



# Annual Report

FY 2016-17



All pets pictured were helped by programs administered by the Doña Ana County Humane Society.



Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

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# Annual Report

The Doña Ana County Humane Society is the area's oldest animal welfare organization, with a long history and a modern outlook on helping pets and their people in our community.



We are a 501(c)3 organization. We founded Las Cruces' first-ever animal shelter in 1955, and operated the facility for many years. Many of you remember us as the shelter out on Hwy. 70, which was called the Doña Ana County Humane Society. It changed hands 10 years ago when DACHS opted not to renew the contract to run the shelter for the city/county. They hired director Dr. Beth Vesco-Mock, and changed the name of the facility to the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV.)

Today, DACHS continues to operate as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and we still support the shelter. But rather than operating a facility, our focus now is to simply save the lives of animals. We do that by administering programs that help get pets out of the shelter, into good homes, and keep them out of the shelter.

Our motto is "Keeping Pets and People Together."

To that end, we address problems on multiple fronts, utilizing methods that have potential for making the greatest impact. We do not duplicate services provided by other animal welfare organizations, but fill areas of unaddressed need.

DACHS' mission is to serve as an advocate for the animals and their people in Dona Ana County and to maintain an environment of respect, responsibility and compassion through education, legislation and leadership. We are committed to reducing animal overpopulation and defending the abused. Here are the programs we operate toward those goals:

**Animal Relief Fund (ARF):** This program aids low-income pet owners with emergency, quality-of-life and preventive veterinary bills, as well as prescription food and medications. All cases must meet WIC income eligibility guidelines with proof of household income. Once approved, clients pay a \$50 co-pay to DACHS and in return receive a \$250 voucher that they can use at one of the participating veterinary offices in the area. If the bill is higher than the voucher amount, the client can purchase a second voucher for an additional \$50. The problem cannot be due to something that was preventable, such as pregnancy or parvo.

The veterinary clinics we work with are: Animal Hospital of Las Cruces, Anthony Animal Clinic, Arroyo Veterinary Clinic, East Lohman Veterinary Clinic, Jornada Veterinary Clinic, Mesquite Animal Hospital, Paisano Animal Clinic and Southwest Animal Care Complex and Dr. William J. Schumacher, DVM.

Operated by DACHS when we ran the shelter, the ARF program was shelved when the shelter contract ended. Since the program was reinstated in September 2010, ARF has helped more than 900 low-income pet owners. The program's fiscal year 2016-17 budget remains at \$51,500, far higher than the \$12,500 budget we started with in 2010. The ARF budget has held steady for the third year in a row as we seek new sources of funding. In addition to funding from our corpus, ARF is supported by donations, grants and fund-raisers. We are fortunate to have received grants for five years in a row from Banfield



Charitable Trust, and again this year after the organization became the Banfield Foundation.



**Pets for Seniors:** This program provides vouchers good for \$50 off the cost of adopting a shelter pet for seniors age 60 and older. The purpose is to help alleviate the loneliness that seniors often suffer, and place shelter pets in stable, forever homes. With a Pets for Seniors voucher, the cost of adopting a dog at the ASCMV is reduced to \$25, and the cost of adopting a cat, with a voucher, is zero. If the adopter chooses an older pet (5 years of age or more), we cover the entire adoption fee. This program was operated by DACHS when we ran the shelter and it went away after the shelter contract ended. We revived the program in February 2011. The program is entirely funded by the Pets for the Elderly

Foundation, so although we budgeted \$11,450 for it in the 2016-17 budget, we will cover as many of these adoptions as we get. We have issued more than 1,400 Pets for Seniors vouchers since we reintroduced the program.

**Ruff-to-Ready Program:** This program offers training to shelter dogs as they go into their new adoptive homes so that they won't be returned to the shelter for behavioral issues. DACHS ran a pilot of the program in May 2012, with \$1,000 in grant funding from the Allstate Foundation. With that funding, we hired a trainer who worked one-on-one with nine people and the dogs they were either fostering or adopting from the ASCMV. This trainer also worked with the adoptive family members and other dogs in the families. She evaluated the dogs' behavior and their home situations, and worked with both the dogs and their owners/fosters on basic commands and on correcting problem behavior. The group was monitored for six months to see if any dogs were returned to the shelter, and none of them were.



That trainer left and was replaced by Hope Movsesian, who to date has worked with nearly 100 dogs and their owners. She provides the same type of training: two free in-home sessions, and she goes the extra mile by providing additional resources such as informational sheets and web links. Only eight of the dogs she has trained have been returned to the shelter, which is a remarkable record.

We have allocated \$3,000 for the Ruff-to-Ready program for the current fiscal year. That is the same amount as last fiscal year, as the number of shelter dogs needing training each year only utilizes \$3,000 worth of funding.

## **Other projects**

**A Home for the Holidays:** This is a free pet adoption event that is held the weekend prior to Christmas, with the goal of getting as many pets as possible out of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley and into permanent homes in time for the Christmas holiday. The program is going into its sixth year after a successful 2015 event, in which 46 shelter pets were adopted. DACHS began this program with an unlimited budget that was not sustainable, so today we cap it at \$2,500 worth of adoptions. We fund A Home for the Holidays through our corpus and through donations.

**Pet cemetery:** The Alicia Melgaard Memorial Pet Cemetery, which DACHS has owned since the mid-1980s, has ceased operation as an active cemetery and is now in maintenance mode. We will honor all pre-paid burials, but are accepting no new ones. Cemetery expenses are for insurance, landscape maintenance, repairs on structures and fence line, and utilities. Where before the charge for burials helped cover expenses, we now rely on donations and our corpus to cover the cost of maintaining the cemetery.

**Critter Corner:** We produce the Critter Corner section of the Las Cruces Sun-News every two weeks. We are responsible for the editorial content on those two pages; the focus being getting pets out of the shelter and raising animal welfare awareness in the community.



**Yappy Hour:** DACHS has been the main organizer of Yappy Hour since it was reinstated in 2011 after a hiatus when DACHS opted out of the shelter contract. We first held it at Andele’s Dog House in Mesilla, but quickly outgrew that venue and moved to St. Clair Winery & Bistro, which has an expansive grass lawn and outdoor patio that accommodates any size crowd. The event continues to grow in popularity, as we have learned to promote it well through both free and paid promotions on social media. It receives in-kind advertising from the Las Cruces Sun-News and social media promotion from St. Clair. Special guests help increase attendance, and this year we’ve had Chico the El Paso Chihuahuas mascot, and Dorothy and the two Totos from the “Wizard of Oz” production at the Las Cruces Community Theatre at our Yappy Hours. The event benefits both DACHS and the Spay/Neuter

Action Program.

**Paws ‘n Claws Road Rally:** DACHS held its third annual Paws ‘n Claws Road Rally fundraiser in August. This event’s goal is to attract a different crowd, pulling from car and motorcycle enthusiasts. It features several stops around the city, and a party afterward.

## **FINANCES (see attachment)**

Our FY 2016-17 budget includes program expenses and general expenses such as the lease that we share with SNAP for our office space, website, cemetery, office supplies, insurance, alarm system, accountant & bookkeeper, and the salaries of the executive director and the administrative assistant, both contract positions.

The FY 2016-17 budget is approximately \$1,800 less than the last fiscal year budget, in part because we did not have a large gross receipts tax payment to make as we did last FY, when we were notified that we owed gross receipts that we were supposed to be paying our contractors. We are current on gross receipts taxes this fiscal year. Some of our insurance costs have dropped; we are spending less on office supplies, we are no longer having to pay for a storage unit, as well as a couple of other small line items that were eliminated in an effort to keep the funds available for our programs. The executive director received a pay raise this fiscal year, in order to bring her salary into the low end of the competitive salary range for that position in our state.

On the income side, we received two bequests this year, which will help tremendously toward meeting our budgeted income. We are always seeking additional sources of funding, mainly in the area of grants.

Our total invested corpus with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney is \$597,834 as of 10/18/16; it is higher than this time last year due to the bequests, which we added to the fund so that it can grow until we utilize it. Some of this invested money came with us when we ended the shelter contract several years ago, and it is comprised of bequests and donations to DACHS, not to the city or county. Some of it is reimbursement that the city and county agreed that they owed DACHS for operating expenses incurred while under contract to operate the shelter: just under \$109,000 from the county and \$160,000 from the city. The fund is set up fairly conservatively as a long-term investment with the idea that the market fluctuates but will recover.

We set up the fund this way so that proceeds are automatically reinvested, and we keep a portion of it \_ 10 percent \_ in a cash account at Morgan Stanley so that we have operating funds to draw from when needed.

We transferred \$65,000 from the account in FY 2010-2011 to help fund our programs and operations. In the FY 2012-13, we transferred \$47,500 to help fund our programs and operations; \$58,872 in FY 2014-15, \$30,000 in FY 2015-16, and \$10,000 to date in FY 2016-17.

Of the \$65,000 withdrawn in 2010-11, \$35,000 was paid out as grants and donations to other animal welfare organizations and the other \$30,000 was used for operating expenses. In 2011-12, \$29,500 of the \$47,500 withdrawn was paid out as grants and donations to other animal welfare

organizations, including \$6,000 to the newly formed Coalition for Pets and People. The remainder went toward programs and operating expenses. Going forward from 2013, we decided that we need to focus on funding our own programs and discontinued grants to other organizations.

Our board has discussed this investment fund at length. Our goal is to protect the corpus so that we can continue to operate for the long term and focus on fund-raising via events, memberships, donations and grants to offset the cost of our programs and operating expenses, and keep the investment fund growing so that we can continue to do good work in our community.

Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Teryl Beck, president

Cristie Stuart, vice president

Christi Getz, secretary

Jerome Dodson, treasurer

### Board Members

Lori English

Robert Moreno

Sherri Rials

### Executive Director

Kathy Lawitz

## DACHS Budget 2016-2017

**Updated 5-2016**

<b>INCOME</b>			
		Fund Raising Events	\$ 22,970
		Bequests	\$ 31,331.00
		Donations	\$ 48,579
		Membership Dues	\$ 4,579
		Grants	\$ 30,000
		ARF co-pays	\$ 9,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 146,459</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>PERSONNEL</b>		
		Executive Director, Contract consultant	\$ 38,500
		Gross receipts tax	\$ 2,600
		Administrative Assistant	\$ 2,600
		Gross receipts tax	\$ 180
	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
		Accounting/audit/bookkeeping	\$ 2,340
	<b>PET CEMETERY</b>		
		Maintenance	\$ 1,900
		Utilities	\$ 539
		Liability Insurance	\$ 625
	<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
		Liability Insurance/fidelity bonds	\$ 925
		Insurance, general & property	\$ 1,200
		Office Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,000
		Postage	\$ 550
		Office supplies	\$ 1,600
		Membership dues, Chamber	\$ 300
		Website maintance and up keep	\$ 300
		Office internet/office use	\$ 3,600
		Security office system	\$ 300

	<b>PROGRAMS</b>			
		Animal Relief Fund	\$	51,500
		(Donor-advised C. Stern)	\$	10,000
		Ruff to Ready	\$	3,000
		Pets for Seniors	\$	11,450
		A Home for the Holidays	\$	2,500
	<b>TRAVEL</b>			
		Mileage reimbursement	\$	250
	<b>TRAINING/EDU.</b>			
		Conference fees	\$	500
	<b>FUND-RAISING</b>			
		Printing, general	\$	100
		Printing/Mailing Holiday Appeal Letter	\$	2,600
		Expenses (misc. YH/Paws n Claws	\$	4,000
	<b>MEMBERSHIP EXP.</b>			
		Printing quarterly newsletter	\$	1,500
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>146,459</b>
		<b>Summary</b>		
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>146,459</b>
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>146,459</b>
		<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>