

# PAW PRINTS

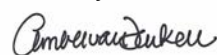


## Inside Scoop...

In a recent staff meeting we looked at our "animals in care" numbers comparing them to last year (pandemic numbers) and then 2019 numbers for the same dates. While our current animal numbers are twice what they were in 2020 they are slightly lower than what they were on the same date in 2019. We have been watching this closely because of many articles that have come out lately suggesting that there may be higher than normal return rates of dogs and cats adopted during the pandemic. Our numbers don't yet reflect this, and it is interesting to see that the ASPCA finds that this is not a national trend (yet) either. We are doing everything we can to support pet retention in our community, including continuation of the pet food pantry and increasing our behavior support services. We are also continuing to recruit and utilize fosters as much as possible to help with direct animal care. We will continue to watch our numbers closely and hope that at least in our community we can stave off pandemic returns so as not to surpass 2019 intake numbers. I'd like to introduce our new dog behavior/training voucher program! Ark-Valley Humane Society will provide 4 dog training vouchers worth \$45 each to be redeemed with any local participating dog trainer that provides positive-reinforcement individual dog training sessions. Our aim is to resolve issues in the home to reduce shelter intakes and keep pets and their people together. I'd also like to share a personal foster story with you all. Peanut is an 8 year old male chihuahua mix who was relinquished to the shelter because his elderly owner was no longer able to care for him.

Peanut is blind from an injury he sustained several years ago. I have 2 children, 3 cats and a chihuahua in my home, so taking on a foster dog is not always the easiest thing to do, but for Peanut we decided to give it a try. It was amazing to see the resiliency and trust shown by this little dog whose whole world changed overnight and who could not even see his new surroundings. He uses his tongue to lick the space in front of him to sense the floor, walls and objects around him. He was happy to explore my backyard by licking as he went along and using one of his front paws to tap the ground in front of him, testing out his footing before each step. He trusted me to pick him up and set him down and now shows his appreciation for companionship by lots of licking! He was calm when meeting my children, dog and cats and made friends with everyone right away. We set up a large kennel in my living room, so he can have a familiar den with a place to sleep and his food and water always in the same place. When he goes into his adoptive home, his den will go with him with all its familiar shapes and smells!

Sincerely,



Amber van Leuken  
AVHS Executive Director



# Freedom Ride Photos!

*Thank you to everyone who adopted an animal this spring!*



## We are thrilled to welcome scheduled volunteers back to the shelter!



With summer approaching our shelter population is increasing and we could really use your help! We are looking for more volunteer dog walkers and morning cat cleaners.

There are many other volunteer job opportunities too.

Please reach out to Krissy if you're interested in volunteering in shelter at a scheduled time!

kzic@ark-valley.org,  
719-395-2737.

# Tails on the Trail goes virtual one more time. Thanks to all who participated!



Special Thanks to our Business Sponsors

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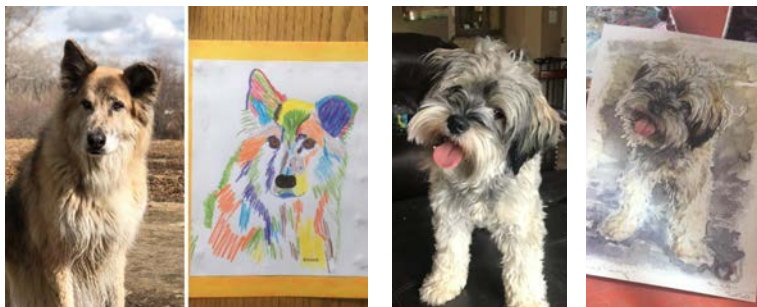


Yoga by Andra Dolton

## Good Pet/Bad Portrait, another successful year!



We want to give a special thank you to the amazing volunteer artists who have made this fundraiser another wonderful event! Thanks to your dedication and effort \$2,725 was raised, and over 75 pet families received heartwarming portraits of their beloved pets.



# AVHS Transfer Program Highlight

By: Nikki Ritter, AVHS Transfer Coordinator

Across the country, summer is the peak season for animal shelters as the number of animals coming in grows. For dogs, one of the main reasons for the increase is simply because they are outside more. This leads to more dogs getting loose or wiggling away from their owners while on outings. Additionally, we see an increase in dogs escaping from pet sitters who are unfamiliar with them. For rescue group, Friends of Roswell Animals (FORA) in Roswell, NM, this is no different.

FORA is an all volunteer non-profit that works with Roswell Animal Control, which is city run, to help save the lost or abandoned cats and dogs who find themselves in Animal Control's facility. FORA is dedicated to helping transform the facility from a high kill center to an adoption center. Due to recent changes in local ordinances that decreased the number of kennels available to house adoptable dogs in the facility the animals that find themselves at Roswell's Animal Control facility are in even more dire need to find loving homes, or rescue groups that can transfer them out. Without this, the animals face the possibility of euthanasia.

In early May 2021, FORA reached out to AVHS to see if we may be able to aid their efforts by becoming a destination shelter for dogs in need. In particular, they needed to find somewhere to place 4 year old Pit Bull Terrier mix, Josiah. Josiah was a stray dog who had been in the care of Roswell Animal Control for nearly 1.5 months. As the oldest resident in the facility, Josiah was most at risk for euthanasia. In fact, there were two days during his stay at Animal Control where the facility dipped below their needed available kennels and Josiah was extremely lucky to have not been euthanized during those times. Thanks to Ark-Valley's new transfer program, we were able to work with FORA to bring Josiah all the way to Buena Vista, CO! Due to his desperate need to be pulled from Animal Control, FORA and AVHS only had two days to get Josiah ready for his big move. He was tested for heartworm, along with several other tick borne illnesses. He was also given a series of vaccinations and a health exam prior to leaving New Mexico. As part of our transfer program we strive to



*Josiah at AVHS on a rainy day.*

bring in healthy dogs to our community. FORA volunteers drove Josiah all the way to Colorado Springs where AVHS staff had their first opportunity to meet him!

Since then, Josiah has been in the care of AVHS, where he has shown himself to be an absolute sweetheart! He has so much love to give, and became fast friends with another resident dog at our shelter, Doug. Josiah is happiest when he is nearby (or sitting on the lap of) a trusted human. He warmed up immediately to all shelter staff, and is a very mellow, easy going pup. We are all so grateful to have had the opportunity to save this sweet boy from the face of euthanasia!

Since its commencement in early March 2021, Ark-Valley's transfer program has brought 11 new dog friendly dogs into our wonderful community. We are excited for the future of this program, and for the lives of all the additional dogs we will be able to save. You can help save lives by signing up to be a transport volunteer! Email Krissy for more info: [kzic@ark-valley.org](mailto:kzic@ark-valley.org).



**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](mailto: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**



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# 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**

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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



Lauretta Boyd Charitable Trust

The Dr. Mary E Bates Foundation

The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation

Alice N Jenkins Foundation




## NUMBERS THAT COUNT MARCH - MAY RECAP

Animals Adopted	<b>57</b>
Lost Animals Returned to Owner	<b>31</b>
Animals In Foster	<b>54</b>
Number of Spay/Neuter Community Assistance Surgeries	<b>40</b>

# Thank you, Spring Donors! March - May

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**.

 **In Kind Superstars:**  
Rocky Mountain Lumber

Aaron & Lauren Johnson	Donna Hassinger	Kent Strickland	Pati & John McNeil
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**"Hi there, I'm Dewey, available for adoption from 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

Craig	Ernest Sartorio, Jr.	Vilma Strid
Julia "Judy" Litz	Joe Cogan	Orthel Family
Joan Clark	Karen Bowers	



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

### Pet Memorials

Gemini Cameron	Kitty Girl	Ammo	Bell Smith	Josie, Kai & Sarah Roecker
Noche & Ronnie	Zoey Close	The Knucklehead	KC Moore	Benji Lamoreaux
Chance	Rufus	Adagio	Elsa Bever	Tigger Meyer
Beowulf	Scout & Milo	Aspen	Button Whitaker	Freddie Tanner
Una Hay	Spook	Rambo	Manny Bentley	Button Whitaker
Zulu	guapo	Perry	Kelly Jo Fisher	Kaiser Rinehart
Gus	Chloe Jack	Maizi Dylan	Mia Foreman	Bubba Powel/Walker
Ruben	Roxy	Riley Masingale	Sunny Jordan	



701 Gregg Drive  
Buena Vista, CO 81211

*\*return service requested\**

SAVE THE DATE- T-Shirt fundraiser launches June 7th

## 2021 Kitten T-shirt Fundraiser



[bonfire.com/ark-valley-humane-society/](https://bonfire.com/ark-valley-humane-society/)



**DONATE**

\$10 can  
help an animal



**VOLUNTEER**

sign up  
online today



**EMAIL**

stay up-to-date  
on AVHS news



**CONNECT**

connect with  
AVHS online



701 Gregg Drive, Buena Vista, CO 81211  
(719) 395-2737 [www.ark-valley.org](http://www.ark-valley.org)