

Paws for Thought

Winter 2024



**You saved Mila from
a life of pain and fear.
Find out more 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)

**PetSmart Everyday
Adoption Center**

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

**Animal Humane
Thrift Shop**

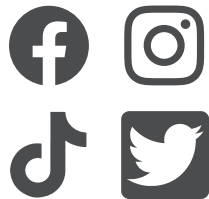
5341 Menaul Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505.938.7915

**Donor-subsidized
Veterinary Clinic**

615 Virginia St. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
505.217.0300

AnimalHumaneNM.org

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continue our
lifesaving work



from the korner kennel

A Year of Impact

During this season of gratitude, I cannot help but reflect on all the amazing work we have accomplished at Animal Humane New Mexico, work only made possible because of you. This year, our community was challenged in many ways: from natural disasters and massive hoarding situations to a continuing veterinary shortage and climbing costs of care, we saw many pets in crisis. Through it all, your enduring support ensured every single animal received the comprehensive medical care, behavior support, and compassion they needed to thrive.



In a year of low adoptions and increasing admissions, Animal Humane remained a trusted partner to shelters and rescues across the state. **In 2024, we provided lifesaving transfers and second chances to over 1,750 pets in need through our Project Fetch program.** With these lifesaving transports, crucial kennel space was opened, creating room for the next pet in need.

We also expanded our community and outreach services, providing vital support to hundreds of local pet owners. **At our Pet Health Fairs, we administered over 500 vaccinations to pets, helping bring low-cost veterinary care directly**

to those that need it most. We look forward to expanding these efforts even farther in 2025 with our new Pet Resource Center.

As we celebrate the New Year, I am eager to see what new and exciting challenges we will face together. **With dedicated supporters like you, Animal Humane can continue to serve the beloved cats and dogs of New Mexico, no matter their needs.** Thank you for ensuring their safety and happiness!

With immense gratitude,

Val Wilson

Val Wilson, Executive Director

Special Thanks to our Amazing Sponsors!

DOGIE DASH & DAWDLE 2024

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Poppy's Close Call

This past May, Animal Humane took in a litter of very sick kittens, all seemingly suffering from an Upper Respiratory Infection. One kitten, Poppy, stood out to us as she appeared significantly sicker than the rest of her littermates. We sprang into action, getting additional testing done for Poppy. **What we found revealed a much scarier diagnosis for the small kitten: Panleukopenia.**

Also known as feline distemper, Panleukopenia is a virus that attacks the cells of a kitten's body, limiting their ability to fight off infection. **Treating the disease requires diligent, round-the-clock attention, and the cost of care can quickly climb into the thousands.** Even with treatment, Panleukopenia is often fatal in young kittens, with a survival rate of only 20-50%.

Poppy was immediately separated from the rest of her littermates and moved into isolation to prevent the spread of disease. **She began rapidly declining and needed urgent intervention to save her life: she needed you.**

After sharing Poppy's battle for survival, we were inspired by the response. **In only a few days, her treatment was fully funded, providing Poppy with the best chance at a full recovery.**

As her vital signs began to improve, Poppy was placed in a Foster Home to finish her treatment in peace.

After over a month of medication and recovery,



Poppy before care



Poppy during treatment



Poppy after treatment

"I just love her so much"

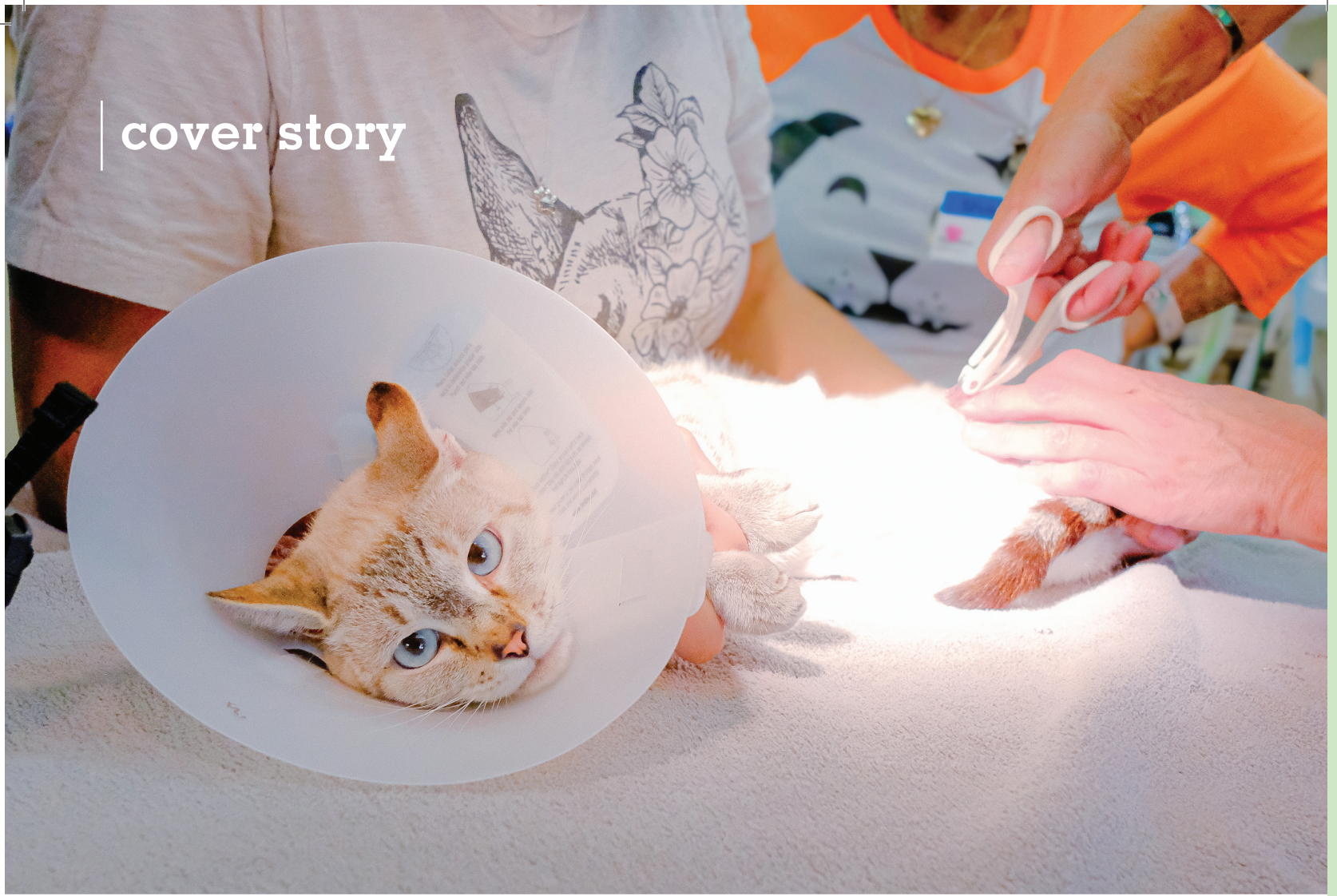
—Ashley, Poppy's adopter

Poppy returned from Foster Care a brand-new kitten. Previously dull with illness, her eyes were now bright with life. These beautiful eyes quickly stole the heart of her new

mom, Ashley.

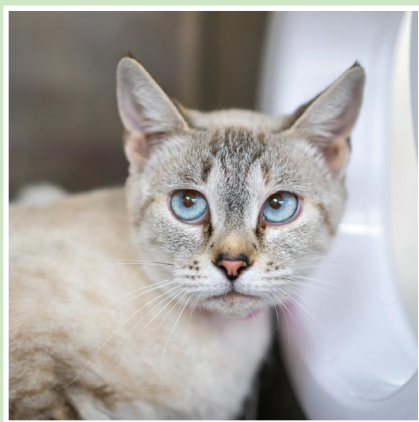
Once a kitten on the brink of death, Poppy is now happy and healthy, living a life that your quick response and dedication made possible.

cover story



Mila receiving care in our clinic

Finally Safe: *Mila's Journey*



When Carlos first met Mila, he wasn't sure the beautiful Siamese would survive. After sustaining a massive injury to her back leg at only four months old, Mila, a then-feral kitten, struggled to recover. "I was worried she wouldn't make it," said Carlos as he recalled young Mila limping around his yard.

But the resilient kitten pressed through the pain, gradually adjusting to her injury as she grew. After two years living outside, Mila became a mother. “Once she had her kittens, she became much more calm, more motherly to the other cats and even me.”

After noticing more and more cats like Mila appearing in his neighborhood, Carlos began working with Animal Humane to trap his community’s cats and their kittens. Carlos’ work allows young kittens to be socialized in the shelter and find loving homes. It also ensures the mother cats are healthy and sterilized, limiting the number of litters. Most of these mom cats avoid human contact, preferring their independent lives outside.

For Carlos, helping his community’s cats would be impossible without Animal Humane—without you. **“I knew Animal Humane would make sure they got what they needed.”** Carlos says, **“Thank you for helping me help them.”**

When Carlos brought Mila and her kittens in, we first assessed her injuries at our Donor- subsidized Veterinary Clinic and were shocked to find that this outdoor cat was eager for affection and attention from humans.

As we interacted more with her, we discovered Mila suffered from nystagmus, a common condition in Siamese cats where their eyes move rapidly back and forth. This meant Mila likely had some form of vision impairment, making her early years outside even more treacherous.

Despite the age of her leg injury, Mila’s leg continued to limit her movements and cause her pain. Our Clinic Team determined that amputating the injured leg would give her the best chance at a pain-free future. **After years outside with daily pain and limited vision, Mila finally found relief, relief only made possible by you.**

Mila recovered amazingly fast after her surgery and found her forever family in only two days! While initially a little hesitant to adopt a three-legged cat, Nathan instantly knew Mila was the cat for him. “As soon as I picked her up, she started purring,” Nathan said. “It felt like she had chosen me.” **After a lifetime of pain and fear, Mila finally has a safe place to call home.**



Mila after surgery



Mila and Nathan

“It felt like she had chosen me.”

—Nathan, Mila’s adopter

Kiki Comes Inside:

How a Yard Dog Became a Couch Potato

When Kiki, a senior Lab mix, arrived at Animal Humane, she slept indoors for the first time in years.

Kiki had lived most of her life in a small yard with a short fence, gaining many physical and emotional scars while living outside and alone. Based on her body condition and the fact that she was still intact, we can assume Kiki likely mothered many litters during her years in the yard. After many calls from concerned neighbors, Kiki was finally rescued.

Everything about the safety of our shelter was new to Kiki. Daily walks were particularly stressful for her, and she avoided other pups in any way possible, often splaying her body on the ground and refusing to move. Kiki was also not interested in the nutritious meals and fresh water we provided, a sign that something far more serious may be going on. After our Clinic Team ruled out anything medical, we realized that it was her fear that was the cause.

Pets like Kiki need patience, time, and extra care—something you give every pet at Animal Humane.

Determined to change Kiki's outcome, our Behavior Team paired her with a staff member in a quiet office. This not only gave Kiki some much-needed time to decompress, but it also



Kiki

**“She is the companion
of my life.”**

—Margarita, Kiki's Adopter

allowed us to keep a close eye on her health. This break from the kennel gave her the space and peace to begin feeling safe. Slowly but surely, she started to eat small bits at a time and even became eager for her daily walks. **Once trembling in fear, Kiki was finally ready to show us the sweet, silly girl she really was.**

After a life of chaos, Kiki only wanted peace. Luckily for Kiki, Margarita Brooks was in need of a peaceful companion and took Kiki home. “She is the best,” Margarita says of her new best friend. “We just sit on the sofa and enjoy the days together.”

Because of your support, Kiki will finally spend this holiday season where she belongs: in the arms of a loving family.

Orphaned to Adopted



Nicky



Eric



Leopard

On a rainy day at Animal Humane, a Good Samaritan walked into our parking lot clutching a wet shoebox. Inside were two kittens, Eric and Nicky, only a few weeks old and much too small to be away from their mother. The finder had spotted the tiny grey spots in the middle of the road, placed them in the box, and rushed to our Campus. **Time was of the essence to save these tiny lives. And thankfully, your support allowed us to immediately take the shivering kittens in, bringing them to the warmth and safety of our Foster Care building.**

One of the kittens, Eric, was showing early signs of an Upper

Respiratory Infection, likely contracted during his time in the rain, while Nicky was malnourished and dehydrated. Both kittens were seen and treated by our Clinic Team, each provided with the medications they needed to begin their recovery. **More than medications, these small kittens needed a miracle: they needed a mother.**

As Eric and Nicky started their treatments, a young mother cat tended to her kittens in the kennel right next door. Only days earlier, Leopard, a beautiful Cream Tabby, and her two nursing kittens were surrendered to Animal Humane.

Hoping to give Eric and Nicky their best chance at

a healthy future, our Foster Care Team decided to try something different. With care and patience, we introduced Leopard to these two orphaned kittens. **To our amazement, Leopard immediately accepted Eric and Nicky as her own!**

The now blended family was placed in a loving Foster Home, where Eric and Nicky grew up right alongside Leopard's kittens. **Because of you, the most vulnerable animals like Eric and Nicky can find what they need at Animal Humane, whether that be medical care, a nutritious meal, or even a mother.** Thank you for helping us create loving families!

From Fires to Families: An Update on Ruidoso

This summer, the South Fork Fire ravaged the town of Ruidoso, burning acres of forest and destroying hundreds of homes. **While residents fled to safety, Animal Humane headed into the blaze to aid in the emergency evacuation of dozens of homeless pets from the Humane**

Society of Lincoln County. Animal Humane evacuated every single animal in the Ruidoso shelter, bringing an astounding 59 cats and dogs back to Albuquerque. Your generosity provided these pets with a second chance, read below how some are doing now!



RYAN

Ryan, an Australian Cattle Dog, arrived at Animal Humane in fear. **The long journey from Ruidoso combined with the new sounds and smells of the shelter left the young puppy cowering in his kennel.** After spending some time with him, our Team realized Ryan needed a softer approach than most dogs when meeting new people. Thankfully for Ryan, the perfect family was looking for a pup just like him. Today, Ryan lives with his siblings, five humans and one feline. He loves playtime with all the kiddos and even plays with the cat!



Ryan's adopter said: **"We are glad that we could not only rescue a dog in need but also one that had a misfortune before we met him.** Our hearts definitely go out to those affected by the wildfires and flooding and hope in some small way we were able to make a difference."

WHISKEY

Whiskey, a beautiful black Shepherd, also arrived at Animal Humane under stress. When our Team first interacted with her, Whiskey seemed interested in affection but was too shy to initiate. **Our Volunteers began to move very slowly when interacting with Whiskey, letting her decide when and what she wanted to do.** This allowed Whiskey to build up her confidence around people, and after a month in care, she was adopted!

Whiskey's adopter said: "When I heard she



came from the fires my heart felt so bad for her... I couldn't imagine what she has been through. All I want to do is spend the rest of her years having her never worry again, and knowing how loved she is."

2024

paw-gress

2,138 Adoptions

569

Pets in Foster Care

93 Pets Received Behavior Support

2,328

Total Surgeries including Spay/Neuter

*Numbers reflect statistics from January 1 - October 31, 2024