

PAW PRINTS



Inside Scoop...

As autumn approaches we prepare for the change in season. We say goodbye to summer and welcome the release and rest of the cooler months. We break out our jackets, boots, and scarves, and watch as the golden colors sweep across the aspen groves. As our surroundings are changing around us we are also experiencing great change within our organization. As summer came to an end our previous Executive Director, Amber Vanleuken, departed from our staff team. Amber dedicated years of service to Ark-Valley Humane Society, and our organization saw incredible growth under her leadership. Amber led with a tremendous focus on compassion for the animals, support to staff, fosters, and volunteers, and strength and integrity through challenges in the industry and community. Our organization, and staff team, are endlessly grateful for the work she accomplished. As our team continues to transition into this next chapter we are reminded that our successes would not be possible without the dedicated involvement and support of so many members of our community. We are feeling that now more than ever, as we have been surrounded by the support of our board members, volunteers, foster parents, generous donors, partner organizations, law enforcement agencies, and supportive members of our community that have stepped up to help make our transition as smooth as possible.

With so many animals still in need of care, rehabilitation, medical treatment, and loving homes, we truly could not do this important work without all of you. As I step into this new role within our organization I look forward to supporting our dedicated staff team while leading our organization's continued efforts to improve the lives of companion animals, support the bond between people and pets, and cultivate relationships within our wonderful community. It feels appropriate that this transition comes during a season known for reflection and giving thanks. I hope that you will join us for our Paws for Thanks open house event on November 5th at our main shelter in Buena Vista. This event will be an opportunity to come tour our shelter, while also meeting our board members and the new staff team we have built. I hope to see you all there so that I can personally thank you for all you do, not only for the animals, but also for all of us here at the shelter!

Sincerely,



Nikki Ritter
AVHS Executive Director



Happy Tails Photos!

Thank you to everyone who adopted an animal this summer!



Thank you to all who made the August Matching Campaign a success!

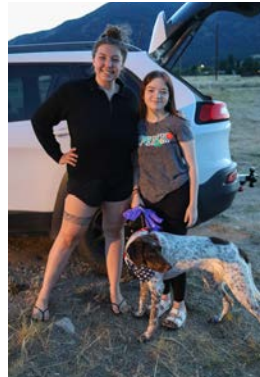


Generous donors Ruth & Greg Phillips, Sarah & Bob McMahon, Junia & Bill Fitzgerald, Cindy & Mike Newell, Judy Hamontre and Tom Purvis challenged YOU to help raise crucial funds for Ark-Valley Humane Society by pledging to match every donation in the month of August, dollar for dollar, up to \$17,000! You answered the challenge and helped raise over \$45,451 for the animals of AVHS! We are overwhelmed with the generosity of our community, thank you! Donations help us serve the homeless pets of Chaffee County and beyond. In addition to supporting the community through our stray intake, relinquishment and adoption

services, we also offer a myriad of pet-retention services. So far in 2023 we have served over 1,016 animals in need. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for allowing us to do this work, your support makes all the difference!

Movie Night at the Comanche Drive-In

Thank you to all who attended movie night at the Comanche Drive-In Theatre. For the third year in a row the drive-in hosted AVHS for a family-friendly, animal themed movie. This year we enjoyed a special screening of 'Babe'! Over 90 animal-lovers were in attendance and \$1,032 was raised for the animals, thank you BV!



Special thanks to our 'Film Lover' business sponsors:



TRI-STATE



RAYMOND JAMES



Thank you to Adventure Unlimited for visiting!



A group of teens from Adventure Unlimited spent a day volunteering at the shelter this June! These incoming freshman spent a few hours weeding the Memorial Garden, filling cat and dog food bags for the Community Pet Food Pantry, playing with kittens and spending time with a couple of our adoptable dogs. They were a delightful group and we're so grateful for all the work they did for us at AVHS.



Pet Food Drive hosted by High Country Bank saw a great turnout!

In June, High Country Bank hosted two pet food drives for AVHS in Buena Vista and Salida. They vowed to match \$1 for every pound of pet food donated, up to a maximum \$1,000 donation from them, and you helped us receive the full match! In addition to 1,084 pounds of pet food donated, our generous community also donated \$600, thank you! This not only helps feed the animals in our care, but also helps keep our Community Pet Food Pantry stocked- if you know anyone who is in need of pet food please tell them about AVHS's pet food pantry!



Cultivate Compassion T-shirt fundraiser was a hit!

Thank you to all who participated in our Cultivate Compassion T-shirt fundraiser! Sixty-four of these comfy, cool shirts were sold and \$1,084 was raised for AVHS! If you haven't ordered one yet, don't fret- these t-shirts will be available for the rest of the year at bonfire.com/avhs23.





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 Nikki Ritter at executivedirector@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



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

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Sarah McMahon, Treasurer

Junia Fitzgerald

Tom Purvis

Judy Hamontre

Terry West

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Nikki Ritter,
Executive Director

Krissy Zic,
Operations Manager

Emy Nettleblad,
Outreach Manager

Taylor Williams,
Assistant Manager

Heather Mills, Volunteer &
Foster Coordinator

Abbie Fritz, Medical & Transfer
Coordinator

Alecia Giordano,
Animal Care Technician

Kate Haviland,
Animal Care Technician

Kiersten King,
Animal Care Technician

Thank you to our Grant Funders!

These foundations provide support for our services and programs



Petfinder Foundation



Ray Foundation



ANIMAL ASSISTANCE
FOUNDATION

Alice N Jenkins Foundation



Chaffee County
Community Foundation

The Mary Elizabeth Bates Foundation

Legacy Society Members

To become a legacy society member visit ark-valley.org/legacy/

Debbie M.

Jack and Lulie Melton

Judy H.

John & Cindy Dykins

Sally Mather & Greg Mihalik



NUMBERS THAT COUNT

JUNE - AUG RECAP

Animals Adopted **129**

Lost Animals Returned to
Owner **66**

Animals In Foster **69**

Number of Animals Helped
through our Community
Pet Food Pantry **281**



Thank you, Summer Donors! June - August

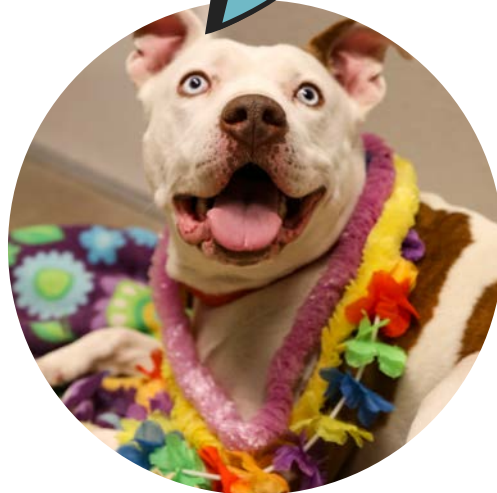
Your contributions to AVHS are invaluable to the lifesaving work we do everyday. The animals we help everyday have a second chance at life because of **you**.



In Kind Superstars:
Rocky Mountain Lumber

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jim and Kathy Achatz | Deerhammer Distillery | Sheila Hellen | David & Karen Monroe | Tammy & Todd Snyder | Brent and Brandi Veltri |
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| Steve Carr | Bob & Katy Grether | M & M Paint, Inc. | Donna Rhoads | | |
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| Cats Alive! | Jennifer Griffin | Terri & William Mantia | Jennie Ridgley | | |
| Cheryl Caves | HRRMC | Karen & Gary Masden | Fred & Theresa Robison | | |
| Cellar Wine and Spirits | Judy Haines | Sally Mather | Ruth Runge-Barnes | | |
| Caroline Champe | Clarice Hamme | Daniel May | Rustic Emporium | | |
| Chapter IA PEO | Judy Hamontre | Deborah McCaleb | Barb Scheidegger CPA | | |
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| Cathy & Ricky Davis | | Marlene Monday | Karen Smith | | |
| Sunny Day | | | | | |

"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

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael W. Bull | Dr. Kimberly Harrison, DVM | Tom Rampton |
| Sharon Marie Daugherty | Jerry Henderson | Janet Robison |
| Don Davis | Toni Hoffman | Gale Shaw |
| Dennis Fischer | Lucille Kunes | Annette Slovenz Leary |
| Judy Fowler | Fran Miller | Laurie Walters |
| Anna Gold | Terry Prince | Norman Wheelock |



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

Pet Memorials

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Abby Hoffman | Callie | Joy | Ms Pinon | Sam | Sushi |
| Alida | Cannolli | Kayla L. | Noche and Chiquita | Sherman Makowski/Jones | Tess Sanderlin |
| Aspen | Carissa | Lucy | Oakley Smith | Sissy Champe | Tigger |
| Bing Hollenbeck | Chloe | Lucy Hoover | Olivia | Snippy | Tipper |
| Bob | Chula | Luka | Pepper Richmond | Snoopy Swanson | Tsotsi Cat |
| Bob Barker | Cisco Sparrow | Luna Harrington | Princess | Sofi | Velcro |
| Boon Kampling | Conner Johnston | MaiMai | Rigs | Sophie Butler | Wilson |
| Brody | Dakota Sanderlin | Milo Schork | Robbins | Sophie Heller-Faust | Wilson & Lucy |
| Bryn Swift | Ginger White | Moxie Wait | Rosie | Sparky Nelson | Zena Buschur |
| Buddy & Sissy | Gucci | Moya Pate-Honelvig | Rufus Boutin | Spook | Zia |



701 Gregg Drive
Buena Vista, CO 81211

return service requested

Save the Date: October 23rd Fall Feline & Fido Photo Contest & Calendar



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