



You changed  
this abandoned  
pup's life!  
Read Cola's  
story inside.

# Paws for Thought

Spring 2025



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**

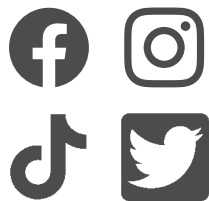
5341 Menaul Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
505.938.7915

**Donor-subsidized  
Veterinary Clinic**

615 Virginia St. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
505.217.0300

[AnimalHumaneNM.org](http://AnimalHumaneNM.org)

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@AnimalHumaneNM

Donate to help us  
continue our  
lifesaving work



from the korner kennel

# Opening New Doors

## Saving Pets, Serving People

**I**t is an exciting time at Animal Humane, as we prepare to open our Pet Resource Center — the very first in New Mexico!

In alignment with our mission of improving the lives of *all* pets in New Mexico, the Pet Resource Center (PRC) will provide loving pet owners with access to essential resources and services that empower them to care for and keep their pets.

We believe all pets deserve to know the love of a family. Through our expanded community programs at the PRC, **owners will receive the tools they need to keep their pets healthy and in their home, reducing the number of animals entering the shelter and increasing the overall wellbeing of our community pet population.** Our services will include adult Humane Education classes, an upgraded Pet Food Pantry, and a variety of programs aimed at keeping pets where they belong: with the people that love them.

The Pet Resource Center is more than just a facility; it represents a transformative opportunity to elevate Animal Humane's impact and meet the growing needs of both pets and their owners in our community. We are confident that this innovative approach will foster stronger, more sustainable



Val Wilson

relationships with pet owners, while cultivating a compassionate, well-educated community dedicated to the care and welfare of animals.

You are an integral part of this new endeavor. **Through your generous gifts of monetary donations, volunteer hours, thrift store purchases, and more, you are working to create a safe haven for the pets and people of New Mexico.** Thank you for helping us keep families together!

With thanks,

*Val Wilson*

**Val Wilson, Executive Director**

# Meant to Be

## Artemis Finds Forever

Last February, Artemis, a stunning Husky Mix, arrived at Animal Humane after being transferred in from Santa Rosa Animal Control. As we got to know her, Artemis showed us what a sweet girl she was, successfully playing with other shelter pups and happily greeting visitors of all types. **Her happy disposition made Artemis perfect for Animal Humane's Offsite Adoption events,** a fun chance for our shelter dogs to go out into the community and meet potential adopters at local Albuquerque businesses.

For weeks, Artemis met dozens of people at our events, eager to find her forever family. After a month with no interest, we began to wonder why this amazing dog continued to be overlooked. Little did we know Artemis' wait was about to end.

When Madison visited Albuquerque in March, she was definitely not looking to adopt a dog. Only in town for a few days, she stopped by a local brewery with her family and noticed a



**Madison and Artemis**

striking pup with a vest that said, *Adopt Me*. **"I knew that Artemis was meant to come home with me."** But home for Madison was eight hours away in Oklahoma.

With her trip over, Madison left Albuquerque, but she couldn't forget Artemis' beautiful eyes. She decided to leave it to fate, waiting to see if Artemis was adopted before the weekend. On Friday, Madison called Animal Humane to check on Artemis, "She was still there,

waiting for me." **The next day, Madison made the long journey back to New Mexico, ready to pick up her heart dog.**

Now, Artemis is living the good life in Oklahoma, spending her days wrestling with her canine siblings and playing fetch with her family. "She has added so much happiness and love to our lives." Your support of Animal Humane ensures pets like Artemis get every chance of finding their perfect fit.

*"She has added so much happiness and love to our lives."*

—Madison





Kris, John, and Cola



cover story

# Abandoned to Adored

**O**n a sunny day last October, Cola, a two-year-old Pitbull Mix, sat alone, panting in the heat, and tied to a bus stop. Passing cars sped by, most overlooking the dog huddled under the bus bench. **We have no idea how long he sat there hungry, thirsty, and waiting to be seen.** Thankfully, one of these cars did stop, rescued the pup from the heat, and brought Cola where they knew he would be safe: Animal Humane.

Cola's paws had burns from the hot asphalt and his legs were covered in sharp goat-head seeds, both signs that he had likely been living outside for at least a few days.

**Cola seemed to know that his lifetime of uncertainty was finally in the past.** As if showing his gratitude, Cola excitedly greeted everyone he met at

## Cola's Story

Animal Humane, leaning and snuggling against our legs. This abandoned pup was ready for the love he always deserved.

**Thankfully for Cola, your belief in his second chance allowed him to immediately get the care he needed.** At our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic, Cola was treated for the burns on his paws, pain in his back leg, and a moderate skin condition, making life much more comfortable for this sweet boy. Access to regular meals also helped Cola gain some much-needed weight, and he was soon healthy enough to be made available for adoption.

When John and Kris visited the shelter in November, they had

their mind set on adopting an older, relaxed pup to join their family. **Then they met Cola.** Even with no information on Cola's harrowing journey, Kris and John felt drawn to the sweet-faced pup, knowing there was something special about him.

"We just fell in love with him," John said. "He came home with us that day."

**Today, Cola's time in the sun is spent in the safety of his new backyard with his adoring parents.** Because of you, Cola will never again have to wonder when his next meal will be. Instead, whether going on walks with his family or meeting up with his canine neighbors for a playdate, Cola is now living a life of love and hope—a life made possible by you.

## PUPdates & CATch-ups



Bean is all ears in his forever home. He's even learned how to bay from his Coonhound brother.

.....



Gojo models his bowtie for his family. His adopter said, "He has been a wonderful blessing."

.....

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).



# Lucy and Skittles Stay Together

Last fall, senior sweeties Lucy and Skittles found their way back to Animal Humane after a decade away. We first met the pair in 2013 as young kittens. **Sadly, after 10 years in a loving home, their owner's new housing did not allow multiple pets.** Now seniors, Lucy and Skittles found themselves right back where they started.

Such a drastic change is often stressful for pets, as they leave the comfort of a home and enter the routine of shelter life. The change in scenery was particularly difficult for the more-reserved Skittles, who shied away from any human contact. **Skittles made it clear to our Behavior Team that she needed time to re-adjust, a gift that you give so many pets at Animal Humane.** Skittles also needed her lifelong friend, Lucy.

**Hoping Lucy would lead the way for Skittles, our Behavior Team decided to house both cats together.** Lucy and Skittles were given a large room in our Cat House all to themselves. With a fenced-in patio and lots of climbing space, Skittles and Lucy were able to readjust to shelter life with much more ease.

With Lucy by her side, Skittles slowly became more confident. She no longer hid from visitors and even accepted the occasional treat or head rub. We all hoped that not only would Lucy and Skittles be adopted soon, but that they could go home together. After much waiting, Lucy and Skittles



Lucy



Skittles

second chance finally arrived when a family came to take both seniors home!

**Because of your support, Lucy and Skittles are living out their golden years where they belong: together.**



# Remembering Dottie

By Rajen Goradia

**D**ottie was so much more than a dog; she was an old soul in furbaby form, our “doghter,” and the center of our little world. For some reason we could never understand, she had been at the shelter the longest—even making a TV appearance as Tail Wagger of the Week! We sure lucked out, though, because from the moment we met her—sad but full of sparkle—she showed us how true love can truly change lives. **Adopting a shelter baby comes with challenges, but it was worth it.** Dottie turned everyday life into a life full of laughter—whether it be the wake of toy stuffing she always left behind or her opinionated choice of walking paths.

10 years, she filled our lives with a love we never could have imagined. She was our

## Pet Paw-rent Contributor



Rajen and Dottie

rock during hard times and our greeter after any trip away. In fact, we missed her so much on travel that we got an RV so she could come along! **She and my husband, her “pawdre,”**

were kindred spirits, and she taught me so much about **patience and unconditional love.** The three of us were happiest together—every walk, vacation, and movie night. I guess you could say she saved us just as much as we saved her, and she will forever be our sweet, sassy girl who loved anything beef and hated Halloween costumes.

**If you're on the fence about adopting a shelter pet, please know that all they need is a little love, patience, and cuddles to bring out the best friend you'll ever have.** You might just discover that you're not only giving them a new lease on life—they're giving you one too.

Rest in treats, lil' baby. We'll forever love you to the moon and back!

# Unbagging Happiness

On a rainy April morning, one of our volunteers discovered a tote bag closed with a binder clip dangling from the shelter's fence. We never could have imagined what would be inside. **Cowering together for warmth, a terrified mother cat and her five newborn kittens were inside the bag.** We quickly rushed the family into our Foster Care building to warm them up and check on their overall health.

Thankfully, mom and her day-old kittens were healthy and sent to live with a Foster Caregiver. In the peacefulness of their Foster Home, the kittens grew, and their mother got some much-needed rest. After three months, the whole family returned to the shelter, and all were adopted into loving homes. Your support gave this abandoned family a second chance at happiness. **See how two of those lucky kittens are doing today!**



## Miu Miu

*"She's exactly what I hoped for in a cat."*

—Miu Miu's Adopter

Miu Miu was a bit famous during her time at the shelter, appearing on both TV and radio! Today, Miu Miu is still a star. From climbing around her house to chasing her new siblings, she is living her best life. She is also learning how to play fetch.

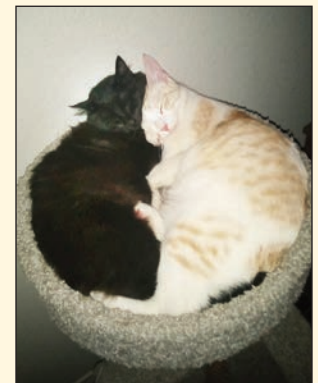


## Howl

*"She's definitely the most affectionate cat I've ever had."*

—Howl's Adopter

Howl (left) loves to spend her days causing mischief around the house with her new brother, Calcifer, racing down the hallway or climbing their cat trees. Her favorite toys are pieces of string or fabric, and she has a purr as loud as a lawn mower!



# 2024 *by the numbers*

**2,533** Adoptions

**671**

Pets received Foster Care

**108** Pets Received Behavior Support

**2,524**

Total Surgeries including Spay/Neuter

\*Numbers reflect statistics from January 1 - December 31, 2024