



# Annual Report 2018



• unleash compassion •



Executive Director Amber van Leuken

## Our Mission:

Ark-Valley Humane Society is dedicated to ensuring the welfare of companion animals through **compassion and care.**

## A Letter from the Executive Director

In 2018 our Team of 9 Staff Members, 8 Board Members and 80 Volunteers helped 1,021 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 was 20.4 days and our live release rate was 99.56%. With our main shelter located in Buena Vista, Colorado, Ark-Valley Humane Society continues to operate as an open-admission shelter for Chaffee County, while maintaining exceptional live release rates for the animals in its care. In 2018, of the 728 animals in our care, 75% originated in Chaffee County. The other quarter were either relinquished by owners living in surrounding counties or were transferred from other shelters facing overcrowding. Our community spay and neuter programs provided reduced or no-cost spay/neuter for 244 cats and dogs living in Chaffee County. In addition, 65 reduced or no-cost microchips were offered to community pets. All 480 dogs and cats adopted from the shelter were spay/neutered, up-to-date on vaccinations, and microchipped before leaving our doors. Our return to owner rates for strays were 83% for dogs and 11% for cats; considerably higher than national averages. Ark-Valley Humane Society closed Sunshine Shelter in Poncha Springs and opened AVHS South in Salida as a facility for members of law enforcement to impound stray animals in southern Chaffee County. Animals received at AVHS South are transferred to Ark-Valley Humane Society's main shelter in Buena Vista for reclaim or adoption. Events in 2018 included Bow Wow film festival, Feline Fido Photo Contest & Calendar, Kitten Yoga, and Cause for the Paws. Strategic planning resulted in an updated mission, vision, and mandates and set in motion plans for an addition to the main shelter in Buena Vista.

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

Heidi Kravanick

Ruby Osberg

Sarah McMahon

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.**

# Life Saving Statistics In: 2018



**99% Live Release Rate**

## Our Key Values

**COMPASSION:** For the animals and people we serve.

**LEADERSHIP:** That inspires hope and kindness through education and example.

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

**TRANSPARENCY:** Regarding the work we do.

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## Our Mandates

- Maintaining a compassionate animal shelter for all homeless, lost and unwanted pets without regard for time or space.
- Reducing the number of unwanted pets through spay/neuter programs.
- Connecting homeless pets and adoptive homes.
- Offering support services for the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- Presenting public education for responsible pet ownership.

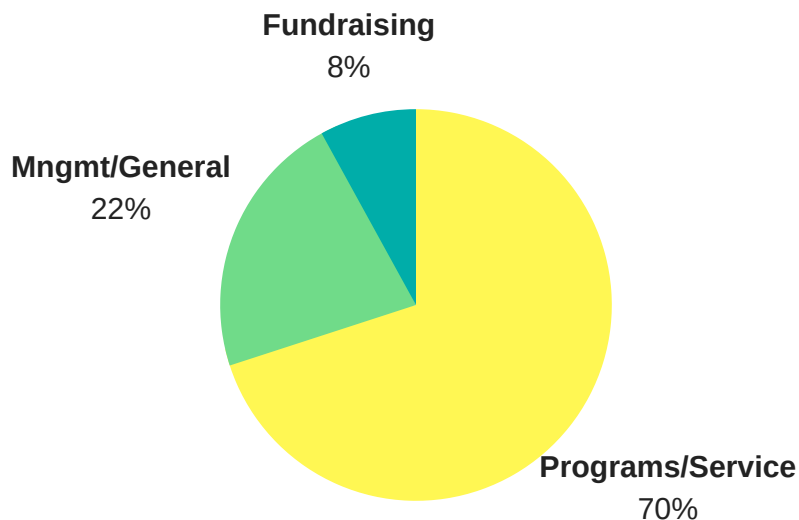


# Fundraising & Financial Resources

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 2019. Finalized financial statements will be available at a later date.

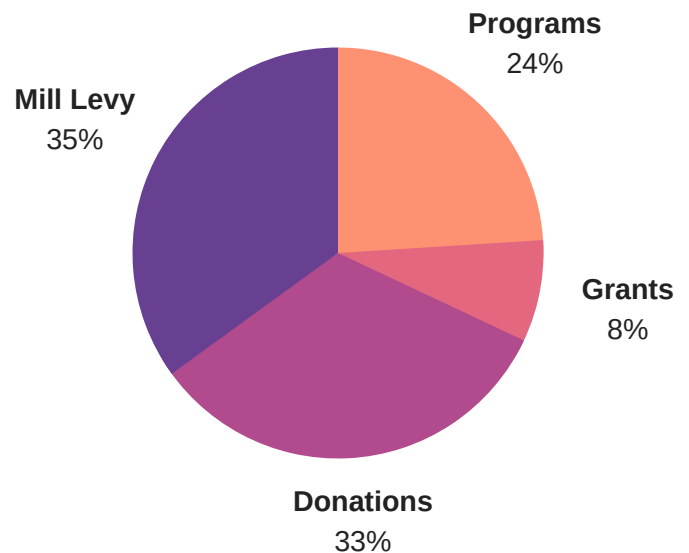
## Operational Expense Chart

Total: \$608,000



## Operational Revenue Chart

Total: \$653,000



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

Through our  
programs &  
services,  
Ark-Valley Humane  
Society helped  
1,021 animals in  
2018

Ark-Valley  
Humane Society  
maintains a  
Gold Star Rating  
from GuideStar



GUIDESTAR®



# 2018



2018 marked **27 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 for owned pets and feral cats facilitated **244** surgeries, resulting in fewer unwanted, abandoned litters that contribute to pet homelessness. Our in house Spay and Neuter program facilitated **226** surgeries of shelter animals in 2018.



In 2018, our average length of stay per animal at the shelter was **20 days**.

36 foster homes  
cared for  
150 animals in  
need

100% Possible  
Thanks to *You*  
Our Supporters

99 volunteers  
donated over 2,000  
hours of their  
time

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