

# PAW PRINTS



## Inside Scoop...

Our spring edition newsletter presents an ideal time to reflect on the number of animals helped through our community retention and shelter services in 2022. Last year, a team of **nine staff members, nine board members, and 56 volunteers, helped 1,833 animals** through our sheltering, spay/neuter, microchipping, safety net, and adoption programs. In doing so, the **average length of stay for animals was only 18.4 days** and our **Asilomar Live Release Rate was 98.26%**. Of the **677 animals sheltered**, 75% of cats and 79% of dogs originated in Chaffee County. Others received were relinquished by owners living in surrounding counties or transferred from shelters in need. Our community assistance spay and neuter programs provided reduced or no-cost **spay and neuter for 231 cats and dogs** living in Chaffee County. In addition, **21 microchips** were offered to owned pets at reduced or no cost. Our community **pet food and supply pantry served 900 pets**, and **20 pets received emergency boarding services** at no cost. Additionally, all **458 dogs and cats adopted** from the shelter were spayed or neutered, up-to-date on vaccinations, and microchipped before leaving our doors. Through our **transfer partnerships with 14 shelters** in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico, **we were able to save 105 additional pets**. We worked with local dog trainers to offer behavior intervention training vouchers for at-risk dogs, and we partnered with Chaffee County Community

Foundation to offer a community pet medical emergency fund. AVHS maintained operations of two facilities. Our main facility in Buena Vista sheltered 677 animals, and a police impound facility in Salida received 54 of these animals. While we saw a lull in pets sheltered in 2020 and 2021, last year animals received surpassed pre-pandemic 2019 intakes. Additionally, our community support programs, aiming to keep pets and people together, continued to grow through the pandemic, and have become more robust, year over year. ***The success of our programs is possible thanks to generous support from our donors, volunteers, foster families, and partner veterinarians.*** It takes a village to ensure the welfare of companion animals in our community, and together we continue to work towards a safe and humane world for all people and pets.

Sincerely,



Amber Vanleuken  
AVHS Executive Director



# Happy Tails Photos!

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



## AVHS Partners with Chaffee County Hospitality

In the month of February, AVHS hosted our first ever Shelter Together Matching Campaign. In partnership with Chaffee County Hospitality (CCH), all money raised through this campaign helps provide nights of respite to unsheltered families and their pets in the cold winter months. CCH and AVHS will each cover 50% of the costs of overnight motel room stays for unsheltered people living with pets. The funds raised during the Shelter Together Matching Campaign ensure that unsheltered members of our community and their pets stay together this winter. Every dollar donated went even further. Donations were generously matched by Greg & Ruth Phillips, Bill & Junia Fitzgerald and Judy Hamontre, up to a maximum \$4,500 contribution.

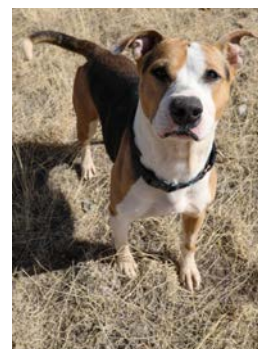
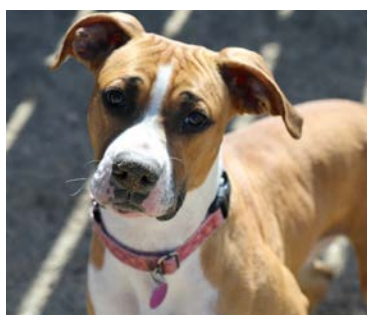
We met our goal and raised \$9,000 during this campaign, which combined with \$9,000 from CCH, translates to 160 nights of respite in motel rooms for pet families in need! Thank you to everyone who donated during this campaign. The compassion of our community for the less fortunate is inspiring.



## Dogs from Texas find new lives in Colorado



Eight new dogs arrived safely at our shelter the first week of February. They travelled all the way from Pasadena, TX in the hopes of finding new lives in Colorado. On Tuesday, January 24th, everything changed for their Pasadena Animal shelter when a powerful tornado hit. Amazingly, all of the animals in their facility were not harmed, despite the massive damages done to the building. Most of the dogs were transferred immediately to temporary housing at nearby boarding facilities or veterinary clinics. The call was put out to help get these dogs to new shelters and rescues, allowing Pasadena Animal shelter time to rebuild. We had just seen most of our current population adopted into wonderful homes in our community, and had the kennel space to help. Pictured below are some of the dogs that came from this shelter. All tested negative for Heartworm (endemic to Texas) prior to being transferred in. And all are friendly with other dogs. Most have already found their wonderful forever families in Colorado at the time of writing this! We're incredibly grateful to live in a community that cares about homeless pets, thank you.



## Letter to our Community Regarding Echo

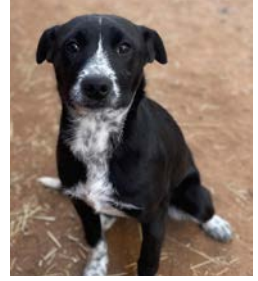
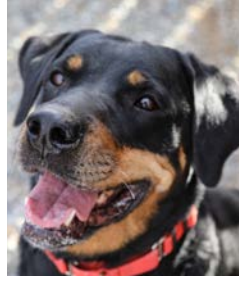
In February, Ark-Valley Humane Society received a relinquished dog named Echo. Many of you may have learned through local media sources, social media, or through our website that Echo had bitten two AVHS staff members and had a history of aggression in our community. After assessment, and input from veterinarians, a veterinary behavior center, and our attorney, and due to public safety concerns, AVHS followed through with our decision to humanely euthanize Echo, rather than return him to his previous owners. Humane euthanasia for behavioral reasons is rare, with AVHS maintaining an Asilomar live release rate of over 98% for animals cared for in our shelter last year. However, in cases like Echo, when return, rehabilitation, or transfer is not a safe option, it is our responsibility as a humane society to keep our local and global communities safe. This situation affected our staff, donors, volunteers, and our community. We appreciated our community's support during this challenging time. As an organization, we value transparency and education through the sharing of factual information. We have additional information on our website at <https://www.ark-valley.org/about-us/news/>. We also encourage our donors, volunteers and community members to reach out if they have any questions or concerns. Please contact me at [avanleuken@ark-valley.org](mailto:avanleuken@ark-valley.org) or call 719-395-2737.

Respectfully,  
 Amber van Leuken  
 Executive Director

# Successful Home For the Holidays Adoption Promotion!



Our home for the holidays adoption promotion resulted in 42 animals finding loving homes through the holiday season! During the month of December, all adopters could 'name their price' on adoption fees for any adult dog or cat in our care. We typically see a slow down in adoptions around the holidays. We were thrilled when 42 animals found their Home Fur the Holidays this December. Thank you to everyone who has adopted an animal, you truly make all of the difference in their lives. Pictured below are just a few of the animals who were adopted into loving homes during this promotion.

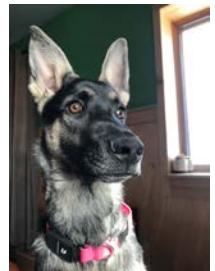


**\$18,026 was raised for homeless animals this Colorado Gives Day. Thank you to all of our supporters!**



## Sophie's Story

On December 19th, our staff member drove to Salida to pick up a stray puppy, who we named Sophie. She was elated to see us, excitedly taking treats and food. This wiggly, adorable puppy was happy to be out of the cold. We noticed quickly that her back leg did not look normal. Our veterinarian took a closer look. After examining x-rays and consulting with another veterinarian, it was determined that Sophie has Legg-Calve-Perthes disease. This disease has caused the head of her femur to start degenerating and if nothing is done she will be unable to use her leg. We asked for your help to get Sophie the care she needed, and were amazed at the outpouring of support: \$1,650 was raised for sweet Sophie! She has been adopted into a loving home and will be getting a total hip replacement soon. The specialist recommended waiting 2-3 months until she is more skeletally mature. We are so grateful for the generous support from our community. Donations raised for Sophie will be going toward her surgery, and made it possible for Sophie to find such a great home.





# 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](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 displayed at AVHS

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**

## Board of Directors

Terri Buchanan, Chair

Allison Gergley, Vice Chair

Sarah McMahon, Treasurer

Junia Fitzgerald

Tom Purvis

Judy Hamontre

Katie Davis

## 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

Taylor Williams,  
Animal Care Technician

Tiffany Mehalic,  
Animal Care Technician

## Thank you to our Grant Funders!

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



The Dr. Mary E Bates Foundation

Alice N Jenkins Foundation

The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation



## Legacy Society Members

Debbie M.

Jack and Lulie Melton

Judy H.

John & Cindy Dykins



## NUMBERS THAT COUNT

DEC - FEB RECAP

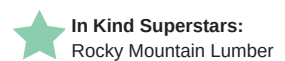
Animals Adopted **86**

Lost Animals Returned to Owner **29**

Animals In Foster **33**

Number of Spay/Neuter Community Assistance Surgeries **95**

# Thank you, Winter Donors! Dec - Feb



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.

Souled Out T-Shirts Once Upon a Trapeze Bookstore Legends Kitchen & Bath, Inc. Ray Foundation Inc. Lumen Gates Foundation Giving Force Granville C. & Gladys H. Morton Fund of Communities Foundation of TX Sangre De Cristo Electric Association Your Best Friends' Mobile Vet-Dr. Ritchie The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation Helene Watson, L.P.C., LLC McKinzie Middle School Gone To The Dogs Smucker and Associates Cocovinis Design Moonlight Pizza Buena Vista Tool and Equipment Rental Cellar Wine and Spirits Victory Hill Companion Care LLC Always Azul Pottery John Warner and Roxann Moore Keith E. Boyd Pump Service, Inc. Valley of the Sun United Way CCR Rolloffs Broken Spoke Ranch Ed's Lock Shop Grace Church Dog Works Creative K9 Fitness Saldia Mountain Sports, Inc. Eye Candy Art & Treasure Kroger Comfurl Gas DW Sales Corporation Amazon Smile Rock Run Gallery, LLC PayPal Giving Fund Built Aesthetic Designs First Colorado Land Office - BV Sturdy Pine Gear & Repair State of Colorado - Dept of Treasury Adam Sher Addilyn Miller Alan Warholoski Alan & Karen Robinson Alex & Rose Maria Mirich Alison Medina Allen Lane Amanda Cafaro Amber Vanleuken Amy Lovato Amy Courtney Andrea Evers Andrea Masias Andrew Craig Andy & Cieta Grey Angela Burgess Anita Powers Anne Nance Anne Munch Annette Dickinson Anthony & Donna Miller Averi Schaumban & Bruce Stoebner Barbara Vernon Barbara & Alan Seeling Barbara & Douglas Allender Bary Goldmuntz Becky & Scott Leonard Beth Carnell Beverly Freisman Bill Urbonowski Bill & Junia Fitzgerald Blake & Peg Bruckart Blake & Jennifer Veazey Bonnie Wiesel Brandon Tattershall Brent & Brandi Veltri Brian & Bonnie Davis Brigitte Nadon Brittany Duley Bruce & Mary Hall	Butch and Rhonda Butler C. 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Maggie Niemann Malcolm & Martha Bauman Marc & Alison Beshko Marci King Marcia Spiegelberg Marcia & Joe Holub Margaret & Douglas Kane Marianne Dennin Marilyn Brandt Marilyn Fields Mark Doering Mark & Mary Montoya Mark & Sally Tamer	Marlayna Mackenzie Marsha Judy Marsha & Dean Edwards Martha Kriskie Martha Brown Mary Peck Mary Lines Mary Trauner Mary & Leslie Eburna Matthew & Joana Meinert Matthew & Leslie Monaghe Meg Watkins Melissa Ravenwood Meredith Child Meredith & Kenneth Beckett Merilee Maupin Michael O'Shea Michael Keppeler Michael Keesey Michael Czaca Michael Lynn Michael Cude Michael & Terry Barkett Michael Glenn Penny Michelle Arnold Mike Buse Monette & Butch Butler Monica McCarthy Mr. Sawtell Mrs. Jane Vandewalle Myrna Cunningham Nancy Roberts Nancy Nancy Dolansky Nancy Caroch Nancy Dolan Nancy Fitzgerald Nancy Odean Nancy Bowsler Neal Dawson Nick & Jacqueline Avignon Nicki & Tim Evans Nina Carey Nona Howe Oksana Ward P David Adams Pam Klein Pam Smith Patricia Lian Pamela 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Sharilyn & Paul Braly Sharon Schultz Sharon and William Jr. Adams Sharon Jahr & Betty Bracewell Shary Reid Shelia Hellen Shelley Mayer Sherri Johnston Stacey Moyer Stacie McWilliams Stacy Carrera Stanley & Melanie Cymansky Steve Westra Steve Waizn Steve Duhaime Steve & Viva Borbas Steven Snyder Sue Snively Sunny Day Susan Roesback Susan Cobb Susan Harrington Susan Bevington Susan Kyle Susan Wolfe	Susan & Harry Deking Susan Mohr & Howard Reid Susanne Derwalt Suzanne M. 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"Hi there, I'm King, 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

Betty White Beverly Werner Brunson Thorpe David Davidoffs Diana Swedhin Dutcy Josefson	Geoff Sanders Ginny Farnar Helen Hofman Joe Goodwin Karen Kerouac Doering	Kim Saltas, DVM Louise Bitler Norman Wheelock Pamela Close Patricia Duley (Pat) Reardon Magnuson	Ron Southard Sandy Terry Peavler Tim Haske Wayne Strelow Wendell Tompkins	Werner Illig
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"Until one has loved an animal, part of one's soul remains unawakened."  
-Anatole France

### Pet Memorials

Bear Bear Kerr Bella Schaufler Bonnie Booker Boozer Buddy Champe Bwana Carlee Joslin Cat Man Lou Chloe	Chloe Jack Cody Lyczak colter & romley Copper Cowboy Daisy Dakota Hannah Henry Honey Dusenberry Jake	Josie Kaz Lacy Lark Luna Maddie MaiMai Mittens Molly Chartier Molly Smith Nikko, Bob Maggie & Dudley	Oscar Oso Peaches Pearl Pebbles Petey Mullen Ripple Dixon River Rocky Rocky Ritch Secret Turner	Sheba & Ram Simba Smoky Sophia Sophie Barkett Suds Nyberg Sugaree Susare Taos Berndt Tibby Tigger	Tumbleweed Velcro Wallie Bollinger Wilbur Willow Winchester Calvert
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701 Gregg Drive  
Buena Vista, CO 81211

*\*return service requested\**

PRESENTED BY:

 Ark-Valley Humane Society 



# TAILS ON THE TRAIL

A 5K RUN/WALK FOR ANIMALS

## MAY 20, 2023

Learn More at:

[www.ark-valley.org/events/tott/](http://www.ark-valley.org/events/tott/)  
New Course and After Party at the Salida Steam Plant!



**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)