unleash compassion
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
Life Saving Statistics In: 2018

Animals Received: 727
Animals humanely euthanized for severe medical or behavioral reasons: 3

Lost Animals Reunited with their Families: 207
Animals Adopted Into Loving Homes: 481

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.

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

- Fundraising 8%
- Mngmt/General 22%
- Programs/Service 70%

**Operational Revenue Chart**
Total: $653,000

- Mill Levy 35%
- Programs 24%
- Grants 8%
- Donations 33%

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
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.