Young, small & sick, Aidan found a second chance with your help. Read his story inside!
from the korner kennel

wonderful windfalls

What lessons we have learned this year and what wonderful windfalls have been bestowed upon Animal Humane!

• From skyrocketing successful first-time introductions of our pets through adoptions by appointment — allowing us to achieve close to pre-COVID-19 adoption levels — to lowering the lengths of stay for shelter pets through revised operations.

• From tripling our loving Foster Care network — and encouraging Caregivers to match our little ones with pet lovers in their social circles expediting their placement — to hosting our 1st virtual (but 15th Annual) New Mexico Humane Conference, bringing industry leading practices to 142 organizations in 105 cities, 32 states & 2 additional countries (UK & Canada).

• From converting our first come/first serve Pet Health Fairs to appointment-based, allowing the continuation of affordable vaccine & microchip services in an efficient and safe (distanced) manner to acquiring new software that automates workflow processes in Finance.

• From reaching hundreds of minds and many classrooms by embracing technology which allows our valuable Learn Humane instruction to continue to utilizing free apps to record shelter pet medication logs — saving precious time & resources.

Our hand was forced, but we leapt eagerly into each of the discoveries & opportunities listed above — and many more. We wouldn’t have learned these lessons or benefited from these windfalls without your valuable support.

May the year ahead continue to teach us new lessons & lead to more windfalls that bring happiness to people and pets…the same pets that will keep smiles on our faces & songs in our hearts in the new year!

Blissful wishes to you & yours,

Donna M. Stumpf
Executive Director

Aidan: tiny but mighty

Orphaned neonates are a very vulnerable population. You give these precious babies daily essentials, medical care & loving Foster Care homes to ensure they become healthy adolescents. Aidan is a perfect example of their astounding perseverance.

Brown Tabby Aidan weighed merely half a pound when he came to us. The 3-week-old was dehydrated & his left hind leg was swollen and lame. Thanks to you, he was battle fed, given antibiotics and placed into Foster Care. Day after day, Aidan became stronger. Though, his injured leg wasn’t growing properly. Our Team feared it would need to be amputated as soon as Aidan was old enough for surgery.

Six weeks into his care, however, X-rays revealed Aidan’s leg had begun to repair itself. The following
High speed car chases, repelling up and down cliffs, searching for missing persons—welcome to an average day in the life of Animal Humane Alum, Luke. For over a year, the 3-year-old Beauceron Cattle Dog mix has been in training to become a Jemez Springs K-9 Police Officer.

Who knew such an inspirational pup could come from the local shelter? Kurt did. And just like you, this Jemez Springs Police Officer believes all dogs deserve the chance to live up to their full potential. That’s why he adopted Luke from Animal Humane in 2018.

“Exceptional dogs come from shelters,” said Kurt. “And Luke had all of the qualities I was looking for.”

Kurt needed a canine partner who was intelligent, a quick learner and patient. All it took was one meet and greet for Kurt to know Luke was the one. Luke’s training in Search & Rescue, as well as Tracking & Detection, began shortly after adoption.

From learning commands in German & sign language to uncovering hidden narcotics, Luke has passed every test with flying colors. His proudest accomplishment to date was using his tracking skills to help a family find their adult daughter who went missing. He is a great asset to his community and the police force. Working on the squad not only keeps Luke grounded, it gives him purpose.

Like many events in 2020, COVID-19 put a temporary halt on Luke’s training classes. But, as soon as he has the opportunity to graduate, Luke will be a full-fledged K-9 Officer.

You rescued Luke. Now it’s his turn to become the hero.

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Two months after arrival, the rambunctious kitten was placed with our Cats Around Town partners at Title Wave Books, revised. He was adopted the very next day. No matter how young or small, sick or frail, you make second chances possible for every pet who enters our care. Thank you for sharing your love with pets like Aidan.

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Aidan was running, jumping & playing. His lameness had all but disappeared. With no pain or lack of function, amputation was no longer necessary.
The Labrador Retriever mix QT was adopted from Albuquerque Animal Welfare in 2007 when her mom, Valerie, wanted a running buddy.

“I have such a soft spot for shelter pets,” says Valerie. “Their worth is priceless.”

That same year Valerie signed up to run Animal Humane’s Doggie Dash & Dawdle 5K with 5-month-old QT for the first time.

“We had so much fun,” she says. “The next year I invited my boyfriend (now husband) to join us.”

Year after year, QT & Valerie continued to take part in our largest annual fundraiser. As their family of two grew into a family of six, Doggie Dash quickly became a tradition.

For 13 years QT & Valerie ran together to give back to shelter pets. And, they had every intention of participating in the 2020 event.

“But, QT had different plans,” said Valerie. “She went out on top.”

The sweet girl passed away this summer. To honor QT, Valerie made a quilt including Doggie Dash shirts from each year the duo attended.

The beautiful mosaic of t-shirts represents so much to Valerie — the bond she shared with QT and their favorite memories of running together. It also represents the countless lives of pets you have saved through your generosity & support of our events including Doggie Dash.

QT and mom Valeria at their first Doggie Dash in 2007.