Senior dog Gunther finds the perfect home with your help. Read his story inside.

Paws for Thought

Spring 2021
Last year, we experienced a 4% increase in Owner Surrenders over 2019.

This was anticipated & we extended resources to help reduce Intakes. Several COVID-19 grants allowed our Team to continue offering Safety Net services for pets at risk of being surrendered due to high medical costs, behavior issues or temporary housing needs. Our support led to 121 pets staying with their families in 2020!

Owner Surrender reasons vary greatly, as life is complicated, particularly during a pandemic. The No. 1 reason, by far, are pets discovered on someone’s property as newborns or longer-term strays; followed by owner abandonment, spay agreement* and health or death of owner. We handle each of these scenarios, and dozens more, with great sensitivity.

Of our 1,700+ Owner Surrendered cats + dogs last year, 92% were adopted, with an additional 3% being reclaimed or transferred out. Of the 4% of Intakes that were euthanized, the majority were neonates or senior pets in poor health upon arrival. Although this outcome is devastating each of these pets were treated with tremendous compassion as our Team helped end their suffering. The remaining 1% passed in our care due to medical conditions.

Animal Humane New Mexico is here to maximize happiness & minimize pain for the pets + people who rely on us. Your support ensures that we continue to work for the best possible outcome for every pet who comes into our care.

*Animal Humane agrees to spay & return females, with their offspring remaining in our care for sterilization & adoption.
Forrest was in critical condition after being hit by a car last summer. Both the tibia and fibula bones in his left hind leg were snapped in two.

Due to limited resources & the severity of his injuries, the county shelter where Forrest was taken after he was struck was unable to help the gregarious 3-year-old. That’s when you offered Forrest a life-saving second chance. He was transferred to Animal Humane through our Project Fetch program.

Supported by your love and generosity, our veterinarian Dr. Yarne surgically repaired the fracture by placing pins and wires into Forrest’s leg to stabilize and help it heal.

Following his operation, Forrest entered Foster Care. Each day for 8 weeks his compassionate Foster Caregiver assisted the sweet pup with physical therapy. Soon X-rays showed his bones had completely healed and Forrest was ready for a new leash on life.

During his 5 months in our care, you transformed Forrest’s life. Once lame & suffering, he is now a strong, active & happy boy. Forrest’s New Year’s Resolution was to find his forever family — a resolution you helped him keep! In mid-January he was adopted into a new home.

Left: X-rays of Forrest’s initial injuries. Right: Forrest fully recovered thanks to your love.
While most pets enter our care in need of a forever family, others are simply trying to find their way back home. You make it possible for our Team to reunite missing cats & dogs with their loving families — and both the pets and people involved in these happy reunions are thankful for you every single day.

**CHARLIE**

“Charlie was missing for about 4 months,” says his mom, Lori.

The orange Tabby arrived at Animal Humane last fall. When scanning for a microchip, our Animal Care Team discovered that Charlie was a member of the Lopez family.

“We looked for weeks for him, posted on Craigslist & Pawboost and checked daily with the local shelters,” says Lori. “Then we received a call from Animal Humane. We are so grateful you helped us find him.”

Charlie is now home enjoying his favorite activities once again — drinking from the bathroom faucet, playing with his dog sister, Mya, and, of course, eagerly awaiting snack time.

**LOUIE**

Gladis was in disbelief when our Team notified her that her dog Louie had entered our care. The black Labrador mix had been lost for 18 months.

“I'll come see if it's him,” Gladis told us, but she doubted that this dog, now at Animal Humane, could be her beloved Louie.

When she arrived, Louie approached cautiously to sniff. Then it clicked. The 2-year-old pup began jumping with excitement and showering his mom with kisses. We knew that this was certainly her dog.

**191 cats & dogs, or 5.3%, of the pets who entered our care, were reunited with their families in 2020.**
Because of you, this happy family has been reunited and their hope restored. After missing for a year and a half, Louie is home, safe & sound.

**JIRA**

In late fall, 3-year-old Jira was found by a kind neighbor in Northeast Albuquerque & brought to Animal Humane. The sweet beauty was microchipped, which helped our Team locate her family. They were relieved and elated to hear that Jira was safe at our shelter.

“We were thrilled to learn she’d been found,” said Carolyn. “Jira had been missing since August.”

The curious orange Tabby had mysteriously escaped four months prior. Gratefully, she was declared healthy & care-free after an examination by our Team. Less than 48 hours after entering our care, Jira was reunited with her loving parents.

When your precious pet is missing it can be terrifying. Sadly, it’s common. Each year, close to 15% of cats and dogs will go missing, according to a study done by the ASPCA®. Fortunately, there are many steps you can take, both before and after your pet goes missing, to help them find their way back to you!

- Ensure your pet wears a collar & tags with a current phone number.
- Ensure your pet’s microchip registration is up-to-date by contacting the microchip company.
- Create a lost pet report on Pawboost.com.
- Check with local shelters including Animal Humane New Mexico, City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department and Bernalillo County Animal Care Services — calling is fine, but make sure you check online profiles as well.
- Post flyers with a photo around your neighborhood and around the area your pet was lost.
- Post a free classified ad with Craigslist, Nextdoor and the Albuquerque Journal.
- Place missing cat’s food, water & bedding on your porch to help them find their way back.
- Check with neighbors.

Marnie would like to thank our Dash Pet Pal + Sponsors Albertsons Market, New Mexico Mutual, Pulakos CPAs, Red Door Brewing Company, REDW, Rodey Law, VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital & Referral Center, YogaZo & RKD Group!

Lizzy would like to thank our Dash Pet Pal Sponsors Amrack Chimney Sweeps, Aspen Printing Company, Best Friends Pet Cremations, Cardinal Financial, IceTwin, La Montañita Co-op Food Market, Prevender Financial Services, Simply Diego’s Natural Pet Food Market, Studio Southwest Architects & Workspace Dynamics!
Pets in our shelter’s care receive daily enrichment to keep their minds sharp and senses engaged. Kongs stuffed with pet-safe foods are one enrichment tool we use and a favorite treat for our dogs. Each week our Adoption & Behavior Teams stuff & distribute an average of 350 Kongs for the pups to enjoy, that’s almost 20,000 treats each year!
Early last year, brothers Gunther & Smokey arrived at Animal Humane. The odds could have been stacked against these mature gentlemen — both 12 years old, they were a bonded pair and needed to be adopted together — but fortunately you were here. Age had taken its toll on their bodies, but their hearts had only grown larger with a lifetime of love.

Because you believe every pet, regardless of age, deserves the best care possible, they received the support & love necessary to set them up for a successful adoption.

Mary Ann believed in them too. With a heart for older pets — having three senior cats and an elderly horse at home — she knew Gunther & Smokey belonged with her. Mary Ann and her partner, Roger, adopted the duo.

When it comes to caring for senior pets, Mary Ann gives wonderful advice. “You must live in the moment & enjoy all the time you have with them,” she says. “Because, you never know how much time they have left.”

Sadly, Gunther’s time with his family ended in late summer. Understandably, the loss was very tough for Smokey. But, Mary Ann knew just what to do. She came back to Animal Humane in search of another pack-mate for Smokey. It was love at first sight when Mary Ann met Christy, a 9-year-old blind shepherd mix. Surrendered with three other dogs, Christy thoroughly enjoyed the company of other canines. The meet-and-greet only proved what Mary Ann knew in her heart, Christy was the perfect match for broken-hearted Smokey & she fit right in with the whole family.

“We are enjoying these senior pets in our senior years,” says Mary Ann. Like Mary Ann, you know that age is just a number and with your help Animal Humane provides second chances for all pets, no matter how young or mature they may be.
Calico kitten Beet arrived at our shelter this summer. Abandoned, lethargic and left to fight for her young life, the tiny feline was found in Veguita, New Mexico. Knowing that your support of Animal Humane could offer the tiny kitten specialized care & a chance at a new beginning, the concerned finder brought her to us. It was here that you came to the 2-month-old’s rescue. At our Clinic, Beet began immediate treatment for a severe Upper Respiratory Infection. With medication and careful nurturing, the resilient girl fought off the infection & regained her strength. But, her journey to overall wellness didn’t stop there.

Though she was now physically healthy, Beet was extremely shy & fearful. She went out of her way to avoid all human interaction. Because of your compassion, the apprehensive kitten was enrolled in our Behavior Modification program where our Behavior Team gently & patiently built up her confidence. Before long, Beet began to open up, seeking affection from people and engaging in playful kitten behavior.

One month after her arrival the now vivacious kitten pounced her way into the hearts of her forever family. Your love gives every pet that comes to Animal Humane a second chance. Thank you for ensuring a brighter future for pets like Beet.

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