



**Read inside how
your support
not only saved
Ace's life but
also reunited
a family!**

Paws for Thought

Summer 2024



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)

**PetSmart Everyday
Adoption Center**

350 Eubank Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87123
505.298.4122 Ext 9

**Animal Humane
Thrift Shop**

5341 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
Follow us on Social Media!



@AnimalHumaneNM

from the korner kennel

Meeting Pets Where They Are

As the costs of care continue to rise for shelters across the country, we are grateful for your continued dedication to improving the lives of homeless animals. This support allows Animal Humane to meet each cat and dog where they are, no matter the condition they arrive in.

We have seen a substantial increase in dogs transferred from around the state that have spent their entire lives in the shelter. These under-socialized canines need significant support to prepare them for an eventual life in a home and out of a kennel. Thankfully, your support allows our Behavior Team to take as much time as needed to ensure these dogs go on to live happy, healthy lives.

As Veterinary Care remains inaccessible for many owners, we are continuing to see larger and longer kitten and puppy seasons. These litters all require individualized care, with rigorous feeding and medication schedules. Your generosity provides our Foster Care Program with vital tools they need to prepare these fragile babies for a healthy future.

This need for extra care extends to senior pets, another group we've seen arriving at the shelter more and more. From dental exams and bloodwork to x-rays and ultrasounds, our seniors



frequently visit our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic, where you ensure they receive the individualized medical care they all deserve.

No matter the challenges ahead or what the pets that arrive at Animal Humane need, we will continue to provide each cat and dog that enters our doors with patience, care, and compassion. I am grateful for your help in improving the lives of New Mexico's animals in need!

Val Wilson

Val Wilson, Executive Director

SUKI FINDS *Serenity*

In 2016, a group of fearful puppies were found wandering on a reservation and brought to Animal Humane. As our Admissions Team attempted to interact with them, we realized these dogs had likely never been touched by humans.

One of these puppies, Suki, was much more withdrawn than her siblings, refusing to eat or even leave her kennel. To provide Suki with the one-on-one time she needed, she was sent to live with a Foster Caregiver trained in helping unsocialized animals.

After a month of work with her Foster Caregiver and our Behavior Team, Suki's confidence had grown enough that she was adopted.

Suki lived with her person for seven wonderful years until her owner, an elderly woman, had to enter hospice care. Suki found herself leaving the quiet calm of her home and returning to Animal Humane. Paralyzed with fear of all the noises around her, Suki wouldn't move from the farthest corner of her kennel, leading to her urinating and defecating all over herself. Despite her hunger, Suki wouldn't eat.

Even after her years away, Suki reminded us of the terrified puppy we had met back in 2016.

Every pet comes to us with specific needs, and because of your support we can meet them where they are, providing them with the individualized



Tenille, Suki and Eric



Suki

"A powdered-sugar nose doesn't mean less fun, love, or memories."

—Tenille, Suki's adopter

care they deserve. Suki was no different. Our Behavior Team sprang into action, placing her in a quiet room in our Behavior Building. Here, Suki would stay away from other dogs while

building trust with our team in a one-on-one environment.

Through daily walks, consistent enrichment, and lots of hotdogs, Suki began to trust again. While still anxious, Suki was made available for adoption and waited for the perfect family to come along.

Lucky for Suki, she didn't have to wait long.

Looking for a senior pup to live with their cats, Tenille & Eric immediately fell in love with Suki's smile on Animal Humane's website. "When we met her, it was her super-sweet and reserved demeanor that spoke to us," Tenille explained. "We knew that she needed another chance in a great home with lots of love."

In her new home, Suki lives without fear, enjoying walks around her neighborhood and playdates with her new furry family, far from the terrified puppy we met seven years before. **Every time Suki needed you, you were always there. Thank you!**

Helping Ace Get Home

When Liane first met Ace, a handsome lab-mix in January of last year, she knew he was the dog for her. While Ace was known for his selectiveness, his connection with Liane was instant. "He immediately sat by my foot and would follow me around the room," Liane remembered. "I knew I needed to bring him home." **After years of moving in and out of shelters, Ace found the perfect person for him: Liane.**

Shortly after Ace's adoption, Liane, a member of the US Air Force, was suddenly called away on Temporary Deployment. Leaving home meant finding a place for Ace while she was gone, so Liane found a family that she entrusted to take care of Ace until she returned.

A few weeks after leaving home, Liane received heartbreaking news. **The family she had trusted Ace with had dropped him off at the shelter. What's worse? There was no way Liane could leave deployment to get him.** "It was heartbreaking knowing he was back."

Without his person, Ace was anxious and scared. Moving from the quiet of a forever home back into the kennel is often overwhelming, as pets are forced to re-acclimate to life in a shelter. Ace's nervous

Reunited!



Ace and Athena

energy skyrocketed, especially around other dogs.

Your support allowed Ace to be enrolled in Behavior Modification to help reduce his stress and navigate his return to our care. For months, Ace worked with our team until finally his confidence improved and he was made available for adoption.

Potential adopters would come to Campus to meet Ace, but none were the right fit. So, he continued to wait.

While Ace waited for Liane, Liane worried about Ace.

When she returned from deployment, she immediately started looking for Ace. "I just scrolled on shelter websites hoping I would see my boy," Liane said.

Finally, Liane spotted a familiar face. "I just knew it was him on the website," Liane said. So,

she called Animal Humane, set up a meet and greet, and hoped she was right. **When Ace entered the dog park to see Liane, he immediately knew he was home again.** "He came right back up to me and put his head in my lap, I knew I had found him."

Because of your love for pets like Ace, Animal Humane was able to completely cover Ace's adoption fee. Like you, we were just happy for Ace's family to be reunited, with him back exactly where he belongs.

Recently, Ace's family has grown with the addition of a new puppy! "We got Athena just for Ace, so he's never alone." With his shelter days behind him, Ace now spends his time playing with his new puppy and sticking close by his best friend, Liane. **"You can tell how happy he is to be back with us. I'm so glad I found him again."**

PUPdates & CATch-ups



Drew is living the good life with his new family. He loves lazing on the couch and is learning how to jump in the car!

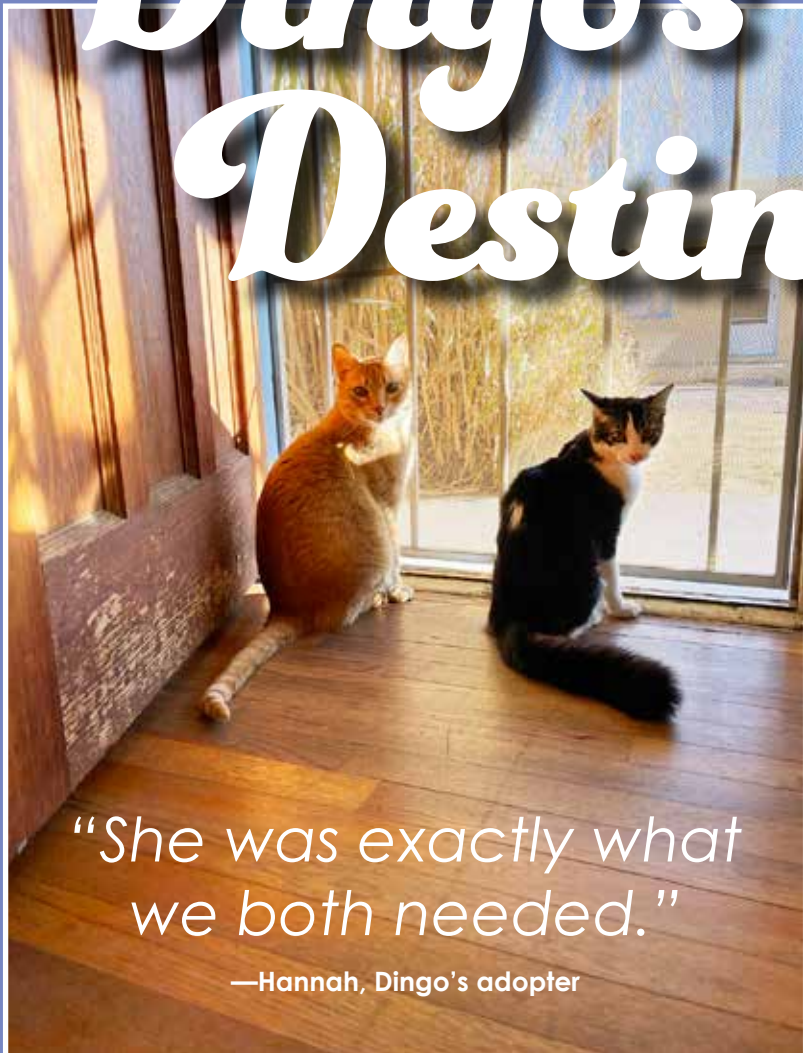


Squish is the star at his new home! He loves snuggling with his two canine siblings.

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.



Dingo's Destiny



"She was exactly what we both needed."

—Hannah, Dingo's adopter

*W*hen Hannah's beloved cat, Moondog, suddenly fell ill on a Monday morning, she thought he would be fine. At only three years old, Moondog was still a young, seemingly healthy cat. Just three days later, however, while recovering at the veterinary office, Moondog passed away. **Hannah's home, usually so full of life, suddenly felt tragically empty.**

While Hannah began to navigate her own grief, she noticed her other cat, Lenny, rapidly declining. Lenny was eating less and spent his days crying out for his missing brother.

"Lenny helped raise Moondog from kittenhood, teaching him how to navigate the world," recalls Hannah, "I knew he was missing his best friend."

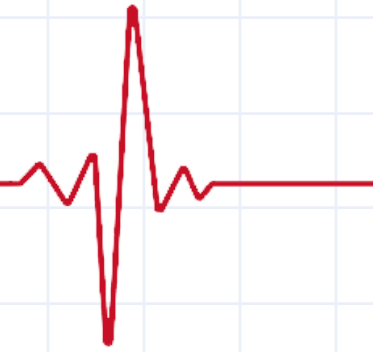
While hesitant to open her heart back up so soon, Hannah felt the responsibility to start the search for Lenny's new companion. When she met Dingo, a beautiful brown tabby with bright eyes, at Animal Humane, the cat's silliness immediately comforted Hannah. **In a time of overwhelming sadness, Dingo offered some joy.** "I hoped she would be a big beam of light for us."

Now, Hannah's house feels full, and Lenny's spirits are up as he again teaches a new young sibling how to navigate life as a cat. "He accepted Dingo immediately," Hannah remembered. **"Bringing Dingo home was a vital step in my grief.** There was definitely a hole she is helping to fill, for both me and Lenny."



Dingo

Ahsoka's Close Call



As our Clinic Team prepared Ahsoka, a four-year-old mix, for her routine spay surgery, they had no idea they would soon be fighting to save her life. Ahsoka, meaning “hope” in Sanskrit, entered our care like many other pets—in need of medical care.

Every day, Animal Humane's Clinic Team provides our shelter pets with a large variety of medical services. From general health exams and vaccinations to dental cleanings and spay/neuter surgeries, we ensure every pet that enters our care receives the basic veterinary services they deserve. **In one day, our Clinic Team may perform as many as twenty sterilization surgeries for our shelter population, with the large majority resulting in no complications.**

To get Ahsoka ready for surgery, the Clinic Team began the process of medicating and sedating her. Normally, Ahsoka would then be intubated and moved to the surgical suite. **But suddenly, Ahsoka stopped breathing and her heart arrested. This routine procedure quickly became a mission to save Ahsoka's life.**

Never hesitating, our Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Robertson, rallied the Clinic Team to action. **A dozen hands began working as one,** administering life-saving medications, performing chest compressions, and manually ventilating Ahsoka's lungs all at the same time. In just a few minutes that felt like hours, Ahsoka's heart finally started beating again. As the canine took her next gasp of air, the entire Clinic Team sighed in relief.

After ensuring she was stable, Ahsoka received her spay surgery and returned to her kennel, the happy pup having no idea of her harrowing day. Our exhausted and relieved Clinic Team shared well-deserved hugs and tears. A few days later, happy and healthy, Ahsoka was adopted!

Still a sweetheart, Ahsoka now spends her days playing with her older brother, Diesel, and flopping



Ahsoka



Animal Humane Clinic team members and Ahsoka

around with her favorite toys. On her first night at home, Matthew, Ahsoka's new dad, was sure she was the perfect fit, “She would wake up throughout the night just to climb on top of me and give me a few kisses.”

It's safe to say, Ahsoka is absolutely thriving in her new home, having the life and family that we know every pet deserves. And it was your generosity that helped make it happen. **By supporting Animal Humane's Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic, you ensure that we can continue to change the lives of every cat and dog that enters our care.** Harrowing rescues and happy endings like Ahsoka's are made possible because of you.

Finding Pickle's Perfect Place

When Pickle, a stunning long-haired Siamese, was transferred to Animal Humane, she came with a long list of warnings. The shelter environment is often overwhelming for pets as new sights, sounds, and smells are constantly filtering in. **These stressors were even worse for Pickle, who is visually impaired.**

With a kennel in a high traffic and noisy area, Pickle began lashing out from the fear and stress—hissing as people walked by and swiping at potential visitors with her paws. **Hoping to set Pickle up for success, our Project Fetch shelter partner requested her transfer to Animal Humane, knowing we had the behavioral & medical resources to help her. Resources made possible by you!**

Rather than one of our communal cat rooms or private condos, Pickle was placed by herself in a room normally intended for a group of kittens. **This spacious and quiet environment gave Pickle the ability to take in her surroundings safely and at her own pace, without the sound of shelter dogs or the proximity of other cats.** The bigger room also allowed our team to begin slowly interacting with Pickle, learning more about her along the way.

Our Clinic Team learned that Pickle had a condition known as uveitis, causing her to only see shadows and shapes. Following Pickle's lead, we learned to move cautiously and allow Pickle to smell people before they interacted with her. With this gentle approach, and lots of Churu treats, Pickle began to eagerly greet her favorite volunteers and staff.



Pickle

Pickle also began regular eyedrop treatments at our Clinic. After just one week, the cloudiness in her eyes began to fade, allowing Pickle to start seeing better! With a full understanding of Pickle's needs, we knew she was ready for a forever home!

Your love and understanding of homeless pets in need has allowed our Team at Animal Humane to advocate for the special needs of pets just like Pickle's. It is because of your generosity that Pickle is now in her perfect place—a safe home with a family who loves her.



*Numbers reflect statistics from January 1 - April 30, 2024