



Thor & Athena are spending  
their Golden Years together!  
Read how you made it all  
possible inside.

# Paws for Thought

Spring 2024





Animal Humane  
NEW MEXICO

**Animal Humane**

**Main Campus**

615 Virginia St. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
505.255.5523

**Animal Humane**

**Westside Adoption Center**

10141 Coors Blvd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114  
505.323.PETS (7387)

**Animal Humane**

**Thrift Shop**

4646 Menaul Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
505.938.7915

**Donor-subsidized**

**Veterinary Clinic**

615 Virginia St. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
505.217.0300

**The Center**

**at Animal Humane**

615 Wyoming Blvd. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123  
505.255.PLAY (7529)

[AnimalHumaneNM.org](http://AnimalHumaneNM.org)

Follow us on Social Media!



@AnimalHumaneNM

## from the korner kennel

### Committing to Community

Since 1965, Animal Humane has been serving homeless pets in New Mexico by placing them in loving homes. **While every program within Animal Humane's Circle of Care is vital, adoption remains an essential part of our mission.** I am proud of our Adoptions Team's diligent work this past year as they placed 2,676 pets with new families!

This achievement was not without its challenges. In recent years, we have seen a significant increase in obstacles regarding pet adoption and ownership—barriers we are actively trying to overcome.

Last year, 21% of our total intake resulted from owners who had to surrender their beloved pets. Each circumstance was different, and many pets were accompanied by heartbreaking stories. In alignment with our Core Values, each pet and person were treated with the utmost compassion and respect, and through these conversations, we began to see patterns emerge. **Pet ownership was becoming more and more difficult, with housing, inflation and veterinary costs being consistent reasons for pets finding themselves in the shelter.**

**Because of you, Animal Humane can take steps to maximize safety & joy and minimize pain & sorrow for the pets—and now people—who need us.** Your support, in tandem with grant funding, helps us continue our Safety Net services, Pet Health Fairs and a biweekly Pet Food Pantry for thousands of pet owners needing support. Safety Net services helped 209 pets stay in homes in 2023, while our Pet Health Fairs supplied vital vaccinations and microchips to 167 total pets. Our Pet Food Pantry was busier than ever this year, passing out over 95,672 pounds of food.

**While we hope that our shelter is a last resort, we recognize that it is sometimes a necessary one. And,**



**for the thousands of pets who find themselves residing with us each year, encouraging adoption remains a vital part of their journeys home.** Animal Humane has increased our community presence, bringing adoptable pets to the people who will fall in love with them! We have also seen monumental success in donation-based adoption specials. In 2024, we will continue to offer these adoption specials. By encouraging pet adoption, we hope to place thousands more pets into loving homes!

**None of this success would be possible without you.** Your support ensures we continue to overcome challenges and ensure the best possible outcome for every pet and person who needs it most. On behalf of them, thank you for the impact you bring to New Mexico's cats and dogs.

Val Wilson

*Val Wilson*

Executive Director

# Betting *on* Bart



**W**hen Bart first arrived at Animal Humane in June of 2022, his energy was high, but his spirits were low.

Bart had spent the previous six months of his life living in a kennel in an overcrowded, rural New Mexico shelter. Despite his bubbly personality, Bart was continuously passed over. Life in the shelter began to take its toll, and the shelter knew Bart needed a change. Bart's transfer to Animal Humane came with new sights, smells and, best of all, a new chance to find a family. Less than a month after his arrival, Bart was adopted!

**To our surprise, Bart returned to our care in October of 2023.**

Despite their love for him, Bart's family was faced with the heartbreaking prospect of saying goodbye after a change in housing policies meant they were no longer allowed to have a pet.

**Since the start of 2020, almost 500 pets have been surrendered to Animal Humane because of housing restrictions and size limitations.** Finding an affordable



home is difficult. Finding one that allows pets is even harder—and more expensive. These restrictions continue to impact pet owners of both cats and dogs, leading to more and more agonizing decisions like the one Bart's guardians had to make.

Despite our efforts to support cats, dogs and the owners that love them, we continue to see stories like Bart's unfold before our eyes. **Thankfully, your support has allowed Animal Humane**

**to become a safe haven for these pets.**

Bart was welcomed back with open paws! Despite having just been separated from his family, his spirit wasn't broken. Bart's bouncy personality quickly caught the eye of a new family, and Bart was adopted again!

**Like you, we believe every pet deserves a safe place to wait for a home to call their own. Thank you for helping pets like Bart!**





## cover story

**Whether** pets come with 10 others on a transfer, alone as a stray, or with their life-long best friend, you have always been there for them.

This past September, two American Pit Bull mixes, Thor and Athena, found themselves at Animal Humane. **These two senior siblings had lived together for the past ten years.**

Due to their size, Thor & Athena were separated into different kennels, but would often reunite to romp around the dog park together. While they weren't considered a bonded pair, it was clear just how much they loved each other.

**But as the days went on, Thor & Athena remained in the shelter—overlooked and passed by, as many adopters chose young puppies over the two senior dogs.**

After a month of waiting, our team decided to send Thor to our Westside Adoption Center to increase his chances of getting adopted. Athena remained at our Main Campus, as she needed frequent check-ups by our Clinic Team.

**On the same day that the pair were separated, Chris Hoover walked through our Main Campus doors.**

"It was the first time in 40 years we didn't have a dog in our home," Chris explained, so she came to Animal Humane

# Better Together



with the goal of finding a small, older dog. "I definitely wasn't looking for two big ones." **But then she met Athena.**

With her beautiful big eyes, Athena pulled Chris right in. "We knew she belonged with us," Chris said. But there was still one missing piece: Thor. **Hoping for a miracle, our Adoptions Team told Chris the story of Athena & Thor, and she knew these two pups needed each other.**

Chris headed straight to the Westside Adoption Center with Athena in tow. She officially adopted Thor, and the pair reunited! Even with the short time apart, the two had clearly missed each other. "Athena was so excited to see her brother," Chris said.

Athena & Thor could not have found a more perfect life. In their new home with Chris and her family, they spend their days lazing on the couch, visiting their friends in the neighborhood and enjoying homemade chicken jerky. To Chris, it's clear the two could never live without each other. **"They had to be together. They mean so much to each other."**

**With their perfect family found, Athena & Thor can spend their golden years in comfort while never worrying about being apart again.**

Your support of Animal Humane kept these two pups together. For every set of siblings you save, we thank you!



Athena



Thor

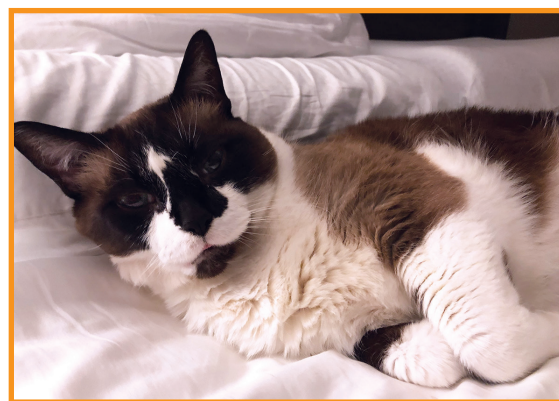
## PUPdates & CATch-ups



**Hank celebrated his one year adopt-a-versary this past November!**



**Koda celebrated his third birthday last year!**



**Sammy now lives in Rochester, New York where he gets to be closer to his grandparents!**

Want your adopted pet to be potentially featured in an upcoming newsletter? Scan the QR code to send us a PUPdate and CATchup! Send any images to [pupdate@animalhumanenm.org](mailto:pupdate@animalhumanenm.org).





# Amanda Pearson: 2023 Adoption Advisor of the Year

Critical to Animal Humane's mission, our Adoptions Team works tirelessly every year to find homes for the thousands of pets that enter our care. **In 2023, Amanda Pearson helped 228 of these pets find their forever homes, earning her the honor of being our Adoption Advisor of the Year!**

Amanda's passion for adoption started early, making working at Animal Humane a natural fit. "I knew how many pets out there needed help."

**While Amanda helped hundreds last year, two particular pups stand out for her.**

Aspen, an exuberant two-year-old Shephard was transferred in from another shelter and quickly stole Amanda's heart. Aspen's high level of energy meant he needed some extra attention. **Getting to work one on one with the pets is not only Amanda's favorite part of the job but also one of her greatest strengths.**

Along with Animal Care and our Behavior Team, our Adoptions Team works hands on with pets, getting to know them and helping them settle into the shelter. If a pet needs extra attention and love, they are selected to work individually with an Adoption Advisor as a *Pet Project*.



Amanda helped Aspen channel his energy, be it chasing a ball in our on-campus dog park or meeting new friends in a supervised playgroup. With Amanda as his advocate, Aspen quickly found his perfect family.

**"I'm always trying to find the right fit," Amanda explained. "I want to set the adopters up for success with their new pet."**

Another of Amanda's Pet Projects, Mama Roux, found more than just the right fit- She found her family.

Mama Roux, a sweet Rottweiler, was found as a stray in Rio

Rancho, giving birth to eight puppies two months later. She and her puppies were transferred to Animal Humane and placed with a Foster Caregiver, allowing Mama Roux to raise her puppies. When she came back to the shelter, Mama Roux's fear was immediately clear, and Amanda began working with her to build her confidence.

**While Mama Roux spent months in our care, we had no clue her family was out there looking for her.**

Shortly before being found as a stray, Mama Roux had escaped from her home while her family was on vacation. When they returned, they had no clue where their beloved pup could be. They spent months searching local shelters before spotting Mama Roux on Animal Humane's website. "They just knew it was her," Amanda remembered.

When her family arrived, Mama Roux transformed in front of Amanda's eyes. "She was so much more comfortable when she saw them. It was great to see."

**Now, Aspen and Mama Roux, along with 226 more pets, are spending the start of 2024 where they belong- in the loving arms of their families, in no small part thanks to Amanda's compassion and dedication.**

## New Thrift Shop, Same Mission

We have some very exciting news! After nearly 12 amazing years at our location on 4646 Menaul Blvd, Animal Humane's Thrift Shop is expanding!

**We are moving our Thrift Shop just a ½ mile east to the Daskalos Shopping Center at 5341 Menaul Blvd NE, 87110.** This new location

offers increased parking, more space for shoppers, and more support for New Mexico's homeless pets. Whether you would like to donate after some spring-cleaning, need some retail therapy or want to see some adorable & adoptable cats, our new Thrift Shop is the perfect place! **We invite you to stop by and check it out!**





# Project Fetch Reaches New Heights

Since 2009, Project Fetch, Animal Humane's lifesaving transfer program, has partnered with multiple shelters across the state of New Mexico to bring pets into your loving care. **Your support of this program helps pets and people alike—not only giving homeless pets a second chance at Animal Humane but freeing up vital space at shelters that are underfunded and overcrowded.**

Late last year, our team made the 200-mile trip to the Humane Society of Lincoln County in Ruidoso, New Mexico. They are the only animal shelter in

the county, receiving a steady stream of intakes. To make their jobs even harder, their pets face limited adoption opportunities as Ruidoso has a high tourist population. **They rely on the support that only you, and Animal Humane, can provide through programs like Project Fetch.**

**This transfer was particularly special as it included our 20,000th pet transferred through this vital program, Gavilan! But Gavilan wasn't the only one writing a happy story ending to their tale that day!**

## Gavilan



Gavilan's journey home began on Gavilan Canyon Road in Ruidoso. Pet lovers in the Ruidoso community reported sightings of this sweet girl beginning in September. She was surviving on scraps, roadkill and whatever else she could find.

**Gavilan managed to stay out of reach, evading capture—and a comfy bed, regular meals, and belly rubs—for three whole months until she was finally caught on November 1.** She was brought to Animal Humane where we treated her for fleas and helped her reach a healthy weight. **Her sweet demeanor and courageous spirit captured the heart of an adopter, and just seven days after journeying to Albuquerque, Gavilan was making the journey home!**

## Kovu



Kovu arrived at the Humane Society of Lincoln County as a small puppy in July of last year. **Unfortunately for Kovu, he would grow up in the shelter, spending 105 days, the first three months of life, being consistently overlooked by adopters.** We knew that with your help, we could change Kovu's outlook and story, so we loaded him, and nine other pups, up and headed to Albuquerque.

**Kovu was neutered and his wait at Animal Humane began. But this playful pup didn't have to wait long! Just 20 days after his arrival, Kovu left the shelter life behind with a home to finally call his own.**

## Taz

The Humane Society of Lincoln County also needed help with the high number of cats in their care. **To help free vital space, Animal Humane also brought ten cats back to Albuquerque—Taz, Meowfini, Squash, Twig, Cantalope, Amber, Bruno, Combo, Disco & Elmer.**

Unfortunately, shortly after arriving,

all ten cats broke with ringworm. Because of your support, we were able to not only treat them, but prevent the spread of this contagious infection to the rest of our shelter population—and help protect Lincoln County's population as well. **All ten cats recovered beautifully and have all since been adopted!**





"Look at the overlooked."

—Zachry

# Pixel's Perfect Fit

This past fall, Animal Humane stepped in to rescue a terrified mom and her five newborn kittens from an ongoing hoarding situation.

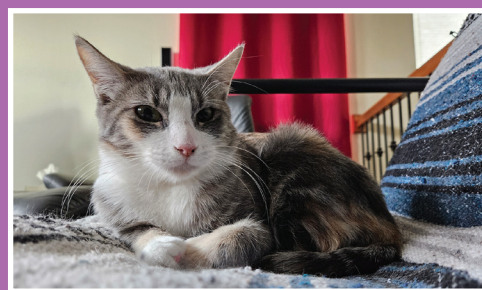
After a quick exam, we sent Pixel, a one-year-old grey tabby, and her kittens, to live with one of our amazing Foster Caregivers. This time in a home was vital, giving the kittens time to grow and Pixel a much-needed place to rest in quiet comfort. After her babies were weaned, Pixel and her kittens returned to Animal Humane.

Entering the shelter is often an overwhelming experience for cats, especially those that come from a hoarding home. **While some cats are eager to greet and interact with humans, Pixel preferred a distanced approach.**

We recognized Pixel's fear immediately as she shied away from our staff and volunteers. Like you, we believe in meeting every pet where they are and placed Pixel in our Shy Cat Room, a space for more introverted cats who prefer slower introductions.

**After four months of shelter life, Pixel was still waiting. Luckily for her, Zachry Wheeler walked through our doors.** While he was here to drop off his family's holiday donation, Zachry decided to look around our Cat House where he spied Pixel. **It was love at first sight.**

Pixel's reserved personality immediately drew Zachry



in. **"Shy cats deserve a chance," Zachry explained. "I knew we had the space and patience for a cat like her."** While many adopters gravitate toward social, outgoing cats, Zachry has a special place in his heart for pets like Pixel.

**Finally in a home of her own, Pixel feels secure and confident enough to show what a social cat she really is.** "She is so playful," Zachry says. "It took a few days for her to warm up, but now she's fitting right in with the family."

No matter their personality, condition or age, you have helped pets like Pixel be seen and find their second chance at living a life full of love.

# 2023

## by the numbers

### 2,676

Adoptions

### 558

Pets in  
Foster Care

### 102

Pets Received  
Behavior Support

### 2,948

Total Surgeries  
including  
Spay/Neuter

\*Numbers reflect statistics from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023