

# Paws for Thought

Fall 2022

**Imperial makes quite the comeback! Read how you made it possible inside.**





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**

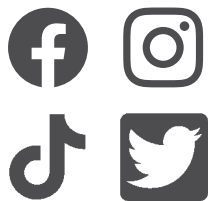
615 Virginia St. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
505.217.0300

**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

### long-timers receive **extra l-o-v-e**



Donna, Shar and Shar's  
new mom, Teresa

Often, upon arrival, our Team can quickly determine if pets will remain in our care well beyond our average length of stay (LOS).

During the past 2 ½ years, our average LOS remained close to pre-pandemic levels. But the pets in our care are much more than numbers — each on a customized path to a brighter future.

In fiscal year '22 our average LOS, in days, were 15.6 for dogs, 16.1 for cats, puppies averaged 6.2 days & kittens 7.8 on our Main Campus. At our Westside Adoption Center, average LOS is 5 days or less for all pets.

#### **But sometimes pets are with us much, much longer.**

This happens more frequently with large dogs, particularly those whose exuberance requires extra attention & patience or whose in-home requirements (only pet, tall fencing, etc.) shrink the pool of possible adopter matches.

**As pets await their magical adoption day, our Team is focused on sustaining their health & happiness in the shelter environment.**

One such pet is Shar. This 1-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier mix was transferred in from the Sandoval

County Sheriff's Office and **she remained in our care for 173 days.**

This smart, beautiful, high-energy girl loved to chew & place her mouth on hands & clothing. The creativity & determination of our Behavior Team transformed these behaviors into desirable traits.

Shar quickly learned to walk on a loose leash as well as sit & lay down on cue! She loved playgroups with other shelter dogs & escorting the Adoption Team on nightly closing rounds. Shar's mouth was often filled with a toy that she proudly carried everywhere.

We thank you for making Animal Humane a safe harbor without time limits — where pets can blossom in their own time before finding the perfect new family!

**It continues to be our privilege to carry on our important work in partnership with you.**

Donna M. Stumpf  
Executive Director

PS. Check out our social media for more great photos of Shar, now Sloane, and some inspirational words from her new mom, Teresa!



# Wonderful Wren

Your support helped her find a perfect match



In April of 2019, our Team gathered to celebrate someone very special. **Wren, a two-year-old Cattle Dog & Pharaoh Hound mix, had officially been in our care for an entire year.** As we sat with Wren and shared on Instagram her enjoying her doggie cake, we couldn't help but reflect on the year we had spent with her.

When Wren first came to Animal Humane, her energy and fun-loving personality was hard to ignore. As a social butterfly Wren loved being around people, but she had a hard time controlling her impulses. **Thankfully, because of the wonderful support you provided, Wren was able to receive the help she needed by working on her manners with our Behavior Team.**

After some time in our care, Wren was adopted but that home was not the right fit for her in the end. **But, like you, we knew how much love this sweet dog had to give.** And because of your generosity, we were able to continue working with Wren until we found her the ideal match.

**On that spring day in 2019 as we celebrated Wren's anniversary, we had no idea that her future mom was watching from a cell phone just a few miles away.** "When I saw it was her one-year anniversary on Instagram, I immediately grabbed my keys and drove to meet her," said Rachel.



Rachel had been searching for a companion for her existing rescue dog, Pete, who had been experiencing some separation anxiety. Working with our Behavior Team, Rachel, Pete, and Wren found that their personalities fit incredibly well together. "Pete and Wren are like Yin and Yang," Rachel explains, "He is calm, and she is pure energy. The two have been inseparable ever since!"

**Because of your compassionate support, Wren learned how to love and how to live successfully in a home.** Since her adoption that bright spring day, Wren has helped her mom Rachel raise foster puppies and she's also proven



herself extremely attuned to her mom's emotions as well.

**"Wren licks my tears when I'm sad and always greets me with endless kisses."**

And Wren's happy adventures in love and life continue. Recently, Wren, Pete and their people completed a 2,000-mile road trip from New Mexico to their new home in New Jersey. Today, they are exploring the East Coast!

**Donors like you, ensure long-term residents at Animal Humane, like wonderful Wren, are given the time needed to finally find their perfect match. Thank you.**



# Imperial:

## | cover story

On April 25, an energetic 1 1/2-year-old Australian Shepherd mix named Imperial arrived at Animal Humane from our partner shelter, the Animal Welfare Coalition, in rural Las Vegas, New Mexico. As is often the case when a pet arrives as a transfer or a stray, we had almost no information about this dynamic dog. **However, through observation we quickly discovered that Imperial was eager to interact with both dogs and people**, but he also showed some frustration-based behaviors. In fact, when it was Imperial's turn to interact with one of our dedicated Volunteer Dog Walkers, he often reacted by jumping up and mouthing his handlers out of pure excitement.

We also discovered that Imperial was suffering from hip dysplasia, compounding the young dog's exasperation with pain. Hip dysplasia is a hereditary and very painful skeletal condition in which the ball of the femur and the hip socket do not fit together or develop properly. **Despite these challenges, we knew that Imperial was in the best of hands because of the love and generosity of donors like you.**

To help him navigate the world, Imperial was placed on a Behavior Modification plan. This individualized plan provided the beautiful pup with more one-on-one attention and consistency in his handling. **Our Behavior Team found Imperial to be an incredibly fast learner.** Together they worked on cues such as "tug & drop," which taught Imperial to quickly remove his mouth from items when asked. In addition to helping Imperial manage his mouthy behavior, asking him to learn new skills engaged his mind further reducing his distress.

Imperial even became a phenomenal playgroup pup, using his new skills to interact positively with other dogs. **It wasn't long before Imperial was an absolute favorite on our Main Campus.** He spent many days filling the role of office

# King of the Comeback



Duncan and Imperial

dog, lounging behind team members while they answered Behavior Helpline or Safety Net calls.

The next step in Imperial's individualized care plan was to address his hip dysplasia. **While Imperial still loved playgroup and never lost his eagerness to explore the world around him, we could tell that the condition of his hips was hindering his quality of life.** Our Donor-subsidized Clinic Veterinary Team performed a femoral head ostectomy helping ensure pain-free mobility for Imperial once he recovered. Imperial spent three months with an experienced Foster Caregiver who assisted with his physical therapy and ensured he received the love he deserved.

Finally, Imperial was adopted! Once frustrated and in pain, Imperial is now a happy, healthy dog. **Stories like his are only possible because of your commitment and support.**



Duchess

## How Duchess landed back on all 3 feet

**L**ife on the streets had not been every kind to 1 ½-year-old Duchess. Found in Albuquerque as a stray, she arrived at Animal Humane unable to place weight on one of her legs. In fact, her right front leg was incredibly swollen. **Upon examination, our Veterinary Team found that she had been shot with a BB gun and left to suffer.** Fortunately, Duchess ended up here where your love and generosity ensured her distress was over.

Due to the severity of Duchess' injuries, our Clinic Team made the choice to amputate her leg. The BB shot into her leg had hit bone, leaving small fragments that made it impossible for Duchess to fully extend her leg. **Sweet Duchess went in for surgery**, which was a resounding success, and she began her healing journey.

As Duchess' body healed, so did her spirit. **With donors like you cheering her on, she started to learn how to renavigate the world.** She began to open herself up to love and trust humans, warming our hearts when she started seeking affection and attention. She also began learning how to move around on three legs.

Despite facing a lengthy recovery in her quest to become as active and agile as she once was, the hope you have given Duchess allows her to persevere. And it was Duchess' perseverance that captured the heart of her now forever family!

**Thank you for helping Duchess land on her feet and giving this once broken cat a new beginning.**

## FUR THE RECORD

**S**pring and summer not only mark warmer weather and endless opportunities for outdoor fun, they also keep our Team and Foster Caregivers busy with Kitten Season! During this time of year, many female cats give birth to litters of kittens. Typically homeless, these kittens

are extremely vulnerable and susceptible to illness, especially during their first 8 weeks of life. Thankfully, because of donors like you, Animal Humane can take in these vulnerable kittens and place them in foster homes until they are old and healthy enough to be adopted!



# Nico & Ava

## How 2 Albuquerque youth lent a helping paw this summer

In summer, many kids like to spend time swimming, relaxing, or playing. But this summer, 8-year-old Ava and 16-year-old Nico chose to use their time making a difference for pets in their community instead!



### AVA

When Ava was brainstorming what she wanted to raise money for this summer, she quickly thought of pets. Her beloved dog, Blue, had been adopted from Animal Humane, so Ava chose us!

With an entrepreneurial spirit, Ava decided to set up a booth in her driveway making bracelets in exchange for the donations she received. In less than 3 hours, Ava raised \$75. The next day she continued, her goal: to raise as much as possible!

Ava continued to sit at her booth in her driveway with her loyal dog, Blue, by her side. Friends and neighbors stopped by to buy one of Ava's stylish beaded bracelets and donate to her cause.

“ I knew that Blue still had friends at Animal Humane and I wanted to help them! ”  
— Ava

She even motivated strangers with her thoughtful plan. While on his route, a pizza delivery man saw Ava's booth. When his shift ended, he drove back to Ava's house to donate all his tips from the day!

Ava raised a grand total of \$450 for Animal Humane, and her donation went right to work helping the pets in our care.

**We are all so inspired by and grateful for this sweet girl and her generous heart.**



### NICO

Nico needed to complete an Eagle Scout project. He chose Animal Humane because of the experience he had when adopting Penny, his cat, at our Main Campus.

Nico's vision for his project was to make our Team's job a little bit easier, thereby helping the pets while they are in our care! He worked with his troop to design and construct two kinds of behavioral barriers for our dogs. Working offsite at his home, Nico led the troop in building 6 PVC pipe barriers, which can easily be moved and used all around our Campus. These barriers help with training, allowing dogs to focus on our Behavior Team members rather than each other, so each dog can learn as much as possible before adoption.

Nico and his troop also created fabric barriers for the fencing and gates surrounding the off-leash yards used by our dogs. These barriers are vital as they help our dogs relax and destress while in the yards with our Team.

In all, this project took Nico and his troop over 160 hours to complete! **We are incredibly grateful to Nico, his family, and the boys of Troop 174 for dedicating their time to help enrich and better the lives of pets!**

# PUPDATES & CATCH-UPS



**Quinn** passed her puppy manners classes and is already house broken!

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**Gracie** has been loving daily walks, her new backyard, and giving love (and kisses!) to her human.

## Vegas Fire Edition

On Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> we received a call for help from the Animal Welfare Coalition in Las Vegas, New Mexico. As the wildfire raged on, our Team at Animal Humane drove toward it to help evacuate the pets that were in their care. We were able to leave with 19 dogs that have all since been adopted! Let's see how some of them are doing in their forever homes:



**Roxie** loves backpacking and boating at Navajo Lake! Not to mention sticks!

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**Oslo** is coming out of his shell and showing off his goofy and playful side with his new family.



**Duke** has traveled to Colorado and Texas this summer! His favorite things are stuffed animals that he tosses in the air and chases around.

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**Fonzie** has brought new life to his older friend, Coco! He loves to sit looking out the window in his family's front room and playing with squeaky toys.





*Come Join the Paw-ty!*

# DOGGIE DASH & DAWDLE



**November 6**  
**Register Today**  
[doggiedashanddawdle.org](http://doggiedashanddawdle.org)

Presented by

GARCIA



SUBARU

# 2022

paw-gress

**1,844** Adoptions

**58**

Pets Received  
Behavior  
support

**1,696** Total  
Surgeries  
including  
Spay/Neuter

**293**

Pets in  
Foster Care

Numbers reflect 2022 statistics through July 2022.

petco  
**love stories**



**Step 1**

### Write your story

Share the big and small ways that your adopted pet has changed your life for the better. Submissions cannot exceed 500 words.

**Step 2**

### Select your photos

Pick two photos that demonstrate the love between you and your pet.

**Step 3**

### Submit!

Send your love story and photos to [lovestory@animalhumanenm.org](mailto:lovestory@animalhumanenm.org) by October 7th! and help us win up to \$100,000!