



Annual Report 2020



• unleash compassion •



Executive Director, Amber Vanleuken

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 2020 our team of eight staff members, ten board members and 60 volunteers helped 1,249 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 13.6 days and our Asilomar Live Release Rate was 99.05%. 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 our care. In 2020, of the 421 animals sheltered, 77% of cats and 85% of dogs originated in Chaffee County. Others received were relinquished by owners living in surrounding counties. Our Community Spay and Neuter Programs provided reduced or no-cost spay/neuter for 227 owned cats and dogs living in Chaffee County. In addition, 22 reduced or no-cost microchips were offered to owned pets. Additionally, all 241 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 84% for dogs and 15% for cats; considerably higher than national averages. The year two-thousand and twenty was unique, as Ark-Valley Humane Society closed its doors to the public in March in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and shifted operations to foster-based and contactless services to protect our community. We increased our safety net programs by offering a Community Pet Food and Supply Pantry that served 579 pets in 2020 and by offering pet boarding for families in crisis. Ark-Valley Humane Society continued to utilize AVHS South as an impound facility for law enforcement in Salida and southern Chaffee County. We enjoyed seeing everyone in person in February for our annual Bow Wow film festival, and then shifted the rest of our scheduled events to virtual ones for the remainder of the year, including Tails on the Trail Walk/Run, Feline & Fido Photo Contest & Calendar, a Dog T-shirt fundraiser, and our Fall Matching Campaign. Thank you for supporting our mission.

Amber Vanleuken
Executive Director

Board of Directors in 2020

John Ellis, *Chair*

Cindy Klinedinst, *Vice Chair*

Sarah McMahon, *Treasurer*

Ruth Phillips, *Secretary*

Melissa Berndt-Snyder

Greg Phillips

Terri Buchanan

Ruby Osberg

Tom Purvis

Allison Gergley

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 Society's programs, activities, objectives and goal setting to ensure that all undertakings support the organization's **mission**.

Life Saving Statistics In: 2020



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.

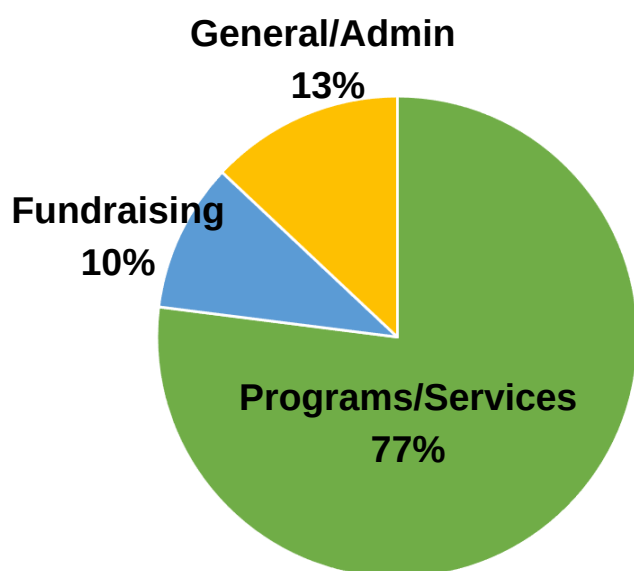
Fundraising & Financial Resources

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 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 2021. Finalized financial statements will be available at a later date.

Operational Expense Chart

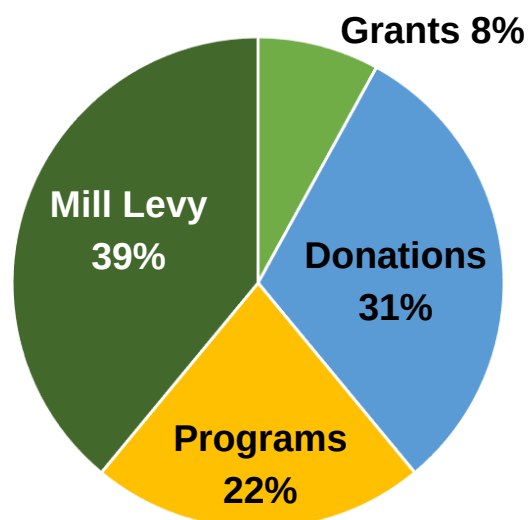
Total: \$653,245



Operational Revenue Chart

Total: \$693,551*

*Revenue excludes the extraordinary income of \$171,000 from bequests received in 2020



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

**Through our
programs &
services,
Ark-Valley Humane
Society helped
1,242 animals in
2020**

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



GUIDESTAR®



2020



2020 marked **29 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 **227** surgeries, resulting in fewer unwanted, abandoned litters that contribute to pet homelessness. Our in house Spay and Neuter program facilitated **133** surgeries of shelter animals in 2020.



In 2020, our average length of stay per animal at the shelter was **13 days**.

57 foster homes
cared for
165 animals in
need

100% Possible
Thanks to *You*
Our Supporters

60 volunteers
donated over 744
hours of their
time

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