

PAW PRINTS



Inside Scoop...

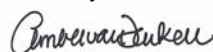
Record pet adoptions was the first surprising trend that came out of the initial stay-at-home orders enacted across the nation last spring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As many of you remember, for the first time in Ark-Valley Humane Society's history, every kennel in our shelter building was emptied as cats and dogs found adoptive or foster homes at record rates. With bated breath, our staff, board, and volunteers wondered if this trend would reverse and shelters, including ours, would eventually begin to fill up with returned animals or newly relinquished pets.

Amazingly, our foster program has stayed strong and our pet intake overall has been down 37%. It seems this pandemic has had a silver lining for pets, as more people are home to care for pets and appreciate the companionship their pets provide. Even more surprising is that this is not just a local trend. According to Shelter Animals Count, a national database, data from 1,270 animal welfare organizations across the country found that 548,966 pets entered those shelters in March through June 2020, compared to 840,750 during the same period last year—a reduction of 35 percent. Not only is this reason to celebrate, but so was the resulting increase in lives saved, with tens of thousands fewer cats and dogs euthanized in shelters nationwide. It has been a long-standing practice at AVHS that every healthy or treatable cat or dog we receive will find a loving home, and now this is a possibility shared by many more shelters across the country. Nevertheless, pet homelessness still exists and if we want these positive trends to continue there are two areas of focus that will need the attention of our programs and our community: Pet Retention and Puppy Mill Education. Keeping pets in homes, especially in the face of economic hardship or housing instability, requires strong pet retention programs.

This year AVHS has improved its shelter services, which include a pet food bank, pet boarding for families in crisis, spay/neuter assistance, and behavioral support for owned pets. In partnership with Chaffee County Community Foundation we are currently working on implementing a community pet emergency medical fund as well.

Pet stores and online pet sellers have seen the pandemic as an opportunity to increase their share of the puppy or kitten market. It is important that families still look to shelters first when searching for a new pet. A wonderful resource for this is Petfinder.com, a website that helps connect people with pets available for adoption at shelters and in rescues throughout the country. If you are considering buying from a breeder, remember, if you are unable to go visit the puppy or kitten and its parents and siblings, and see the conditions of where they and any other animals are living, steer clear! Puppies at pet stores or available to ship to your door or a nearby airport likely come from a puppy mill, where parent dogs suffer in cruel and inhumane conditions. Don't believe promises of "no puppy mill", customer reviews or health guarantees. Thank you for doing your part, in our local community and beyond, to ensure that all pets have the loving homes they deserve this holiday season! Wishing you a winter of good health and plenty of cuddle time with your pets.

Sincerely,

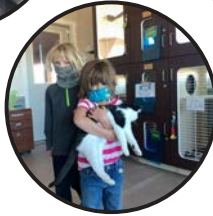
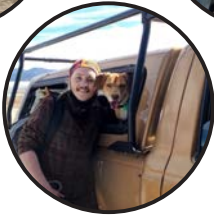
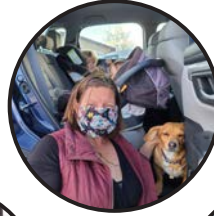
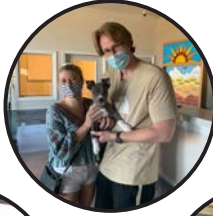


Amber van Leuken
AVHS Executive Director



Freedom Ride Photos!

Thank you to everyone who adopted an animal this fall!



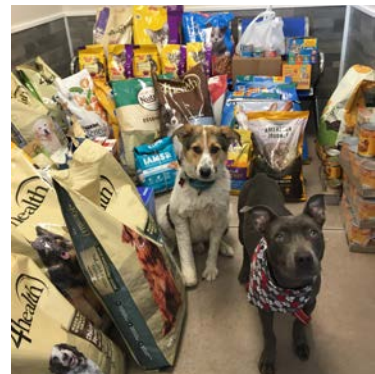
Shout out to High Country Bank for hosting 2 food drives to help us keep our community pet food pantry stocked!



We're Open By Appointment Only! Call 719-395-2737 to schedule an appointment.



We now have a Community Pet Food Pantry! Call us if in need of pet food or supplies 719.395.2737



FALL MATCHING CAMPAIGN HELPED RAISE CRUCIAL FUNDS!



**Fall
Matching
Campaign**

THANK YOU for helping us
raise over \$28,000!

When we decided to cancel our biggest fundraiser of the year, Cause for the Paws (due to COVID-19) Greg & Ruth Phillips and Bob & Sarah McMahon challenged our community to help raise crucial funds for AVHS in a different way. They offered to match donations by 50% up to \$7,000 contribution from them. Our amazing community definitely answered that challenge! We raised \$28,288 thanks to our amazing community! We also wanted to give a special thanks to Bank of the West and Monarch Mountain who still gave a sponsorship despite having to cancel Cause for the Paws.

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsor:



**BANK OF THE WEST
BNP PARIBAS**

Thanks to our Gold Sponsor:



THANK YOU!!

THANK
YOU
COLORADO!

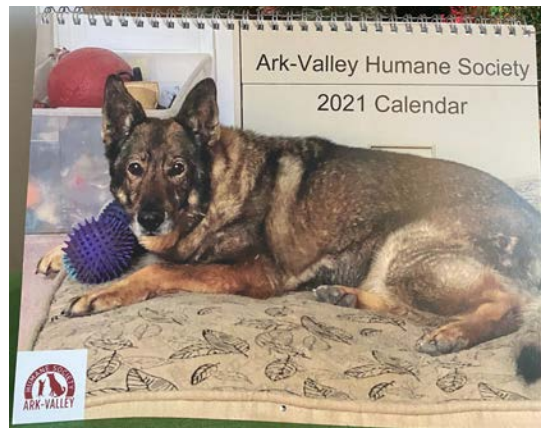
COLORADO
GIVES DAY.ORG

Powered by: Community First Foundation and FirstBank



**We raised \$13,228 This
Colorado Gives Day!**

**We have 2021 calendars
available for purchase!**





Commemorative Glass Leaves & Brick Order Form

Take advantage of this special opportunity to acknowledge your support of Ark-Valley Humane Society with a commemorative glass leaf or brick paver. The bricks will be on permanent display outside of the new addition to our Buena Vista Shelter. Commemorative Glass Leaves may be returned to you as a keepsake or may be displayed on the AVHS memorial Tree in the Memorial Garden. If you choose to keep your leaf, there is no additional cost to you, however your donation will be reduced by the cost of the leaf and shipping if selected.

A hand-crafted glass leaf memorializes or honors a loved pet. A brick celebrates a special donation, honors a long-time volunteer or memorializes a loved one!

Questions?
Contact Amber van Leuken at avanleuken@ark-valley.org
719.395.2737

Glass Leaves



Green \$50 Donation

Green

Yellow \$75 Donation

Yellow

Orange \$100 Donation

Orange

Leaf to be added to AVHS Memorial Tree

Leaf to be mailed to address listed below

Pet's name to appear on Leaf _____

Brick \$250 Donation

4x8 Personalized Brick Paver

PLEASE PRINT WHAT YOU WISH TO INSCRIBE BELOW



How To Order

Fill out this order form and bring in or **mail to:** AVHS
Attn: Glass Leaf/Brick Campaign, 701 Gregg Drive, Buena Vista, CO
81211

First & Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Include check of appropriate amount along with this form filled out

*Please make check payable to Ark-Valley Humane Society

To pay with credit card, please make payment in person at our shelter located at 701 Gregg Drive in Buena Vista

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

If you haven't gotten the opportunity to meet Krissy Zic, we'd love to introduce you to her here!

Krissy is an animal care technician who has been working with AVHS for over a year now. We're lucky to have her fun and positive spirit as a member of our team, she truly gives the animals that come through our doors the best care. When asked what she liked most about working at Ark-Valley Humane Society Krissy said, 'My absolute favorite thing about working here is trying to let each animal know that they are seen, and that they are loved. I can't imagine what it feels like being in a whole new environment with people that you've never met and not understanding what is going on. I strongly believe that it can make a world of difference if the animal can recognize a friendly face and feel comforted.' Many of the scared and shy animals we get in as strays or owner surrenders find a friend in Krissy almost immediately.

“My absolute favorite thing about working here is trying to let each animal know that they are seen”

When asked what surprised her most about working here, she noted the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. From extensive vet attention to behavior modification plans when needed, there's a lot more to it than just snapping a photo and putting the animal up for adoption. When Krissy isn't helping care for the animals at AVHS she enjoys being outside with her dog Moki, who she adopted last spring.



Moki joined her cat Billie in the home. Billie was found in the field at Weathervane Farm, emaciated and trying her best to hunt for food, despite being declawed. Krissy took her into AVHS (prior to working here) and adopted her a month later! Krissy says, 'I would just like to thank all AVHS supporters for caring about their community and all the critters that come our way. Without community support, this organization would not be able to provide the love and care necessary for animals to be placed in homes. I would not want to imagine a world without the type of folks that go out of their way to make a difference (people like you!). Thank you!'



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Thank you to our Grant Funders!

These foundations and organizations helped with the building project, general animal care, and spay/neuter



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The Dr. Mary E Bates Foundation

The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation

Alice N Jenkins Foundation

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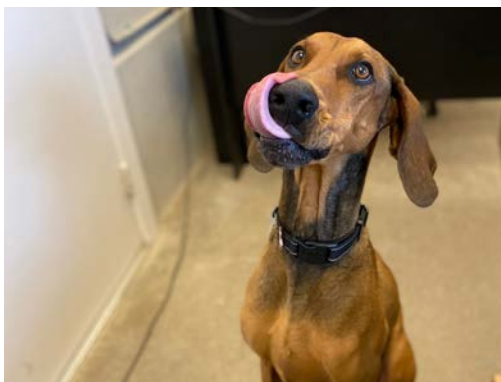
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Outreach Manager

Jenna Geldreich,
Volunteer Coordinator &
Behavior Lead

Nikki Ritter, Animal Care
Technician

Krissy Zic, Animal Care
Technician

Jen Binkney, Animal Care
Technician



NUMBERS THAT COUNT SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER RECAP

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Animals Adopted | 58 |
| Lost Animals Returned to Owner | 48 |
| Animals In Foster | 52 |
| Number of Spay/Neuter Community Assistance Surgeries | 81 |



Thank you, Fall Donors!

September-November

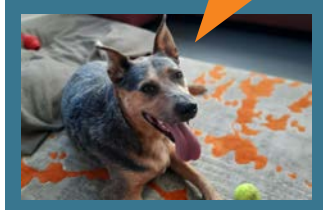


In Kind Superstars:
Rocky Mountain Lumber

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**.

- | | | | | | | |
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"Hi there! I'm Donovan, currently available for adoption through AVHS. I wanted to thank everyone who donates to AVHS- you're helping so many animals just like me find loving homes!"



Over the Rainbow Bridge

Human Memorials

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Arthur "Dick" Dixon | Dick Maddox | Lily | Neil |
| Bruce Pepper | Dick Pabst | Linda | Orthel Family |
| Charles Newcomb | Erin Christine Kelly | Mary Harding Eickman | Peg Louch |
| Collin Carey | Jenny Bunch | Mary Van Ackren | Phyllis Kittel |
| Dick Dixon | Jewell Dejong | Nathan Brady | Randy Garrison |



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

-Anatole France

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Rob Gulden | Sarah Kathleen Grigsby-Reiser |
| Robert Wichmann | |

Pet Memorials

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|------|
| Alex | Chica | Indy Roberts | Kiva Helm | Pal Martin | Stella Heller/Faust | Zeke |
| Arwen LaCroix | Chloe | Izzy | Lamar Longo | Peanut | Teche | Zoom |
| Bailey | Curiosity | Izzy McGee | Lincoln | Pup Benedict | Teddy | |
| Belushi | Ellie Mae | Jake & Max | Loki Webb/Davis | Quigley | Tipper | |
| Beowolf Rodeheffer | Ellie Porter | Joey | Mamacita | Riley | Tot Harris | |
| Bozo | Franklin | Junebug | Meo & Beep | Roscoe | Tundra | |
| Buddy | Georgous | KC | Millie Anderson | Rosie & Lyric | Ugon Miller/Lucas | |
| Callie Milhoan | Girlfriend | Kersey Pintane | Monk | Sam | Ullr | |
| Carissa | Gucci | Kira Landers | Moose Morand | Shiloh Johnson | Vega | |
| Charlie | Hallie Freeman | Kirby Davidson | Noche | Shorty | Wilbur | |
| Charlie Stover | Huckleberry Ritzman | Kiva | Oakley | Spice | Winston Beery | |



701 Gregg Drive
Buena Vista, CO 81211

return service requested

SAVE THE DATE- VIRTUAL Bow Wow Film Festival, February 2021



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\$10 can
help an animal



VOLUNTEER

sign up
online today



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stay up-to-date
on AVHS news



CONNECT

connect with
AVHS online



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