

PAW PRINTS



Inside Scoop...

While late season snow interrupted plans for this year's Trails on the Trails Walk/Run, kitten season, a time when kittens typically flood into the shelter, came about two months early. As our community is opening back up and learning to live amidst an ongoing pandemic, we have opened our shelter doors while doing everything possible to hold onto valuable insights gained when the shelter reception area was closed to visitors. Appointment-based services and a foster-based model are now incorporated into our hybrid operational approach. The number of animals we are serving is up 50% over last year, and has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. We are left wondering if this nationwide surge in shelter animals will ease up, or if a greater need for sheltering services is a new normal for our continually growing community. In this troubling time we continue to strengthen relationships with law enforcement officers and partnerships with veterinarians to offer many community support services. Keeping pets and people together, when possible and mutually beneficial, is a goal we all share. Recently, we assisted a local homeless man after a run in with law enforcement, by taking in his dog and her puppy and getting them spayed and up to date on vaccinations before returning them to his care. For another family, six dogs were too many to care for. We were able to bring all the dogs into the shelter, provide medical care and spay/neuter, and reunite two of the dogs with another family member while finding homes for the others.

Our programs include assistance with pet food, supplies, spay/neuter, dog training, boarding, and veterinary care for our community's most vulnerable pets. There are so many ways to help this summer and I'd like to share some ideas here. Upcoming shelter events include a t-shirt campaign and Comanche Drive-In family-friendly film. We need additional volunteers to walk dogs, socialize cats, foster animals, and help keep up with piles of laundry. Kids can help out too by collecting pet food donations, raising donations at a lemonade stand, or garage sale. Donations are the lifeline of the shelter and we encourage our supporters to sign up for monthly giving or purchase a memorial brick or glass leaf.

Sincerely,

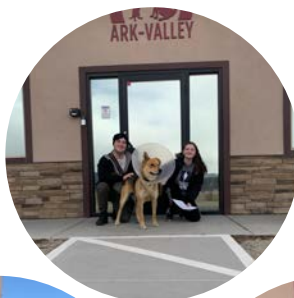


Amber Vanleuken
AVHS Executive Director



Happy Tails Photos!

Thank you to everyone who adopted an animal this Spring!



Winds of Change



This past spring has been a whirlwind of changes here at AVHS. In the last newsletter we highlighted how we were able to transfer 24 cats and dogs from overcrowded shelters as we had the capacity to care for more animals. Recently our transfers have slowed to a halt as we've been dealing with a marked increase in Chaffee County surrendered and lost pets. We also said goodbye to some wonderful staff members this past season. We're excited to see what they each do in their new roles and are immensely thankful for the time they've worked here and improved the lives of countless animals at AVHS. Although saying goodbye to these amazing colleagues has been hard, we're looking forward to the future, and our new incredible team that is forming. We are proud to announce that Krissy Zic has stepped into the role of Assistant Manager and is already doing such an amazing job helping to lead our team! Nikki Ritter is helping address the medical needs of our resident pets as our new Medical & Transfer Coordinator and Heather Mills is lending her expertise as our new Volunteer & Foster Coordinator! We also have three amazing women, Abbie, Kyra, and Taylor, joining our team as Animal Care Technicians. Make sure to say hello to all of the wonderful team members who have stepped up and are helping serve the homeless pets of Chaffee County!



Abbie, Animal Care Tech



Kyra, Animal Care Tech



Taylor, Animal Care Tech

Thank you to the talented volunteer artists who made our third annual Good Pet/Bad Portrait fundraiser another success! You helped us raise \$2,890 for the animals!



Planned Tails on the Trail 5K fundraiser gets cancelled due to snow in late May

We made the difficult decision to cancel our 5th annual Tails on the Trail event when we woke up to snow and cold temperatures. This was one of the toughest cancellations we had to make as we were geared up and excited to be hosting an in-person Tails on the Trail. Thank you to all of our race participants, sponsors, and volunteers for your understanding and continued support.



Thank you to our Business Sponsors

TOP DOG



IN-KIND ALL-STAR

GOLD PAW



IN-KIND



It's Raining Kittens!

Kitten season has begun! Every year as the weather starts to warm up we see a spike in the number of kittens that enter our shelter. While thankfully our kitten seasons have been smaller with each passing year, this year started out with a bang! We had almost 30 kittens in our care in April, and we've been getting more kittens every week. We encourage everyone to get their pets spayed and neutered, and even offer financial assistance to Chaffee County residents who need help. Seeing so many unwanted kittens enter our doors just emphasizes how important it is to spay and neuter our pets. We dream of a day when there are no more unwanted litters of kittens. PS if you love having cute kittens in your home, becoming a kitten foster with AVHS is a great way to get your kitten fix!



Dory was a newborn kitten and one of 25 felines that came from a single home in April. One of twenty kittens of various ages, it was impossible to know which of three adult females was her mom. The adults were feral, so handling them was impossible, though they lived indoors and needed our help, as their owner was moving and unable to care for them. After humanely trapping the moms we set them up in a meet & greet room with all of the kittens. Over the first week, three newborns died, but fortunately the others remained strong.

Our staff quietly snuck into the rooms to apply eye medication to the kittens while dodging the wary and sometimes aggressive feral moms. Once old enough to eat on her own, Dory and her siblings were moved into foster care with several of our wonderful volunteers. Donated kitten formula and food helped them grow strong. The feral adults were spayed, neutered and vaccinated and relocated with barn home adopters. The kittens, now socialized and almost old enough for spay and neuter, will make their way into adoptive homes soon. Dory is a success story thanks to our wonderful staff, volunteers, veterinarian and donors.



Dory (bottom left) with her three littermates in foster



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 at AVHS. 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
- Leaf to be displayed at AVHS
- Leaf to be mailed to address listed below
- Yellow \$75 Donation**
- Yellow
- Orange \$100 Donation**
- Orange

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

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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



ANIMAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

The Dr. Mary E Bates Foundation

The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation

Alice N Jenkins Foundation

Staff

Amber Vanleuken,
Executive Director

Johny Sandoval,
Operations Manager

Emy Luebbering,
Outreach Manager

Krissy Zic,
Assistant Manager

Nikki Ritter, Medical & Transfer
Coordinator

Heather Mills, Volunteer &
Foster Coordinator

Abbie Fritz,
Animal Care Technician

Kyra Neilly,
Animal Care Technician

Taylor Williams,
Animal Care Technician



NUMBERS THAT COUNT MARCH - MAY RECAP

Animals Adopted **90**

Lost Animals Returned to Owner **35**


Animals In Foster **69**

Number of Spay/Neuter Community Assistance Surgeries **15**



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


Alys Bruffy	Farmers Insurance- Wright	June Hamilton	Mt. Princeton Hot Springs	SVB Fund
Ameille Hooper	Insurance Agency	Karen Watkins	Resort	Terri & William Mantia
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Emily Duncan	Judy Hamontre	Mr. Rozek	Susanna Spaulding	

"Hi there, I'm Luna, 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

Anna Marie Bell	Eric	Joni McCoy	Tony Pingitore		"Until one has loved an animal, part of one's soul remains unawakened." -Anatole France
Betty White	Jan Davis	Ron Roberts	Vivan Osborne		
Claudia Ann Keim	Jay Taylor	Sandy Minor	Winnie Adamek		
Diana Swedhin	Jay Vold	Shelby Rhea Woods			

Pet Memorials

Abby Baker	Chula	Jenny McKnight	Penny Higgins	Sassy & Stitch Grabinski
Augie	Daisy Anderson	Maci	Princess Grace Miller	Smokie
Auguie	Decoy	Max Wiswell	River	Sophie Campbell
Barkley	Earl Plackner	Missy Brown	Roxy Priest	Sunny Dietrich
Bartelbee Swanson	Florrie	Noah Hanfelt	Rylee	Una
Buddy	Gucci	Painter	Sam	Willow
Capri Charter	Java Bartlett	Penny	Sammy	Wilson



701 Gregg Drive
Buena Vista, CO 81211

return service requested

Save The Date: Our 3rd annual T-Shirt Fundraiser returns!

AVHS 3RD ANNUAL T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER JUNE 13 - 27



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