

# Paws for Thought

Fall 2024

Read inside  
how you gave  
Tip a second  
chance at a  
healthy life!





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**Main Campus**  
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 Albuquerque, NM 87108  
 505.255.5523

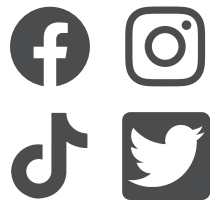
**Animal Humane**  
**Westside Adoption Center**  
 10141 Coors Blvd. NW  
 Albuquerque, NM 87114  
 505.323.PETS (7387)

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

**AnimalHumaneNM.org**  
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Donate to help us  
 continue our  
 life-saving work



## from the korner kennel

# A New Community Resource

**W**hen Animal Humane New Mexico was created in 1965, Colonel Edmund and Thelma Evans envisioned a society in which every animal is treated with respect and compassion. To achieve this, we established our mission of supporting and improving the lives of New Mexico's cats and dogs through sheltering, adoptions, humane education, and veterinary services.

**Almost 60 years later, we are proud of the work we have accomplished to save hundreds of thousands of lives.** Work made possible by you.

As we reflected on where we have come from and where we hope to go, we have recommitted ourselves to a very important part of our mission—New Mexico's cats and dogs. **This includes all pets in our beloved state, not just those that find themselves homeless and in a shelter.** So, we are thrilled to offer a new resource to not only support animals but support those who care for them.

Our new Pet Resource Center, a mission-driven resource to unite both animal and human welfare services, will provide a variety of services that our community is in desperate need of:

- An expanded Pet Food Pantry
- Low-Cost Behavior Classes
- Youth and Adult Humane Education Classes
- Emergency Pet Boarding
- Pet Health Fairs with free vaccines and microchips

**Animal Humane's new Pet Resource Center will supply pet owners with the supplementary resources they need to keep pets where they belong: with the people who love them.**



Jacinto, Val and Rico

With the continually rising cost of pet care coupled with restrictions on housing, we are seeing more and more beloved pets being surrendered into shelters. **Now more than ever, pet owners need an extra hand.**

Because of your steadfast support, Animal Humane has become a trusted and reliable partner to shelters and rescues around the state, offering aid in the most urgent times of need. **With our Pet Resource Center, we hope to also become a better partner of the local community, reducing the barriers to pet ownership and keeping all the pets of New Mexico healthy and happy.**

In 1965, Colonel Edmund and Thelma Evans envisioned a better world for the pets in our state. **Thank you for your dedication to their vision and your continued support of our life-saving work.**

With immense gratitude,

*Val Wilson*

**Val Wilson, Executive Director**



Three of the Pie Puppies in their foster home — Orange Blossom, Huckleberry and Plum Pudding.

# A Rough Start

## Saving the Pie Puppies

**W**hen almost 20 Pitbulls were found locked in a vacant house in Valencia County, our partners at NMDog knew Animal Humane would answer the call.

Of the many dogs, seven just-weaned puppies were in the most urgent need of help. Born into the hoarding situation, these pups were surrounded by older dogs, all fighting for very limited resources. **With their age and fragile condition, these puppies would have struggled to survive without our intervention.**

*Through our Project Fetch Program, Animal Humane has become a reliable transfer partner for animal shelters and rescues all over the state of New Mexico.*

Puppies born to moms in traumatic situations, such as animal hoarding, can experience long term behavioral and medical issues. As the mom's system floods with stress hormones throughout her pregnancy, the puppies, too, experience the same stress. The lack of available food can also result in impaired development for the puppies.

Once they arrived, each pup was assessed by our Team for their general health and disposition. **With the difficult circumstances they were born into, some of the puppies showed some apprehension towards this new environment**

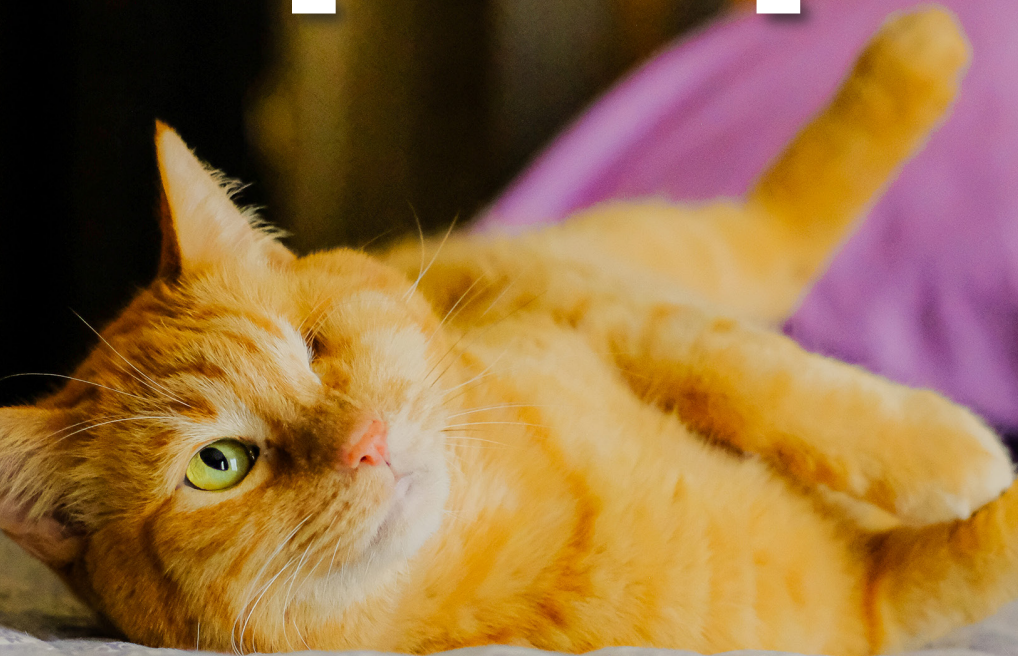
**they were in.** Despite having never interacted with humans, they were still very sweet. This sweetness became the inspiration for their names—The Pie Puppies. From Angel Cake to Blueberry Muffin, these puppies deserved names as sweet as them.

Still wanting to ensure they had the best chance at socialization with humans, the Pie Puppies were sent to live with Foster Caregivers. **For the first time in their young lives, the puppies finally had the space and safety to explore, play, and learn how to be dogs.** This time in a home is invaluable, especially for dogs predisposed to anxiety and resource scarcity. Finally, the Pie Puppies had some peace.

After a few weeks growing and learning in their Foster Homes, the Pie Puppies were finally ready to find their families. Each of the seven sweeties was adopted! **No matter their size, temperament, or condition, it is because of your support that Animal Humane can continue our life-saving transfers and rescue of pets across New Mexico.** Thank you for giving these puppies the lives they always deserved.

cover story

# Getting Tip in Top Shape



*“I just couldn't say goodbye to him.”*

— Adoptor Kalie,  
Animal Humane Vet Tech

**W**hen Tip, a stunning orange tabby, arrived at Animal Humane in March, our Team immediately noticed something wrong. **One of his bright green eyes was much duller than the other, and Tip seemed to have a permanent squint, likely from pain.** Despite his discomfort, Tip immediately endeared himself to our team, greeting us with his chirpy meow and flopping on his side for pets. To find the cause of Tip's pain, he visited our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic, where our team discovered inflammation inside of his eye. This chronic inflammation, known as uveitis, creates painful pressure. Uveitis can often be quickly cured if caught early enough. Our Clinic Team placed Tip on medicated eye drops with the goal of treating the infection and improving Tip's sight.

Twice a day, Tip received his drops from a member of our Animal Care Team. While most pets are on eyedrops for only a week, Tip's uveitis persisted. His eye would look clear one day, then he would be back to squinting the next. **After a month on antibiotics, Tip's eye had stopped responding to his medicated eyedrops.** Not only had the cloudiness remained, but now the infected eye was causing Tip so much pain, he stopped opening it at all. His eye was also beginning to bleed. Despite his pain, Tip remained merry and optimistic, greeting visitors with his signature meow and reaching out for attention.

**No matter how long a pet remains in our care, your support allows us to do whatever it takes to ensure they live happy, healthy lives.** Since Tip's eye stopped responding to the antibiotics, our team met to decide what would give this sweet cat the best chance at a pain-free life. Due to the severity of his infection, we decided to remove Tip's infected eye.

After Tip's surgery, he was placed in a collar to limit his ability to scratch



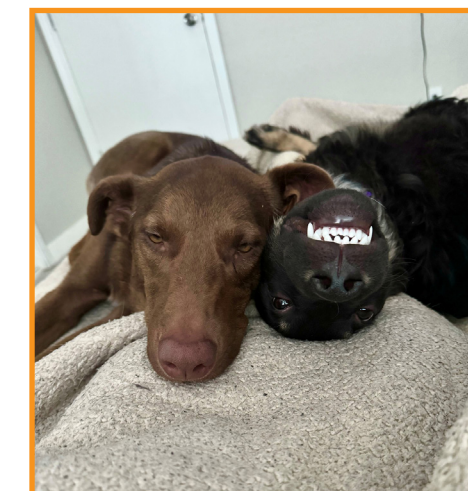
Tip before surgery

at his stitches. **As he adjusted to his new range of sight, Tip had problems navigating the space within his recovery cage, made even worse by the limitations of the cone.** Our Team moved Tip to a large room in our Cat House. Typically, home to multiple cats, this room was the perfect place for Tip to move freely and confidently.

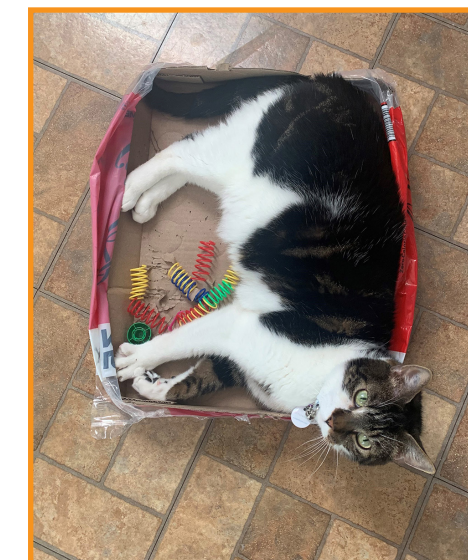
While Tip recovered from his surgery, he frequently visited the Clinic to ensure he was healing well. Here, **Tip's outgoing personality caught the eye and ear of Kalie, a Veterinary Technician at our Clinic.** “It was hard not to notice him, he's so vocal,” Kalie said. With pets already at home Kalie wasn't sure if Tip, freshly healing from surgery, would adjust well to a full house. But when Tip was officially cleared for adoption, Kalie knew, “I just couldn't say goodbye to him.”

Four months later, Tip has healed beautifully from his surgery and lives happily with Kalie and her family. Tip struts around his home, spending most of his time lazing on a cat tower by the window. **It is heart-breaking to think what would have happened with this sweet feline if Animal Humane had not stepped in.** It is because of you that not only did Tip receive the consistent, specialized attention he needed to heal; he also received the love of a family to call his own.

## PUPdates & CATch-ups



Rory (right) is all smiles as she settles into her new home! She especially enjoys snuggling with her sibling.



Big John lives like a king now. He loves spending time in his box of treasures.

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](mailto:pupdate@animalhumanenm.org).



# Surviving a Hoard

## Petey and Guster Find Happiness

**I**n April, Animal Humane received an urgent call for help. The Socorro County Sheriff's department had just discovered a massive hoarding situation. Over 100 Chihuahua mixes, all varying in age and condition, had been living in and around a small trailer on a large plot of dirt for many years.

As our team arrived, our hearts broke seeing how horrific these dogs' living conditions were. Dozens of dogs were cowering together, surrounded by fecal matter and with limited food and water. **Most of these pups had lived their entire lives outside, never experiencing the touch of a human, any veterinary care, or the safety of a secure home.**

Working with two other rescues to place all of the dogs, our team brought 36 sick and terrified chihuahuas back to Albuquerque.

**Two of these pups, Guster and Petey, were in particularly rough shape.** Guster, a tan chihuahua, was unable to walk on his back leg, an old, untreated injury rendering him lame. Petey, a black and white mix, had numerous ticks filling both of his ears. He tested positive for anaplasmosis, a tick-borne illness that can become fatal without treatment.

**Years of neglect had turned these preventable injuries into serious illnesses.**

Guster and Petey were both treated at our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic. To increase Guster's mobility and reduce pain, our Clinic Team amputated his lame leg. They also started Petey on Doxycycline, an antibiotic, to kill the organism causing his illness. **Still shy and skittish, these pups were**



**finally on the road to recovery.**

A lifetime of living in survival mode, scrounging for limited resources, often leaves animals rescued from hoarding situations under socialized and easily stimulated. Normal behaviors and experiences such as playing with toys, enjoying a calm meal, and snuggling with humans are completely new to them. Our team knew it might be difficult to find the perfect fit for even a single pup. **Thankfully,**

*Over 100 Chihuahua mixes, all varying in age and condition, had been living in and around a small trailer on a large plot of dirt for many years.*

**Petey and Guster not only found their forever homes—they got to stay together.**

**Previously abused and overlooked, Petey and Guster are now spending their days snuggled together, on a leisurely walk, and getting all the love they could ask for.** Because of you, these two friends never have to worry about where their next meal is, where they will sleep, or if they will survive. Thank you for giving Petey, Guster, and the 34 other dogs rescued from Socorro a chance at the life they have always deserved.

# McDreamy

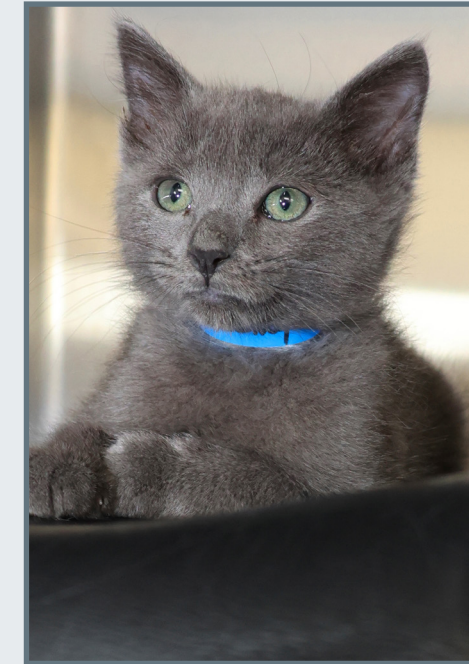
## A Miracle for

**Y**our support has allowed Animal Humane to have a thriving Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) Program, aiming to manage feral cat colonies from Belen to Las Vegas, New Mexico. Through TNR, Animal Humane works with community members to humanely trap, medically evaluate, vaccinate, and sterilize free-roaming and feral cats. These now healthy cats are returned to their community homes.

This past spring, a community member brought a box of sickly kittens from a feral cat colony to our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic. With just one look at these kittens, **we knew they needed more extensive help—and they needed it fast.**

**The four grey kittens were only a few weeks old and so sick they could barely open their eyes.** While TNR cats are typically released after they recover, our Team determined these kittens were much too young and sick to return to living outside. **We admitted the litter into our care and immediately began trying to save their lives.**

**One kitten, McDreamy, was in**



**especially bad shape.** With his eyes completely crusted closed and struggling to breathe, McDreamy was battling a very aggressive Upper Respiratory Infection (URI). He was also severely dehydrated. While most URIs are curable, they are often fatal for kittens McDreamy's size.

Our Clinic Team immediately started McDreamy on both fluids and antibiotics. **Because of his**



**fragile state, McDreamy was placed in a specialized Foster Home to closely monitor his condition.** With daily medications and lots of love, McDreamy slowly began to improve.

**While his future was uncertain, McDreamy kept fighting.**

After more than a month in Foster Care, McDreamy returned to campus a completely new kitten. **From emaciated and sick to fluffy and thriving, our Team hardly recognized the reinvigorated kitty in front of us.** Within just a few days of his return, McDreamy, along with his siblings, found their forever homes.

**Because of your support, Animal Humane is ready to help the sickest of pets find their way back to health, regardless of their condition when they arrive.** Thank you for making Animal Humane a safe place for the pets that need us.

animalhumanenm.org/dash2024



**GGIE**  
DASH & DAWDLE 2024

FINISH

dreaming of Dash

**November 3 • Balloon Fiesta Park**





## Shelter Spotlight

Please enjoy a view of Animal Humane from the inside! These photos have been taken by our dedicated staff and volunteers.



1



2



3



4



6



5

1. Salami tending to his catnip plant.
2. Mugg needs a hand to hold after surgery.
3. Olive soaks up the sun in the Cat House.
4. Rocco spends some bonding time with Lead Animal Care Attendant, Rachel.
5. Buster Brown enjoys a sweet treat with AHNM volunteer Kevin.
6. Chloe giving the most perfect puppy dog eyes.

Donate to help us continue our life-saving work



# 2024 paw-gress

**1,601** Adoptions

**375** Pets in Foster Care

**80** Pets Received Behavior Support

**1,505** Total Surgeries including Spay/Neuter

\*Numbers reflect statistics from January 1 - August 15, 2024