cats and dogs with various conditions that most shelters cannot, such as ringworm, parvovirus, and fractures. I also love how our Donor-subsidized Clinic helps people with limited means care for their pets. Not to mention, I really enjoy the people I work with!

Dr. Yarne - There are numerous opportunities to perform surgery, help a large variety of cats & dogs, and see a broad spectrum of ailments. We are able to provide amazing care for both owned and homeless pets and have a large team of people who are devoted to our success.

What is different about being a shelter veterinarian vs. a private veterinarian?

Dr. Hamel - In shelter medicine, I feel that we can have more impact than in private practice. Shelter medicine gives us the opportunity to gain a wealth of experience. Because we lay hands on over 10,000 cats & dogs per year, we are exposed to a variety of conditions and cases that we may never see in a smaller practice.

Dr. Lager - Being able to provide medical care for homeless animals and see their smiles as they receive the gift of a second chance.

Dr. Yarne - A LOT! We treat a much larger case load and variety of animals from neonates to geriatrics. We have more autonomy than in private practice and our skills as veterinarians grow based on the shelter’s and clinic’s needs. For example, I would never have excelled at orthopedics to this level in private practice because many of those pets would go to a specialist.
As a child, Duchess, our blonde Cocker Spaniel, was invariably willing to take the blame for breaking my wardrobe door by swinging it! Pizza, our black Standard Poodle, ran away with the roast I was told to put in the oven! Then there were times of sadness or disappointment when they expressed their concern and love by snuggling, giving kisses, and always being there for me. Having a pet is truly having a best friend by your side. What good listeners they are — cocking their heads, giving you those big sweet eyes, and putting a paw on you to show they understand. Plus they never divulge a secret! And to brighten your day, they do something silly that makes you laugh while, on other days, they overcome their own weaknesses and give you a “teaching moment” for living your own life better.

I currently have three dogs and three cats, all from Animal Humane New Mexico, who continue to bring me wonderful comfort and joy. They even keep me healthy by ensuring we take 1-2 mile walks every day!

Our four-legged friends can’t speak for themselves, so they need us humans to be their champions and that’s why I have been involved with Animal Humane for over 30 years. As a past board member and ongoing volunteer, I have seen vast improvements in animal care, facility structures, support services and care of staff. As a past board member and ongoing volunteer, I have seen vast improvements in animal care, facility structures, support services and care of staff.

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— Nancy Wilkins
Animal Humane New Mexico