



You helped Monster
recover after surviving
a tragic house fire.
Read his story inside!

Paws for Thought

Winter 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
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Albuquerque, NM 87110
505.938.7915

**Donor-subsidized
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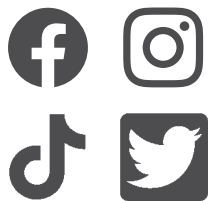
615 Virginia St. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
505.217.0300

**The Center
at Animal Humane**

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

AnimalHumaneNM.org

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from the korner kennel

Reflecting on your impact

This year your life-saving contributions played a crucial role in creating healthy and positive new lives for over 2,600 homeless pets in New Mexico. Each of these pets were touched by the helping hands of dedicated team members & countless volunteers across all programs within Animal Humane's Circle of Care. While we are grateful for each and every one of these successful placements, 2023 has not been an easy road.

According to research compiled by Shelter Animals Count (SAC) across the first six months of 2023, community pet intakes nationwide remained steady when compared to 2022. However, they rose 8% from 2021—and experts are predicting that intakes will reach a three-year high before the end of the year. At the same time, SAC found that adoptions at private shelters are down 3-5%, a trend that we have seen reflected right here at Animal Humane with a 12% decrease in adoptions when compared to calendar year 2022.

It's hard to fully understand the reasons why people may not be adopting, but we can likely attribute the decline, at least in part, to the rising cost of living, increases in pet rental deposits, and lack of access to affordable veterinary care. But through this adversity, your generosity allowed Animal Humane



the time & flexibility necessary to find the perfect path to home for these cuddle bugs in our care.

Your commitment to animal welfare and our mission ensured that every dog and cat who entered our doors was given proper nutrition, medical care, and enrichment ensuring they were physically & emotionally successful in the shelter and ready for their new homes.

Thank you for staying by their sides, giving them a warm bed and, eventually, a family to call their own. While we can't predict the future of animal sheltering or adoptions, with your help we will continue to ensure our pets receive the highest quality of care while they await their new homes.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Val Wilson

Val Wilson, Executive Director

Special thanks to our amazing
Doggie Dash & Dawdle Sponsors!

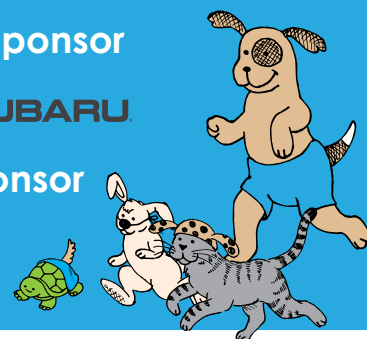
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SARGE

Soldiers On

"We think his bond with my husband is the most special part about him."

—Angela

When Sarge was found wandering the streets in the South Valley last fall, he needed help. The one-year-old Labrador Retriever cross was refusing to walk on his left front leg, which was swollen and clearly infected. A Good Samaritan brought the pup to a local county shelter in search of help for the stray.

Upon his arrival, it was determined that due to the extent of his injuries, Sarge would have the best quality of life if the injured leg was amputated. **He recovered quickly, but as the months went by, Sarge's forever family never arrived.**

Like many pets in overcrowded city and county shelters, perfect pup Sarge was overlooked. Extended time in a shelter can lead to an increase in a pet's anxiety and fear, making them even harder to adopt into a family.

That is why your support of Animal Humane's life-saving transfer program, Project Fetch, is crucial. Since its start in 2009, Project Fetch has transferred over 20,000 pets just like Sarge from across New Mexico in hopes of giving them a second chance at happiness.

Once he arrived at Animal Humane, we quickly realized Sarge's missing leg didn't slow him down a bit. He happily zoomed around the dog park, hopped up



on benches during walks, and was always ready to provide kisses.

Like you, we knew Sarge's perfect family was out there. But we never could have imagined how perfect they would be.

When Matt and Angela visited Animal Humane in January of this year, it was love at first sight. "We knew Sarge was the one when we met him and found his sweet demeanor." **As well as a kind pup to play with their children, Angela and Matt were looking for a companion for Matt, a veteran of the United States Armed Services who is also an amputee.**

Like Matt and Angela, Sarge, too, knew immediately he'd found his home. **"He walked up to my husband's leg and nuzzled it,"** Angela said. **"They're two peas in a pod."**

Sarge continues to thrive with three legs, regular visits to the dog park and keeping up with the couple's six children. Sarge also has a special place in his heart for Matt. **"We think his bond with my husband is the most special part about him."**

With your passion and support, pets like Sarge have the chance to find their perfect fit.

DOGGIE
DASH & DAWDLE 2023

Special thanks to our amazing Doggie Dash & Dawdle Sponsors!

Watering Bowl Sponsors: RKD Alpha Dog & New Mexico Bank & Trust

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Monster

Rises from the Ashes



In April of this year, an Animal Control Officer was called to the scene of a house fire. **After the inferno burned out, they found Monster, a black and white Domestic Short Hair with second-degree burns all over his body.** His coat was melted and, in some places, completely burned off, mainly on his face and his legs. Not to mention, the poor cat was covered in ash and debris. He was in significant pain, not only from the burns all over his body but also from losing his home.

Monster was taken to his local county shelter where he stayed for two weeks before they called Animal Humane. Their veterinary team couldn't give Monster the long-term care he would need. **But they knew that with your support, Monster would have the resources he needed to heal at Animal Humane.**

Monster arrived at our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic,

cover story

"I'm overcome with joy to be able to let Monster know that I'm still here and I still love him"

—Colton

where he would stay for nearly four months, on May 2. Despite his pain, Monster was incredibly sweet. **Through regular cleaning and bandage changes on all four paws, he accepted and eventually sought affection from our Clinic Team.** In addition to pain relievers, this fabulous feline also received routine acupuncture sessions, physical therapy and laser therapy to help with the pain.

As time went on, and Monster

healed, we had no idea that his human was healing too. **The day of the fire, Colton, Monster's owner had run into the blaze in an extraordinary attempt to save his cat.** What he was left with were second and third-degree burns, which needed intensive care at the hospital.

Colton thought he had endured all of that pain and still lost Monster. But because of you, we were able to deliver the best news. **His extraordinary attempts were not in vain.** Monster was alive. Better than that, Monster was healing.

Before we could reunite these two survivors, Monster had one last hurdle to overcome. As the burns on his feet healed, we found that the fire had fused his paw pads together. One last surgery to separate the fused tissue would help ensure Monster's best chance at a pain-free future.

"Over the period of time that



Monster has been here, he has just been healing beautifully," said Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Robertson.

Thanks to the efforts of our Clinic Team, and amazing donors like you who are committed to the health and welfare of pets in need, we reunited Colton and Monster on August 25.

"I'm overcome with joy to be able to let Monster know that I'm still here and I still love him," said Colton. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for making stories of hope and healing possible for pets like Monster and the people who love them.



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Animal Humane New Mexico
to help save thousands
of pets this year.

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PUPdates & CATch-ups



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!

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Animal Humane is Near and Dear to My Heart

By Sue Jimenez

Over my lifetime, I have been privileged enough to have opened my heart to many non-human critters including goldfish, turtles, chickens (hatched in my own incubator!), hamsters, gerbils, canaries, finches, parakeets, rabbits, dogs, and cats. Some were "found and adopted," others were from humane organizations, and a few were family pets purchased from dog breeders.

I was the lucky grade two student who was fortunate enough to take home the classroom goldfish for the summer. Luckily, they all had a great summer and returned to our grade three classroom in September!

Along all of those journeys, I lost most of these dear creatures who were my best friends, with much (and seemingly never-ending) heartbreak. I wouldn't have changed these relationships for anything.

When my late husband and I re-did our estate trust, there was absolutely no question that a donation would be made to Animal Humane New Mexico. Their work is outstanding, caring, giving and I can't imagine what it would be like here without their dedication and devotion to animals.

Knowing that our legacy will help in Animal Humane's future means everything. We never had children; our pets are our children. So, Animal Humane is definitely the most worthwhile recipient of part of our estate plan.



Tux & Shadow

Sue gives in memory & honor of her beloved companions: Puffy and Muppet (rabbits), Crispin (Old English Sheepdog), Hans (Dachshund), Pretzel and Peanuts (Dachshunds), Chips (Dachshund), Pooh and Eeyore (Hamsters), This, That and That Too (Finches), Amber, Casper and Kisa (cats), and her two current 16-year-old cats, Tux and Shadow.



To learn more about including Animal Humane New Mexico in your will, or about our Planning for Your Pet program, contact Stephanie Miller at StephanieM@AnimalHumaneNM.org or 505.938.7919.

DOGGIE
DASH & DAWDLE 2023

Special thanks to our amazing Doggie Dash & Dawdle Sponsors!

Off-Leash Dog Park Sponsor: Studio Southwest Architects

Doggie Zen Tent Sponsor: LNB Enterprises

Kilometer Sponsors: Parkhill, City of Vision & Wet Paws Grooming



Treetop

by Carol Briggs

I met Howie in February or March of '66 and we were married on Christmas Eve of 1967. Howie always had a dream of living in the Southwest so after we both retired we moved to New Mexico from Rhode Island.

In May of 2021, Howie was diagnosed with an aggressive type of cancer. On December 30, only seven months later, I lost him. **We had been married for 54 years.** I felt shell-shocked and went into a deep gloom state. I moved out of our apartment, I joined a senior center, and when the fog started to abate, I said to myself, **"I need something to focus on and lift my spirits."**

During our years together, Howie and I had adopted more than a few furry pets. "Aha!" I thought, "I'll get a kitten!"

My son took me to Animal Humane in July to look at the kittens. I originally wanted a boy cat since I knew I would be using the name Treetop. When my husband was in the military, "Treetop" was his computer login. But something really drew



me to this 14-month-old female cat we saw. I think it was her big eyes. **So, I named her Treetop and took her home.**

At first, she was skittish which made sense considering she was taken out of a hoarding situation. But within days, she came out of her shell, and now she is my best friend.

Treetop often plays in the living room, right in front of Howie's table where I keep his ashes, a photo of him, his flag from the funeral home, and some of his favorite DVDs and CDs. **While she plays, I sometimes get the impression that Howie is looking at her saying "I'm so glad Carol has you."** One of the things he was so upset about was what was going to happen to me after he was gone. So now I sit by his table, and I talk to him about the love, companionship, and joy she has brought back into my life. **Treetop has given my life purpose again.**

Wherever I go, she follows. I love her to death, and she is my pride and joy. I am so grateful to the staff at Animal Humane for their role in helping me get matched with my baby.

DOGGIE
DASH & DAWDLE 2023

Special thanks to our amazing Doggie Dash & Dawdle Sponsors!

Water Station Sponsors: Movora, Pulakos CPA & Trupanion

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Natural Burial New Mexico, Groomingdales Pet Spa,
K9 Resorts & Positive Energy Solar**



Auggie the Underdog

ZFD-2. That was what Auggie, a two-and-a-half-year-old Beagle, was referred to before his arrival at Animal Humane.

Auggie entered our care in late June after spending his whole life in a research testing facility. While we don't know what his time there involved, one thing was for certain. Auggie needed your help.

What struck our Team the hardest was that Auggie didn't really know how to be a dog. **What was normal for most dogs—going on walks, playing with toys and taking treats—was all entirely new to Auggie.**

But because you support Animal Humane, Auggie was introduced to all the perks of being a pup while in our care! We introduced toys to him and showed him all the different ways he could play. He went on long walks twice a day with staff or volunteers. This smart boy even learned how to sit for treats!

Because of you, Auggie's life truly changed once he was able to leave that research facility. But we knew his life could get even better once he found his forever home.



Thankfully, that happened in late summer when Michelle and her daughter came to Animal Humane to meet him!

"When we first met Auggie, my daughter and I were very emotional because he had similar characteristics to our beloved Beagles, Woody and Hank. Woody was fatally injured at a dog park and Hank passed of old age." Michelle recalls, **"It was at that moment, Auggie chose us!"**

Auggie chose his new family just in time, too. As the family was preparing to move to Arizona, Michelle's daughter Mia was staying behind to attend UNM. Auggie is staying with Mia, helping her adjust to college life and providing snuggles and support with her family now hundreds of miles away.



"Auggie is special because yes he has a sad backstory, but his future is filled with love and living life as every dog should," Michelle says. "To turn his sad situation around, we like to think that the research laboratory gave Auggie special superpowers, he's our own Underdog just like the cartoon!"

For every underdog you save and supportive snuggle you provide, thank you!

2023

paw-gress

2,311

Adoptions

523

Pets in
Foster Care

87

Pets Received
Behavior Support

2,556

Total Surgeries
including
Spay/Neuter

Numbers reflect 2023 statistics through November 8, 2023.