

# Paws for Thought

Spring 2020



Because of you, senior  
pets like Matilda find  
second chances, too.  
Read her story 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

**The Center  
at Animal Humane**

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



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## from the korner kennel the power of foster care

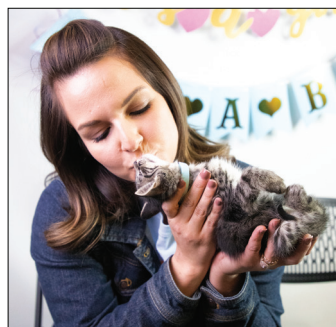
At the foundation of our Foster Care program lie three extraordinary women, Samantha Montgomery, RVT; Amy Cole & Arlyne Elias. But Samantha states "our volunteers are truly our heart, without our dedicated **200+ Foster Caregivers** we wouldn't be here!"

In 2019, **59 bottle babies** were nurtured in Foster homes with a 91.5% survival rate, substantially higher than national levels (60-85%). We also experienced 28% fewer orphaned neonates than '18, as more puppies and kittens were placed with surrogate nursing mothers who welcomed fragile pets into their litters.

Last year, our team fostered out **914 pets** (39 cats, 82 dogs, 581 kittens & 212 puppies), 10% above '18. Although most pets in Foster Care were simply growing bigger and stronger

in loving homes, 5% received specialized attention such as post-surgical orthopedic therapy, wound care & heartworm treatment.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Foster Care Baby Shower** takes place **Sunday, March 22** at our Main Campus from 1-2:30 pm in Gary's Room! We hope you'll join us for games, snacks, raffle prizes & photo opps with our young ones. **Our shower registry** is posted at [AnimalHumaneNM.org/foster-list](http://AnimalHumaneNM.org/foster-list).



**Foster Caregiver Ashley Jinzo gives kisses to kitten Malcolm.**

There will be much to celebrate at this public event, as Foster Care is woven into the health of our entire



shelter population. This powerful department, supported by hundreds of volunteers, serves our most vulnerable, and allows us to harbor more pets and allocate resources where most needed.

At one point last spring, the number of pets in Foster Homes exceeded the total pets at our Main Campus! Each pet's return was choreographed with our talented Adoptions, Animal Care, Clinic & Foster Care Teams to be lovingly welcomed back with the goal of their good health accelerating their adoption.

Thank you for helping us touch countless lives,

Donna M. Stumpf  
Executive Director

**Amy, Samantha & Arlyne with kittens Maya, Ray & Ali at our 2019 Baby Shower.**





*With your help 4,577 cats & dogs found loving homes and our shelter reached a 98% Live Release Rate in 2019!*

Andrew with dog Sarah, adopted from Animal Humane.

# Adoption Advisor of the Year: **ANDREW LEON**

**312** pets found loving homes in 2019 with Andrew Leon's help. This success earned him the title of Adoption Advisor of the Year. Each of the 312 represents a pet who found hope in time of need. **Andrew represented that hope for these cats & dogs**, as well as their forever families.

Ladybird was one of them. This 3-year-old Pit Bull built a strong bond with Andrew as she spent four months in our shelter before being adopted.

"Working one-on-one with Ladybird showed me how much investing in a dog pays off," says Andrew. "During my time with her, I watched her come out of her shell & ultimately find her perfect family."

Ladybird will always hold a special place in Andrew's heart. She's the reason he fell in love with the Pit Bull breed & went on to adopt his own "pocket pittie," named Leia, from Animal Humane. Along with Leia, Andrew also has a 10-year-old Terrier cross named Obi.

Andrew began working as an Adoption Advisor at Animal Humane in 2018. A year and a half later, he's earned a promotion — now an Adoption & Retail Lead — and has assisted with more than 500 total adoptions! In 2020, he hopes to double that number, helping save lives of over 1,000 pets.

Andrew may have taken on these adoptions, but each was truly a combined effort. **He couldn't have done it without the amazing Team, incredible volunteers and thoughtful donors, like you.**



Andrew holding Ladybird while on a hike together.



# LOVE

has  
no age  
limit



Matilda ready to enjoy her golden years.

Late one night in early spring when the temperatures were still dipping to freezing Matilda, a deaf senior Beagle mix, was found wandering down the road in a small town south of Albuquerque. **Evidence of a hard life was written across the 10-year-old's body**, and she communicated it to our Team with every wobbling step.

**We didn't know if she'd ever had a warm bed to sleep in.** Did a lifetime of sleeping outside on hard dirt contribute to

the almost debilitating arthritis that affected Matilda's ability to walk?

**We didn't know what her eyes had seen.** Had she experienced lonely nights with no one there to comfort her or the joy on the faces of a family when they returned home to her?

**We didn't know how long she'd been surviving alone.** In fact, as is often the case, our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic Team had more questions than answers about

this resilient girl. But we knew for certain that we wanted to ease Matilda's pain and give her the love that every pet deserves.

**Her past was a mystery, but because of you the sweet senior pup's future wouldn't be.**

Because of you, she'd know comfort. And warmth. And a full belly.

Our Team completed several rounds of intensive bloodwork and tested several different combinations

of medications & supplements until they found the right mix to relieve Matilda's pain. They also made sure her pain management was safe, sustainable and affordable for her future family.

Our Team had the knowledge necessary to treat Matilda, **but it was donors with a passion for pets, donors like you, who made her treatment possible.**

Shortly after our Clinic Team cleared Matilda for adoption, the perfect family arrived. **A family who knows, like you do, that love has no age limit**, and who is providing Matilda with a cozy home where she is enjoying her golden years.

No matter the age, even elderly pets, like Matilda, deserve a second chance at living a life full of love.

Thank you for believing in these senior pets & making their futures bright.



Matilda when she arrived at Animal Humane



# & PUPDATES CATCH-UPS



Lionel strikes his charming pose.

## senior cat finds HOPE & HEALING

Ten-year-old Lionel was found alone on the side of a road in Albuquerque. The kind citizen who rescued the cream Tabby noticed his face & neck were covered with wounds. He clearly needed help, and his finder knew that Animal Humane could provide it. In our care, **supported by your compassion & generosity, the sweet boy was given hope.**

At our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic, our Team suspected the senior feline had been in a fight. At risk of potential infection, Lionel's wounds needed treatment immediately. Because of you, Lionel was able to receive the necessary antibiotic injections and the

loving care he needed while his injuries healed. Like you, we were determined to find Lionel a safe, comfortable home where he would never be hurt or alone again.

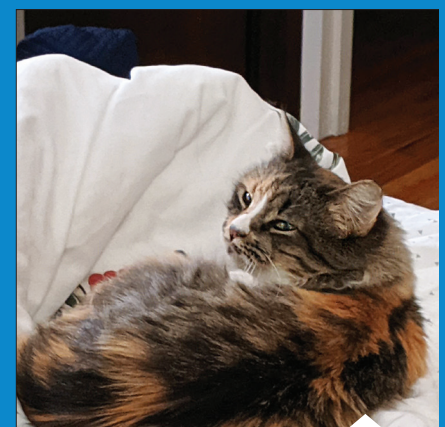
With medication and a week of rest, the sassy cat regained his strength. Lionel quickly charmed an adopter — one looking for their very first pet — with his handsome face & curious personality. Only 10 days after he was found, Lionel was heading home. **Every pet that comes to us is deserving of a second chance.** And with your help, second chances happen daily at Animal Humane. Thank you!



Jade is the sweetest kitten. My three boys absolutely love her!



Koda Bear was rescued last February & turned 1 in December. I'm lucky to have him! 🐾❤️



In 7 months Molly's gone from heart-wrenchingly skittish to a majestic, confident floof-ball.

Have you adopted a pet from Animal Humane? Send us an update & photo to [PUPdate@AnimalHumaneNM.org](mailto:PUPdate@AnimalHumaneNM.org)!



# from adoption to "I do"

## *Ranger helps airman find love*

Story by Chris Leeson

**F**our years ago, I was a nobody from small town Louisiana with no idea where my life was going. I began seeking direction and joined the Air Force. I hoped to travel & see the world — instead they sent me to the middle of the desert in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While I wasn't excited in the beginning, **getting stationed here turned out to be the best thing that ever happened.**

After moving to Albuquerque, I was lonely and missing my family dog, so I decided to adopt one of my own. When I arrived at Animal Humane New Mexico, I met Sue, the Senior Behavior Specialist. Sue took the time to get to know me, as she'd taken the time to get to know all of the pets in her care. After learning about my life, Sue suggested the dog she believed was perfect for me.

This dog, named Raji, was a stumpy, awkward, fearful hound puppy who Sue had spent weeks working with. While I was worried that there wasn't a spark, that this puppy would never feel comfortable with me, I put my fears aside and decided to adopt. **I renamed him Ranger, and today he is my best friend;** I can't picture life without him.

Ranger and I started going to a puppy playgroup organized by Sue. Little did I know, Sue wasn't done playing matchmaker. She used puppy playgroup to get me to bump into her Behavior Department co-worker, Jessica, who had also known Ranger. She'd seen Ranger at his most fearful, and unbeknownst to me, was blown away by the change in his behavior and the brave adolescent he'd become as I worked to build his confidence. She's always said that the kindness and patience that were clear in my interactions with Ranger were the only reason she gave me a shot: we took the dogs hiking for our first date, and the rest is history.

Many dog hikes later, Jess and I got married. Ranger was my Best Dog, and her dog,



**The new family of four.**

Boots, was the Dog of Honor. They stood by our sides just as they did on our first date.

After all of this, what strikes me most is that what made this happen was people who care. Sue took the time to get to know me and Ranger, and to learn about us both. She was invested in Ranger and made a connection — I will forever be grateful for that.

My wife still works at the shelter, and that level

of care and connection is something that I see day in and day out in the work they do. The Team goes above and beyond to give the pets in their care a chance at a family and a home.

Without this organization I would still be a lost Cajun in the desert.

**I owe my wife, my best friend, and my life to this shelter.** I didn't just adopt a dog, I adopted the rest of my life.



**Chris & Ranger pose for a photo on wedding day.**

***Last fall, Chris shared Ranger's adoption story in Petco's 2019 Holiday Wishes campaign. Their story was selected as a winner, securing a \$20,000 grant for Animal Humane!***



## EX-PURR-T ADVICE: the gift of golden years

When it comes to adoption, senior pets are hidden gems amidst a sea of puppies and kittens. These seasoned cats & dogs warm our hearts in many ways. If you are interested in “going gray” and giving an older pet the best years of their life there's a lot to consider. Senior Adoption & Admissions Manager, Kelsey Gutierrez, and Director of Veterinary Operations, Val Wilson, encourage fans of grey muzzles to think about the following:

### Senior pets...

#### **Are probably trained**

Many senior dogs already have some basic training, knowing commands like “sit” & “stay” and may even be housebroken.

#### **Require less physical activity**

Instead of spending hours chasing after a puppy or entertaining a kitten, you'll enjoy more relaxing snuggle time with a mature dog or cat, who has lower energy.

#### **Are less of a mystery!**

One of the biggest questions our Team receives from puppy adopters is “How big will he/she grow?” With senior pets there are no surprises — you already know exactly the size of dog (or cat) you're adopting.

### Caring for a senior pet means...

#### **Doubling up on vet visits**

Elderly pets (over the age of 7) should visit their vet every 6 months, instead of once a year. Early detection and prompt treatment will keep your pet healthy.

#### **Healthy weight = healthy pet**

Obesity in senior pets increases the risk of health problems. Keep your pet in shape with a healthy & readily digestible diet & maintain an age appropriate exercise regimen.



You're never too old for love or pearls. Celine was adopted at 14-years-old.

#### **Safe surroundings**

Arrange your pet's living space in areas with non-slip flooring or floor rugs to prevent slips & falls. Also, keep pet's belongings away from stairs to avoid accidental injuries.

#### **Consistency is key**

Overall, consistent routines for meals, exercise, stimulation & rest will help your pet maintain their quality of life and enjoy their golden years!



In place of plastic bags, our Thrift Shop has switched to paper bags, which will cost \$.10 each. If you bring your own reusable tote, you will be credited \$.05 for each bag used. You have the opportunity to give back through our new “Pennies for Pets” program and can donate the \$.05 saved to Animal Humane’s cats & dogs.





Doggie Dash & Dawdle is the celebration of our community's shared love of cats and dogs, while benefitting the many programs & the homeless & at-risk pets we care for at Animal Humane.

Our largest fundraising event would not be possible without our generous partners who support our mission. THANK YOU ALL!

**Presenting Sponsor:**



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**2020 Doggie Dash & Dawdle, Sunday, Nov. 1**  
stayed tuned for more details!

# 2020

## paw-gress

**542** YTD Total Adoptions

**55** YTD Pets in Foster Care

**609** YTD Total Surgeries, including spay/neuter

**11** YTD Pets Receiving Behavior Support

To see a full list of statistics from 2019, visit [AnimalHumaneNM.org/2019-in-review](http://AnimalHumaneNM.org/2019-in-review)



Q1 2020

**Yes, I want to give homeless pets a better life!**

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ My best gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Your kind gift makes a difference!

**I'd like to donate via:**

☐ Check mailed to: Animal Humane New Mexico at 615 Virginia St. SE 87108

☐ Credit card. Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

☐ Phone. Call 505.938.7938

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