



Annual Report 2019



• 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 2019 our team of nine staff members, 11 board members and 111 volunteers helped 893 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 21.2 days and our live release rate was 98.36%. 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 2019, of the 651 animals sheltered, 85% originated in Chaffee County. The other 15% 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 147 owned cats and dogs living in Chaffee County. In addition, 95 reduced or no-cost microchips were offered to owned pets. Additionally, all 390 dogs and cats adopted from the shelter were spayed or neutered, up-to-date on vaccinations, and microchipped before leaving our doors. Our return to owner rates for strays were 82% for dogs and 13% for cats; considerably higher than national averages. Two thousand nineteen was a challenging year as Ark-Valley Humane Society received 23 seized chihuahua's from the Salida Police Department and assisted with the community response to the Decker Fire by providing support and free emergency boarding for evacuated pets. Ark-Valley Humane Society continued to utilize AVHS South as an impound facility for law enforcement in Salida and southern Chaffee County. Events in 2019 included Bow Wow film festival, Tails on the Trail walk/run, Feline Fido Photo Contest & Calendar, Kitten Yoga, Cause for the Paws, and our open house for the newly completed addition to our Buena Vista Shelter. The new addition added 1,200 square feet to the main shelter facility in Buena Vista including a new reception area, new adoptable cat room, three meet and greet rooms, and a new in-house surgery.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Amber van Leuken
Executive Director

Board of Directors in 2019

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.**



98% 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

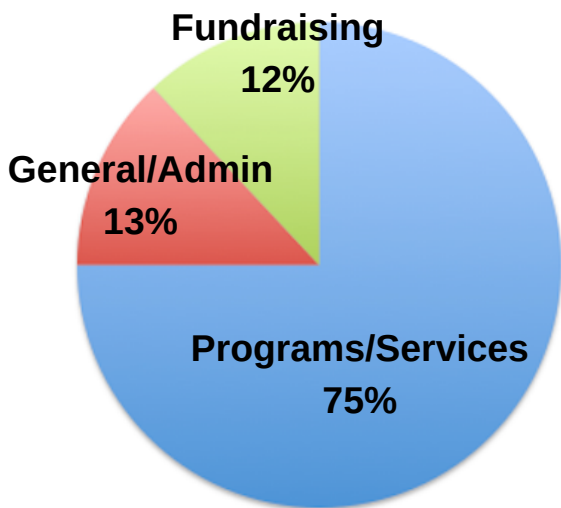
- Maintaining a compassionate animal shelter for all homeless, lost and unwanted pets without regard for time or space.
- Reducing the number of unwanted pets through spay/neuter programs.
- Connecting homeless pets and adoptive homes.
- Offering support services for the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- 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 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 2020. Finalized financial statements will be available at a later date.

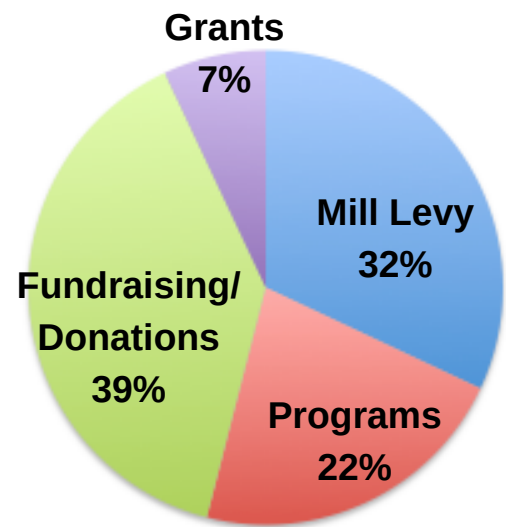
Operational Expense Chart

Total: \$646,184



Operational Revenue Chart

Total: \$731,515



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



**Through our
programs &
services,
Ark-Valley Humane
Society helped
893 animals in 2019**



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



GUIDE STAR



2019



2019 marked **28 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 **147** surgeries, resulting in fewer unwanted, abandoned litters that contribute to pet homelessness. Our in house Spay and Neuter program facilitated **217** surgeries of shelter animals in 2019.



In 2019, our average length of stay per animal at the shelter was **21 days**.

36 foster homes
cared for
137 animals in
need

100% Possible
Thanks to *You*
Our Supporters

111 volunteers
donated over 2,200
hours of their
time

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