Inside Scoop...

‘Tis the season for peace, love and generosity. It is our wish that every shelter pet finds a loving home for the holidays and thanks to our wonderful community it is possible for this wish to come true. The power of community is something to celebrate! This fall season started with the Decker Fire threatening homes on Methodist Mountain in Salida as our whole community scrambled to ensure people and pets remained safe and received the support they needed. We were absolutely amazed to see how many people in our community opened their homes to evacuees and their pets! Ark-Valley Humane Society was proud to serve as part of the emergency response team that involved so many local agencies. We set up services at the evacuation and disaster assistance centers, attended town meetings, and worked to provide emergency pet boarding, pet supplies, and pet transport to bring peace of mind and assistance to people and pets who were affected. The outpouring of support from businesses and attendees for our Cause for the Paws event in October, the generosity shared through our Annual Friends Drive fundraising campaign, Giving Tuesday, Colorado Gives Day and holiday giving is further testimony to the strength and compassion of our community. Our Open House in November was a huge celebration of our new and beautiful shelter addition that welcomed a steady stream of visitors and recognized the incredible work of our volunteers. “Puppy Love” by DiRico Fine Art found his fur-ever home at Ark-Valley Humane Society thanks to the generosity of artist Janene DiRico-Cable. The dogs and cats at Ark-Valley Humane Society have so much to be grateful for this holiday season thanks to the strength and generosity of our caring community.

Sincerely,

Amber van Leuken
AVHS Executive Director
Home Fur the Holidays Adoption Promotion
Adopt a Cat this Holiday Season! All Adult Cat Adoptions, 8 months and older, have Adoption Fees Waived! All Kitten Adoptions are 2 for 1 Until Jan 4th!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Courtney Boutwell has been working at Ark-Valley Humane Society as an Animal Care Technician since May of 2019. When asked why she applied to AVHS she said: “As a PTSD survivor, I felt as though the position might be somewhat therapeutic for me. And it definitely has been. I came to AVHS after spending some time at a local goat farm. I knew I already enjoyed working with animals and wanted to keep my career path on that track.” After joining the team Courtney quickly started fostering animals in need! She has since adopted an FIV positive kitten, Cersi, and a deaf kitten, Star, from the shelter- we’re so grateful that she took these two special needs kittens into her loving home. Of her two adopted felines she says, “They’ve really taken to each other. It’s kind of funny because Star seems to get “lost” in our home at least once a day and will begin to meow very loudly! Cersi always runs to go get him, and when she arrives he calms right down.” When Courtney started working here she was immediately surprised by the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. She says, “We are involved in the whole circle of life here at AVHS and there’s a lot that goes into it that people might not realize. I know I certainly didn’t. I have also been pleasantly surprised by the amount of community involvement. We have so many dedicated volunteers, and we really couldn’t do it all without them!” When Courtney isn’t at the shelter she spends her time skiing and hiking with her family and making all kinds of art.

Puppy Love has found his fur-ever home! Donated By DiRico Fine Art, Puppy Love now greets everyone who comes to Ark-Valley Humane Society!

"We are involved in the whole circle of life here at AVHS"
Another Successful Cause for the Paws!

BIG THANKS to everyone who came out to our 5th annual Cause for the Paws! With over 170 guests in attendance, it was our biggest year yet! There was live music by Two weeks in Fiji, delicious food catered by Kalamatapit, and a lot of great fundraising games that all sold out! Back this year was the Wine Pull, where everyone won a bottle of wine! The Balloon-Pop filled with gift certificates from local businesses, great raffle baskets filled with goodies and our Ears and Tails game- where the last person standing won a $500 cash prize donated by the AVHS board of directors! Because of your support we were able to raise over $10,000 for the shelter animals! Melissa Berndt-Synder was inducted into the AVHS Hall of Fame for her exceptional ongoing dedication and support of the shelter, and her vital role in successfully completing the new addition. Thank you Melissa!! Tanner, a stray dog that was found near Monarch Mountain this summer with an injured hip, made a special appearance with his new mom, Monica McCarthy, who helped a great deal with planning this event and many other AVHS events! Seeing all of the community’s support meant so much to us. Thank you and we hope to see you at next year’s Cause for the Paws!
We are extremely proud to be honored as the Best Nonprofit AND Best Place to Volunteer! Thank you Salida!

THANK YOU to all of our Volunteers! Special Shout out to these volunteers that were recognized during our Annual Volunteer Appreciation!

BEST VOLUNTEER: Keli Daugherty
FELINE FRIEND: Myrna Cunningham
DEVOTED DOG WALKER: Jeff Yoder
DEVOTED CAT CLEANER: John & Susan Ellis
MOST DEDICATED FOSTER: Mike Ondrasek
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Charles and Denise Washer

AVHS Boards 23 Animals During Decker Fire

During the Decker Fire AVHS boarded 23 cats and dogs from evacuees. We're so thankful for the firefighters who kept everyone safe during this time. We also want to sincerely thank all the volunteers who stepped up to help transport animals, donate food and help the evacuees.

THANK YOU to Coldwell Banker Collegiate Peaks Realty for hosting a Pet Food Drive for AVHS Animals!
Our New Addition is Complete!

We’ve moved into our new addition!! Thank you to the donors, supporters, board and staff who made this new addition possible! We’re so excited to now be working out of the beautiful new reception area, have our cats in the new Adoptable Cat Room, and three gorgeous Meet & Greet rooms for potential adopters to meet dogs and cats in! The Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce, Heart of the Rockies Radio and Chaffee County Times came out to our Open House and we had a ribbon cutting! Many folks stopped by to enjoy food and drinks while touring the new digs! If you haven’t had a chance yet, make sure to stop by to see the new addition!
Thank you to our Grant Funders!
These foundations and organizations helped with the building project, general animal care, and spay/neuter

Lauretta Boyd Charitable Trust  The Dr. Mary E Bates Foundation
The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation  Alice N. Jenkins Foundation

NUMBERS THAT COUNT
September through November

Animals Adopted  98
Lost Animals Returned to Owner  54
Volunteer Hours  542
Number of Spay/Neuter Community Assistance Coupons Given  33
Over the Rainbow Bridge

Human Memorials

Alma Owens
Brandon
Collin Carey
Doris (O'Leary) Graslilek
Linda Mehos

Dr. Jack Rowland
Jim Saltus
Fred T. Carney
Jack Brabson
Jane Wright

Jim Schutz
Blacken
Paula J. Bullington
Wayne Strelow
Wilson Wamawaram

"Until one has loved an animal, part of one's soul remains unawakened."
- Anatole France

Pet Memorials

Amigo

Ani Davis
Arturo
Aspen
Avalanche
Axel
Bear Messic
Blackie
Blaze Smith
Boo Radley
Zimmerman
Bowser
Bruno
Bziallo Kop
Buffy Morgan

Buster Cuffe
Salvo Lupo
Lesliea
Cannell Weber
Charlie
Chaz Brown
Chew Brown
Cleo
Cody
Daisy Cowboy
Daco
Demi
Deuce
Digg
Django Sanddalo
Dusty Franger

Earl
Elle Ludwig
Finnean
Gael
Kati
Kenneth
Kimi
Kity
Kody
Kris

Ike
Kelli
Kris
Kris
Kris
Kris

Lori Hudson
Loranne De Luco
Lowell Brooks
Lucille Kunes
Lynn Schultz-Witsel
Lynn Nicks
Lynna Dedual
Marcia Spiegelberg
Maria Weber & James Bassett
Maryland & William Swagert
Mark Wolters
Mary & Kelly Degarno
Marlene Stott
Marlys Knegel-Flores
Marva Kriske
Martin & Lou Ann Johnson
Martyn & Elizabeth Webb
Mary Moore
Mary Hallman
Mary Trauner
May Ann Bailey
Maye Cavallo
Matthew Ransell
Matthew & Amy Nuckols
Maxwell Cole
Melissa McCain
Melissa Hertrich
Michael Miller
Michael & Samar Fay
Michael Frank
Perschbacher
Mike & Gail Ryan
McInerthy
McNab & Anna Maria Adams
Nancy Roberts
Nick & Jacqueline Avignon
Norman & Colleen
Whiilelock
Palding Meacci
Patrick Andrews
Patricia Jureza
Patricia Watson
Patricia & Clyde Coble
Patricia & Theodore
VanHuntum
Patricia & Francis Phan
Patrick & Sarah Regan
Patty Shahan
Pattie Martillo
Paul Saznich
Paula and Mike Wilder
Peggy Kraft
Peggy Allen
Peter Bond

Petrona
Porter
Purdy Cat
Riley
Rugby Fowler
Sadie Schroeder
Sally
Sam
Sam the Dog
Sammie Wright
Sasha
Sebastian
Shadow
Shay Vernon
Stella

Phillip & Kathleen Carey
Phillip & Lanna Shaffer
Phyliss Kittel
Phyllis Persinger
Phyllis Waye
Prina Fitzgerald
R.A. & Jonna Crocombe-Crane
R.E. Edward Dix
Randall & Elizabeth Ameis
Randie & Kerrie McFarland
Raymond Penkoff
Renée Halay
Rev. Michale
Richard and Margaret Ouellette
Rick & Lisa Dutkiewicz
Rick and Connie Cameron
Robert Blackford
Robert Lauzet
Robert Steinberg
Robert Olivas
Robert Reber
Robert & Glenna Plane
Robert & Marjorie Gray
Robert & Mohanta Schalt
Roberto Hoy
Rodney & Lorene Farney
Roger Miller
Roger & Candy Minke
Ronald Miller
Ronald & Bertha Burns
Rosemary Schiano
Roxane Crowwell
Rudy Osberg
Ruth Runge-Barnes
Sadie Griego
Samuel & Caitlin Reese
Sandra Campbell
Sandra Miller
Sara Getz
Sarah & Bob McMahon
Scott Schlip
Scott Birningham
Shannon Keller
Sharilyn & Paul Braly
Sharon Jhr
Sharon Schutz
Sharon Adocko
Sheley Dennis
Shelley Mayer
Sherri Hamilton
Shirley Butala
Stacie McWilliams
Stanley Church
Sterling & Scott Stoumenmuse / Collins
Sue Sinovely
Susan Nies
Susan Sanford
Susan & Harry Deking
Susie Donaldson

Over the Rainbow Bridge

In Kind Superstars: Rocky Mountain Dairco Fine Art

Thank you, Fall Donors! Your contributions to AVHS are invaluable to the lifesaving work we do everyday. The animals we help everyday have a second chance at life because of you.

Adale Alston
Alan Carman
Alice & Aaron Morrison
Alyce & Jerry Hudnell
Alys Bruffy
Amber Vanleuten
Amy McCready
Anna Bowers
Ani & Addie Spicer
Anna & Kenneth Gregory
Anne Parker
Arthur & Roberta Burgess
Audra Hamilton
B. Joyce Baird
Barbara Edwards
Barbara Porter
Barbara Vernon
Barbara Pearson Sawyer
Beverly & Todd Van Santen
Beverly Freeman
Bill & Julia Fitzgerald
Bonita Weinke-Poser
Bonnie Green
Bonnie Sarne
Bradford & Cindy Williams Leach
Brandi Velti
Britt Bruce
Bruce & Judy Smith
Butch and Rhonda Butler
Carl & Constance Bauer
Carl J. & Jane M. Reno
Carol Johnson
Carol Owens
Carole & Robert Wimmer
Caroline Champ
Carolyn Findley
Cate Hazlett
Cathie Dill
Charity & Clint Larson
Charles & Denise Nasher
Cheryl Faust
Christeen Romero
Christopher Moutray
Christopher Richardson
Cindy Resnard
Connie McMurry
Courtney Bradley
Cyndi Rader
Cynthia & Tom Bement
Dale Hoffman
Dana & Sandra Bratetz
Daniel Schmidt
Daniel & Christine Dziennik
Dann Steinhoff
David Robbins
David Davidoff

Simple Foods
Heart of the Rockies Radio
The Biker & The Baker
Little Daisy Liquor
YOLO

Krivanek Jewelers
Cocowise Design
Lund Eye Care
Moonlight Pizza

Confort Gas
Scanga Meat Company
Elevation Beer Company
The Cellar Wine and Spirits
Party Spirits

Companion Care LLC
Arie Dale's Jug Liquors
4 EYECANDY LLC
The Wright-Hager Foundation Intentions Spa
Little Daisy Liquor

Corvus Clothing and Curiosities
Opal Boutique
The Biker & The Baked

Heart of the Rockies Radio
Simple Foods

Your Best Friends' Mobile Vet - Dr. Beth Ritchie
Alice N. Jenkins Foundation
Vital Living Herbs & Nutrition
Kaleidescope Toys

Patio Pancake Place, Inc.

The Wright-Hager Foundation Intentions Spa
Little Daisy Liquor

Terry Andrews
Terry and Mary Ann Williams
Thomas Crocombe
Thomas & Barbara Eve
Thomas & Joleen Weir
Tim Harris
Velda Counter
Victoria Sigler
Vigina & Willie Travneck
Walter Sipple
Wayne & Susan Glasgow
William Mehos
William & Nancy Nelson
Yida & Richard Mobley

Yvonne DiCarlo
Doc the Handman
Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit

Nuance Foundation
Eastside Holdings LLC
Maria De'li
High's Liquor
Revel Ranches
Anderson

Alba Bakery & Coffee
Little Red Hen
John Martin Epp
Robert & Brenda Barger

Fund
Catholic Health Initiatives
Amy's Hair Design
Stoller & Young, PC
Kroger
Sangre De Cristo Electric Association

Rustic Woods

Your Best Friends' Mobile Vet - Dr. Beth Ritchie
Alice N. Jenkins Foundation

Vital Living Herbs & Nutrition
Kaleidescope Toys
Patio Pancake Place, Inc.

Confort Gas
Scanga Meat Company
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Corvus Clothing and Curiosities
Opal Boutique
The Biker & The Baked
Heart of the Rockies Radio
Simple Foods
**SAVE THE DATE—BOW WOW FILM FESTIVAL IS SATURDAY FEB 29TH!**

Tickets & Trailer at [www.bowwowfilmfest.com](http://www.bowwowfilmfest.com)

**Save the Date—Crafts for a Cause at Soulcraft Brewery, January 15th!**

- **DONATE**
  - $10 can help an animal
- **VOLUNTEER**
  - sign up online today
- **EMAIL**
  - stay up-to-date on AVHS news
- **CONNECT**
  - connect with AVHS online