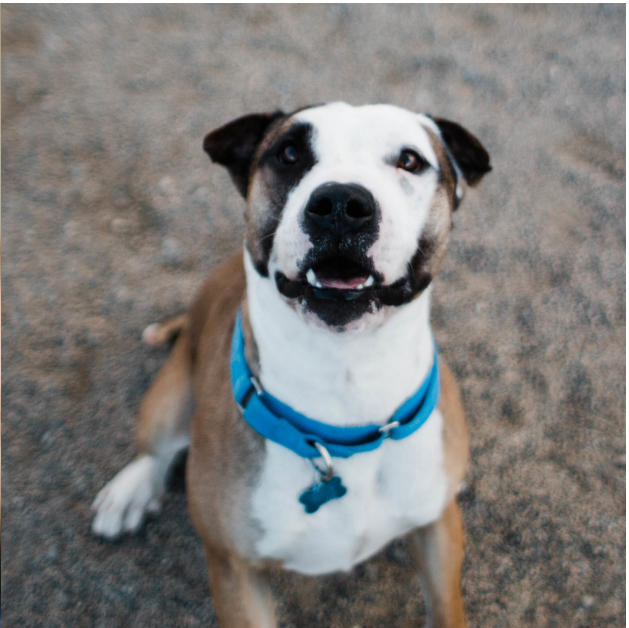




Annual Report 2017



• unleash compassion •



Executive Director Amber van Leuken and Tucker

Our Mission:

Ark-Valley Humane Society is dedicated to advocating for the welfare of all animals through **compassion** and **care**.

A Letter from the Executive Director

In 2017, our team of ten staff members, eight board members, and 75 volunteers helped 1,124 animals through our sheltering, spay/neuter, microchipping, safety net, and adoption programs. In doing so, the average length of stay for animals at our shelter dropped to under 14 days and our live release rate increased to 99%. It is a great testimony to the support of our community that Ark-Valley Humane Society can operate as an open-admission shelter for Chaffee County, while maintaining incredible savings rates for the animals in its care.

For animals, a stay at AVHS either provides a safe place to rest while waiting for its family after being lost, or a place to play and heal while awaiting a new adoptive home. For most animals this stay is brief and purposeful, with the objective of getting each animal into a loving home as quickly as possible. In 2017, of the 863 animals cared for at the shelter, two-thirds originated in Chaffee County. The other third were either relinquished by owners living in surrounding counties or were transferred from other shelters facing overcrowding. Our spay and neuter programs provided reduced or no-cost spay/neuter for 145 cats and dogs living in Chaffee County. In addition, 116 reduced or no-cost microchips were offered to community pets. All 585 animals adopted from the shelter were spay/neutered, up-to-date on vaccinations, and microchipped before leaving our doors. Our return to owner rates for stray animals were 80% for dogs and 25% for cats; considerably higher than national averages. Ark-Valley Humane Society continued to utilize the Sunshine Shelter facility in Poncha Springs for law enforcement drop offs of stray cats and dogs from southern Chaffee County. These animals were transferred to Ark-Valley Humane Society's main shelter in Buena Vista for care, reclaim, or adoption. We said goodbye to Executive Director Jonathan McDonell after 3 years of service. In November, I stepped out of the role of Programs & Operations Manager and into the role of Executive Director. Our team looks toward 2018 with hope and excitement, standing hand in hand with a supportive community so that we can continue to achieve so much for these animals.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Amber van Leuken
Executive Director

Board of Directors

John Ellis, *Chair*

Cindy Klinedinst, *Vice Chair*

Kay Gardner, *Treasurer*

Ruth Phillips, *Secretary*

Melissa Berndt-Snyder

Greg Phillips

Forrest Whitman

Terri Buchanan

The Ark-Valley Humane Society **Board of Directors** is responsible for the general oversight of the organization. The Board is committed to ensuring **financial health** through effective management of resources and fundraising. In collaboration with the Executive Director, the Board engages in the ongoing evaluation of Ark-Valley Humane programs, activities, objectives and goal setting to ensure that all undertakings support the organization's **mission and long-term strategic vision**.

Life Saving Statistics In: **2017**



99% Live Release Rate

Our Key Values

COMPASSION: For those we serve, animals and humans.

LEADERSHIP: Inspiring hope and kindness through strength, education and example.

KINDNESS: Towards people and pets that find themselves in difficult situations.

TRANSPARENCY: In our relationships and partnerships with the work we do.

75+

Volunteers
donated over
6,000 Hours
of their time

100%

Possible
Thanks to *You*
Our Supporters

27

Foster Homes
cared
for 192 animals
in need

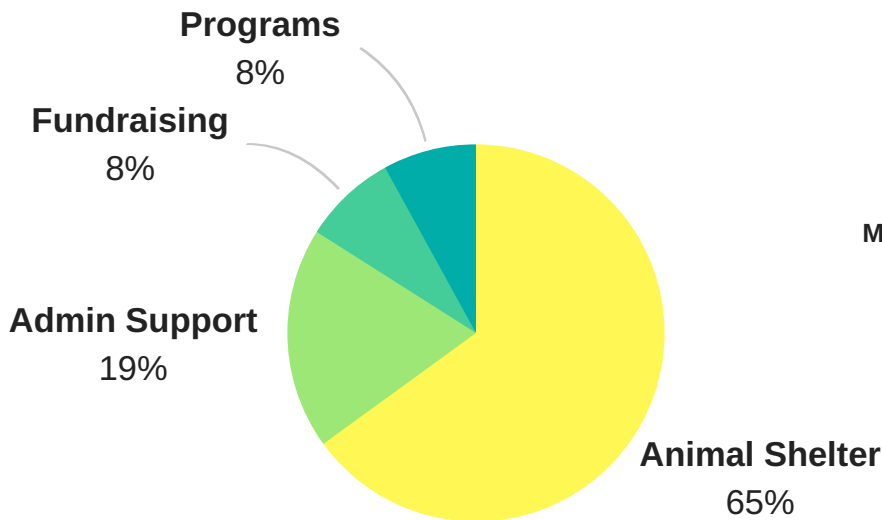
Our **supporters** make our work of helping the animals both at the shelter and through our community programs **possible**.

Fundraising & Financial Resources

Ark-Valley Humane Society depends on generous donations from individuals, businesses and foundations along with the support of the community through the Mill Levy. Ark-Valley Humane Society is committed to transparency and financial responsibility through annual financial reviews and routine audits conducted by independent accounting firms. The figures in this section are preliminary, a formal financial review will be performed by an independent CPA firm in the second quarter of 2018. Finalized financial statements will be available at a later date.

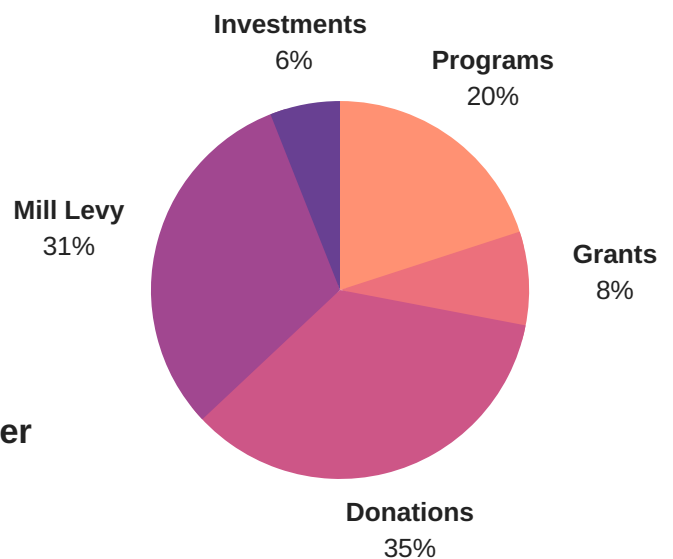
Expense Chart

Total: \$626,000

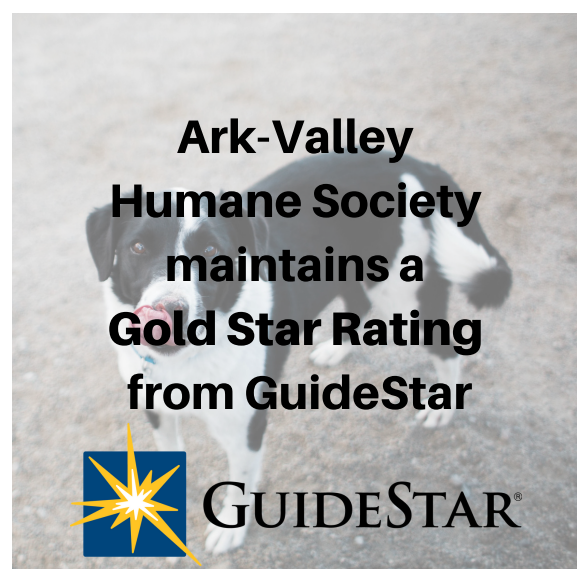


Revenue Chart

Total: \$698,000



We couldn't do this without your support, kindness and compassion for the animals.





2017

A Year of Growth and Progress



2017 marked **26 years** of AVHS sheltering the homeless pets of Chaffee County and providing a safe & loving place until they are adopted.

Our low-cost Spay and Neuter program facilitated **145** surgeries, resulting in fewer unwanted, abandoned litters that contribute to pet homelessness.



In 2017 we **reduced** our average length of stay per animal at the shelter from **22 days to under 14 days**.



In partnering with our community, we are **caring** for lost & unwanted pets, **finding homes** for homeless animals, and **reducing** pet overpopulation.

