



Read how you
helped this once
homeless kitten
find the healing
and love of
a family

Paws for Thought

Summer 2023



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

Follow us on Social Media!



@AnimalHumaneNM

from the korner kennel

Redefining Pandemic Puppy



Val with
Sunflower and
Ferb, two of
the puppies
transferred from
Farmington

The term "Pandemic Puppy" has taken on a whole new meaning in the animal welfare industry, which has me quite worried. The phrase now refers to the significant surge in the population of unwanted litters of puppies in New Mexico due to the halt of spay/neuter services amid the pandemic.

Recently, I visited the Farmington Regional Animal Shelter, and I witnessed firsthand the many innocent creatures who have found themselves in the shelter. It was heartbreaking. Many pet owners are still struggling to provide fundamental veterinary care including spay/neuter, as we continue to face a nationwide veterinary shortage. It is likely that many of these owners never had any intention of breeding their adult dogs, adding to an already booming puppy population.

The sad reality is that many of these puppies are ending up in shelters that may not have the necessary resources or staff capacity to provide optimal socialization skills. These skills are vital as they ensure long-term success as healthy & thriving adult dogs and family members. However, I am grateful to have donors like you who make it possible for our team

at Animal Humane to provide all our furry friends, including puppies, with preventative veterinary care **and** enrichment to support their mental & emotional development.

Project Fetch plays an integral role in supporting pets statewide by giving shelters like Farmington an opportunity to transfer pets into our care and to a more populated region. It gives me immense pleasure to share on that early spring day our visit to Farmington was not in vain. We successfully brought back two litters of puppies and their mothers to our Main Campus.

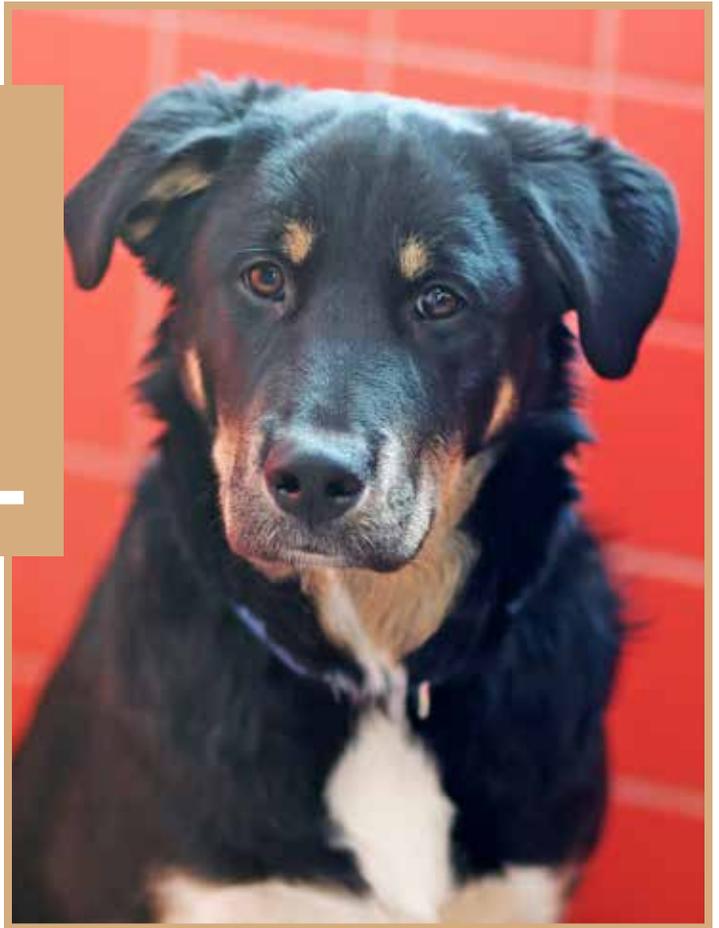
And as spay/neuter and preventative care continue to be difficult to find, I am absolutely delighted to share that our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic reopened in March 2023. With a renewed focus on preventative services, such as vaccinations, flea/tick treatment, spay/neuter surgeries and Trap/Neuter/Return services, we are optimistic that we will soon see a decrease in the number of unplanned litters of puppies & kittens.

With appreciation of your support,

Val Wilson

Val Wilson, Executive Director

Darling Dill



Just a few days after Christmas, a group of five Great Pyrenees/Shepherd mix puppies were brought to Animal Humane. **At only 4 months old, not only were these sweet siblings already quite large, they were also filled with fear.**

Each puppy was evaluated by our Behavior Team. And, while all the puppies presented their fear differently, it was clear that they would need a little extra support before they were ready for their forever home. **Your thoughtful giving helped all five puppies start Behavior Modification plans—working with dedicated Team members to gain the confidence and trust in people they needed.**

One of the darling pups, Dill, needed the most help.

Dill would have a few fantastic days, then would quickly slip back into fear—avoiding interaction, urinating submissively and refusing to leave his kennel. Often we couldn't tell what had triggered this regression. To help give Dill more choice and build his confidence, our Team decided to focus on leash walking. This is something Dill hadn't done much, as young puppies are typically carried around our Campus to reduce their exposure to contagions before they are fully vaccinated. Much to the team's surprise, Dill walked right out of the kennel, tail wagging and body wiggling!

"Once we knew he could do so, sky was the limit for Mr. Dill and his Campus walks began in earnest!" said Behavior Team member Jessica Harder Leeson.

Dill continued his regular walks around Campus and his confidence began to grow! **Finally, he was ready to graduate from Behavior Modification.** Dill met with a few adopters, but none were quite the right fit for him.



Then one day in early February, a family came in to meet Dill.

"Dill just had the sweetest face and I felt like I already knew him," said Megan, "He was shy, but you could tell that he really was quite playful. He just needed time to get a little braver."

Megan knew right then that Dill was meant to be a part of her family, and she took him home. Since then, Dill has been living the good life, going for walks, chasing toys and rolling around in the garden.

"Dill loves our sons most of all and follows them almost everywhere they go," explains Megan. "He puts himself to bed with them every night."

As it turns out, Dill has made quite an impact on his new family. When completing a community service project, Megan's son decided to advocate for the adoption and rescue of pets. **He created a poster to share with his peers on the importance of adoption to gain a new best friend, as he did with Dill!**

Dill's story is a great example of how vital your support is. Dill not only found the home he always deserved, but his story is now inspiring children to support the life-saving work that you do!



Colton James

From homeless to healed

Life had not been very kind to Colton James, a sweet six-month-old Tabby. Found on the side of the road, he was in significant pain. A kind soul picked him up and brought him to Animal Humane. Like all of the pets who enter our care, Colton James needed you!

And like always, you were here working through our team. X-rays performed in our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic revealed that Colton James had multiple fractures throughout his frail little body. **His tail was completely limp. He couldn't move it and didn't react when our team touched it.** Due to the severity of his injury, Colton James would need his tail amputated. But that wasn't all.

"Turns out he had also fractured his left leg, right across the growth plate by his knee. Because of the type of fracture, we decided to

cover story

go ahead and amputate his left leg as well," Animal Humane Chief Veterinarian Dr. Robertson explains. "The surgery itself went really well, with Colton James waking up and looking for attention. He was purring eagerly, accepting all the love we could give him."

The next morning, however, our team noticed that he was not putting much weight on his right leg. X-rays showed that there was another small fracture on his right hind leg, right near the hip. **Because of your support, we remained hopeful for Colton James's future, despite this devastating news.**

Colton James was given more time to see if, with strict rest and the love of a Foster Caregiver, Colton's





“When he came in for a check-up, I fell in love with him! In fact, when I first picked him up, I asked him if he wanted to come home with me and he did!”

—Melanie

leg would heal on its own. After 3 weeks in Foster Care, he was brought back so Dr. Robertson could check his progress. Despite Colton James feeling well enough to run about on his 3 legs, X-rays showed that his right pelvic fracture was not healing. Colton James would need a femoral head ostectomy (FHO) surgery.

During this special surgery, the top of Colton James’s femur was removed. As Colton James healed scar tissue would form where the damaged bone was removed, leaving him with full mobility in the future.

“The next day, we put him on the ground to evaluate how well he would move around, and he did not fail us!” Dr. Robertson said of the courageous feline. “He walked around curiously exploring the Clinic. He would sit every few steps as he got used to his new hip, but he did amazing!”

After his surgery, Colton James went back to his original Foster Caregiver for 3 weeks of rest and healing. Finally, Colton James returned to our Main Campus for a check-up. His leg was healing well, and he was just as affectionate as ever!

All this time in our Clinic would be a big pay-off for sweet Colton James. It turns out one of our recently hired Veterinary Assistants, Melanie Garcia, had been keeping a very special eye on him. **When he was finally cleared for adoption, she did not hesitate. Melanie adopted Colton James and brought him home!**

Whether a pet needs a quick check-up or a series of extensive surgeries like Colton James, you are there for them every step of the way. We thank you for your passion and support that gives second chances and happy endings to pets every day. Thank you!

PUPdates & CATch-ups



Bella Grace (right) loves cuddling & playing with her new sibling.



“Henry Rollins has been a great addition to our family!”



Mocha (left) loves playing at the dog park!

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. We can't wait to hear from you!



Saving Shay

How you helped a starved Pitbull become a survivor



Shay, a two-year-old brindle beauty, originally came to Animal Humane back in 2021. During her two-month stay, she was well loved by all and was a happy, healthy girl when she was adopted in September of that year.

A little over a year later, in December of 2022, Shay found herself at one of our shelter partners. They warned us that Shay had been brought in from what appeared to be a difficult situation. **And, when we went to pick Shay up, we were heartbroken to see her condition.**

A normal weight for an American Pitbull Terrier of Shay's size is around 60 pounds, but Shay weighed only 33 pounds.

Her ribs, shoulders, and pelvic bones were visibly protruding under her skin. We couldn't fathom what Shay had been through in the last year, but we were grateful that she was now in the best of hands, yours!

"We were worried that she had some sort of medical condition," Animal Humane Chief Veterinarian Dr. Robertson explains, "but she actually just needed more food."

Before Shay could become available for adoption again, we had to get her healthy. Your amazing support allowed Shay to be consistently monitored and supported by our Clinic Team. Shay also became a Pet Project, working with a specific Team member to support her emotional recovery while in the shelter.

"Shay spent almost every day in my office, greeting everyone that passed by with excited wiggles," said Donor Engagement Manager



"She is just wonderful, always super gentle with the kids and the biggest cuddle bug."

—Brittany



Abby Norris, "We started each day by picking out a stuffed Kong for her to enjoy while I worked. She needed those extra calories!"

As time went on, Shay got better. **After just one month at Animal Humane your generosity helped Shay gain 20 pounds!** She was finally healthy enough and our Veterinary Team cleared her for

adoption. Knowing how special her story was, we took to social media in the hopes that her new family would fall in love with her just as we had. And it worked!

"Her sweet puppy dog eyes pulled on all my heart strings," Brittany explains, "After seeing her survivor story on Instagram, I wanted her even more. We brought our young kids and 13-year-old Min Pin with us to make sure they all got along! Shay was so wonderful with them. **It was a no brainer. She was coming home with us!"**

Since arriving home, Shay has enjoyed daily snuggles, zoomies in the park, naps on the couch and of course plenty of snacks and treats! **Never again will this sweet dog wonder when her next meal will be, a future she never would have had without your help.** On behalf of Shay and her new family, thank you!

Corralling Community Cats

The past few years have brought many changes for Animal Humane. One of the more difficult ones was having to temporarily close our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic to the public, as a result of the national veterinarian shortage. Like you, we never lost hope that we would re-open again. **Because of your ongoing support we re-opened to the public for Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) services this February!**

Your support of our TNR efforts and our beautiful colony of community cats can be seen just by visiting our Main Campus! For nearly as long as Animal Humane has been around, there have been community cats scurrying about Campus. While our Campus cats are often friendlier than most feral felines, they still prefer their own space. The number of cats has fluctuated over the years, but with each new arrival, and with your support, we engage in Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR). Our Team ensures that all Campus cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated before allowing them to rejoin their fur families in the various areas of our Campus in which they reside!

TNR has proven to be a life-saving and effective strategy to control the size and health of cat colonies. Not only are we seeing the impact of TNR at Animal Humane, but the impact is being seen country wide. **In fact, a population of 175 community cats living in a 2-miles section in San Francisco Bay declined by 99.4% over a 16-year period of implementing TNR!**

Animal Humane currently has seven community cats living around Campus, all healthy and happy thanks to you! Our Facilities Team is dedicated to their care, building them shelters around Campus and providing them with their daily meals.

One of these cats is Monkey, a little cat with a big personality. One day this tiny kitten darted straight inside our Facilities Building. She was so small it was nearly impossible to find her! After a whole week of searching, she finally mustered up the confidence to venture out of the building, becoming fast friends with all the other community cats.

You helped us trap, spay and vaccinate Monkey at our Veterinary Clinic, ensuring the healthiest future for her. Given her young age, we waited to see if she would settle into shelter life so she could be adopted. Monkey, however, made it quite clear to us that she would be happiest back with her fellow community cats and her Facilities Team family. **Always keeping the pet's best interest in mind, Monkey was released and can still be seen strutting about Campus!**

This same reality is possible across Albuquerque because of donors like you! By supporting Animal Humane you provide hundreds of community cats with the security of a healthy future!



Monkey

EXPURRRT ADVICE: TNR 101

Cat Programs Manager Adrienne Lommasson

You have community cats, now what? Here are some tips to get started with Trap/Neuter/Return:

1. Find a program that assists with spaying and neutering of community cats. You can either rent or purchase a trap to use (we recommend gravity traps for safety purposes!)
2. When setting your trap, put it in an area that the cats are fed in regularly. Never put anything sharp in the trap (like ceramic bowls or tin cans), either put the food directly on the trap or on a paper plate. Use tantalizing wet food—canned mackerel is a favorite!
3. Once you have trapped a cat, make sure to cover the trap with a towel or blanket (especially during transport) to reduce stress.
4. Once the cats are spayed and neutered, they need to recover overnight in a safe space. Then release them right where you found them! They will have the mark of a cool cat (an ear tip) to designate that they have gone through a TNR program.

Thank you for doing your part to prevent cat and kitten overpopulation!

Lola finds Love ♥♥♥

Late one cold February night, Lola's story began. **Soon after being hit by a car, this 2-month-old Beagle puppy was found shivering on the cold pavement of a parking lot in Los Lunas.**

In obvious pain, Lola desperately needed your help. A Good Samaritan picked her up, seeking out whatever resources she could find to help this sweet puppy. With little success she called Animal Humane, and Lola was surrendered via our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic.

Once Lola arrived and we X-rayed her leg, our Team analyzed the severity of her injuries. **Lola's fracture was much more severe than originally expected. Her leg was completely shattered, with damage to the growth plate as well.** There was only one step forward for Lola, and that was an amputation.

After her surgery, Lola was able to take the time she needed to heal in our Clinic. But with gumption and wiggles, Lola learned how to navigate the world on her 3 legs remarkably well!

"Lola did wonderful!" exclaimed Animal Humane's Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Robertson, "She is quite the super star. You would never have even noticed that her leg was amputated!"

Lola had been through so much in such a short amount of time, but it was clear she was not about to let that get her down. Her goofy personality and loving spirit captured all our hearts at Animal Humane, and not long after her surgery, she stole the heart of an adopter!

Lola's time at Animal Humane is the true testament for what your support makes possible. **When all hope seemed to be lost for this tiny pup, it was your love that ensured her future would be filled with the warmth and happiness of a forever home.**



2023 paw-gress

941 Adoptions

238 Pets in Foster Care

48 Pets Received Behavior Support

814 Total Surgeries including Spray/Neuter

Numbers reflect 2023 statistics through May 1, 2023.