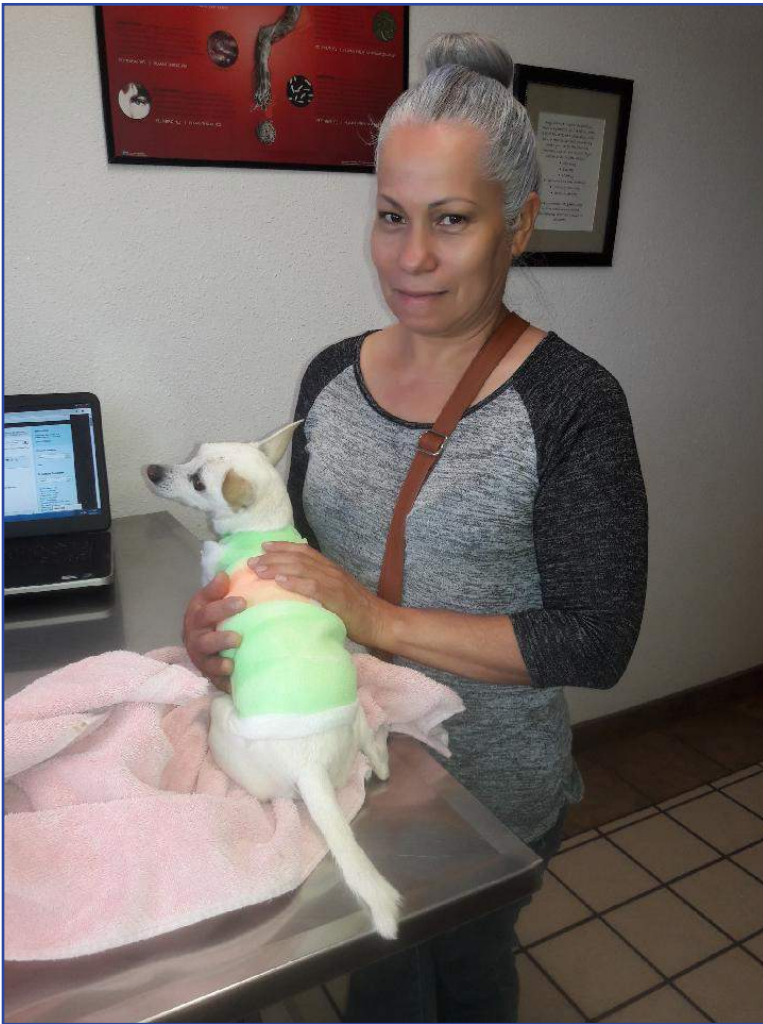
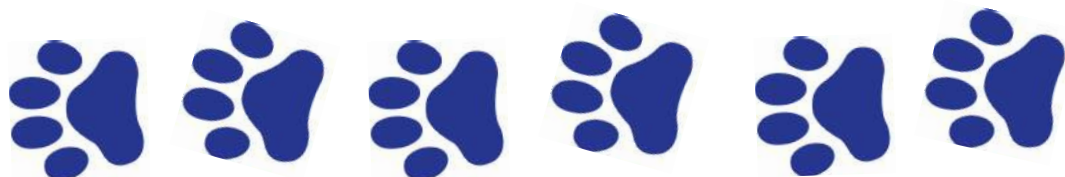


# Annual Report

FY 2018-19



**All animals pictured here were helped through programs administered by the Doña Ana County Humane Society.**



## Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

FY 2018-19

# Annual Report



**Stella Baca adopted Arabella from the municipal shelter through our Pets for Seniors program.**

good homes, and keep them out of the shelter. Our motto is “Keeping People and Pets 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:

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 remember us as the shelter out on Hwy. 70, which was called the Doña Ana County Humane Society. It changed hands in 2008 when DACHS opted not to renew the contract to run the shelter for the city/county. They hired their own director and changed the name of the facility to the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV.)

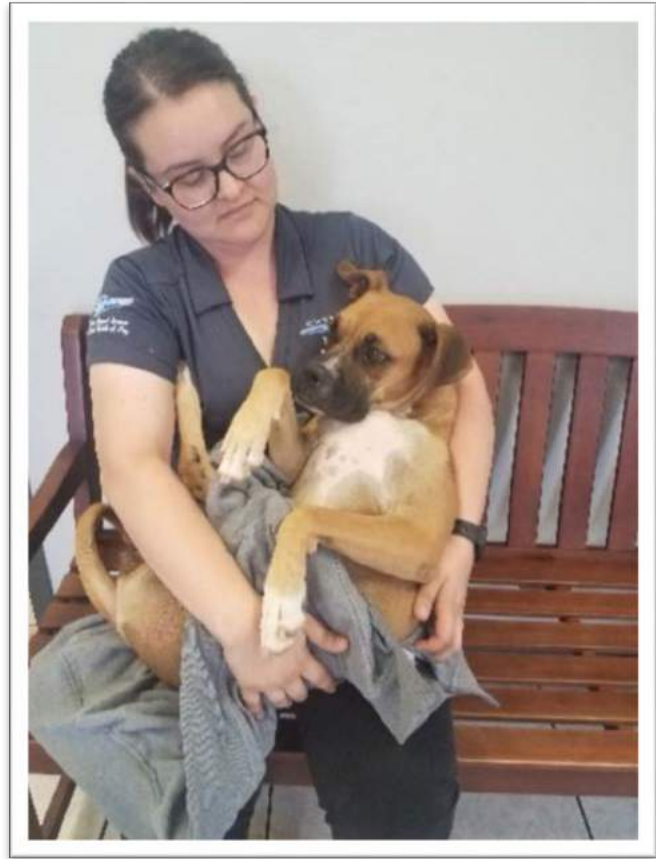
Today, DACHS continues to operate as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and we still support the shelter. But rather than operating a facility, our focus now is to simply save the lives of animals.

We do that by administering programs that help get pets out of the shelter, into

**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 HUD 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 county. 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, parvo, rabies, or distemper.

The veterinary clinics we work with are: Animal Hospital of Las Cruces, Arroyo Veterinary Clinic, Calista Animal Hospital, East Lohman Veterinary Clinic, Jornada Veterinary Clinic, Mesquite Animal Hospital, Paisano Animal Clinic, 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 1,400 low-income pet owners. The program's fiscal year 2016-17 budget has been bumped up to \$84,900, far higher than the \$12,500 budget we started with in 2010. The ARF budget has been able to grow thanks to new sources of funding. In addition to money from our invested corpus, ARF is supported by donations, grants and fund-raisers, including a first-time grant this year from PetSmart Charities. In the past, we were fortunate to have received grants for six years in a row from Banfield Charitable Trust/Banfield Foundation, as well as grants from the ASPCA, Athletes for Animals, Bissell Foundation and BNSF.



**Shelby White found Xena in a parking lot with a broken leg and hip injuries. She wanted to keep her, and was able to get Xena the medical aid she needed through the Animal Relief Fund.**



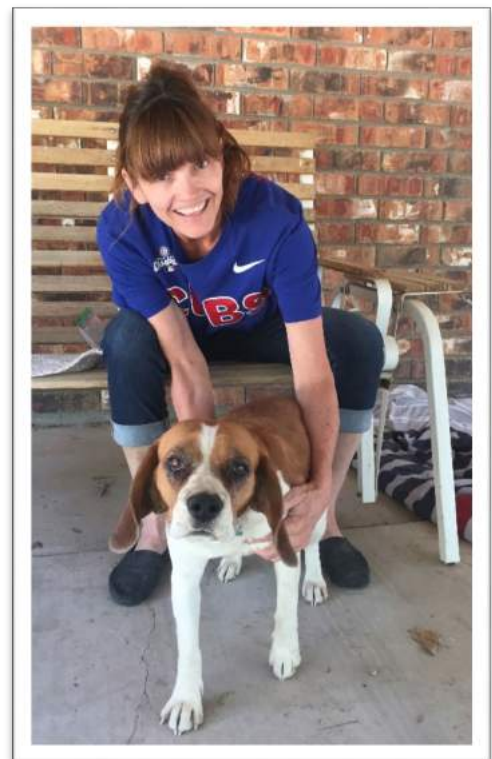


**John Shipp adopted Ivey through our Pets for Seniors program so that his other cat would have a companion.**

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 more than 180 dogs and their owners. She provides the same type of training: two free in-home sessions, working with the family and other animals in the household, and she goes the extra mile by providing additional resources such as informational

**Pets for Seniors:** This program provides vouchers that take \$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 dog (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 funded by the Pets for the Elderly Foundation and we have budgeted \$4,000 for it in the 2018-19 budget. We have issued more than 900 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



**Karen Adamson's shelter beagle, Penny, is overcoming her fear and aggression issues through the Rough-to-Ready program.**



**The Connells adopted Sofia (in blue halter) during the “A Home for the Holidays” event.**

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 honor all pre-paid burials, but are accepting no new ones. Cemetery expenses are 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.

**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

sheets and web links. To our knowledge, only 11 of the dogs she has trained have been returned to the shelter, which is a remarkable record.

We have allocated \$6,500 for the Ruff-to-Ready program for the current fiscal year. That is the same as the last fiscal year, as the number of dogs needing training seems to have stabilized since we expanded the program a couple of years ago to include dogs that people are trying to surrender to the shelter for behavior problems.

### **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 seventh year after a successful 2017 event, in which 47 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



**“Fred and Wilma Flintstone” at the October Yappy Hour costume contest.**

accommodates any size crowd. The event continues to grow in size and popularity. It receives in-kind advertising from the Adams Radio Group, DogCruces, Las Cruces Sun-News, Enchanted Occasions Event Rentals and other supporters who help sponsor the Caliche's Custard Wagon at Yappy Hour. Each month has a theme, and the two most popular ones in 2018 were "Woofstock" in September and "Halloween" in October. The event benefits both DACHS and the Spay/Neuter Action Program.



**Bikers at the Paws ‘n Claws Road Rally got to meet adoptable shelter dogs at Barnett’s Las Cruces Harley-Davidson.**

**Paws ‘n Claws Road Rally:** DACHS held its fifth annual Paws ‘n Claws Road Rally fund-raiser in April. This event’s goal is to attract a different crowd, pulling from car and motorcycle enthusiasts. It features a ride around the city and a party afterward. This time, we included adoptable dogs from the Animal Services Center during check-in time at Barnett’s Harley-Davidson, with an after-party at The Game II sports bar.

## **FINANCES**

Our FY 2018-19 budget includes program expenses and general expenses such as the lease that we share with SNAP for our office space, pet cemetery, insurance, alarm system, accountant & bookkeeper, and the salary of the executive director, a contract position.

The FY 2018-19 budget is nearly \$5,000 larger than the last fiscal year budget.

Costs that rose slightly are the accountant, liability insurance, as we need additional coverage for the Paws ‘n Claws Road Rally; office supplies and pet cemetery maintenance/utilities/materials. The ARF budget got a big increase due to our new PetSmart Charities grant, and the executive director got a pay increase in order to continue bringing her salary into the competitive salary range for that position.

We also increased our budget for sponsorships. We are asked occasionally about sponsoring animal-related events and to donate to groups that are helping animals in natural-disaster areas. To date this year we have sponsored the North Valley Animal Disaster Group, which performed evacuations and animal sheltering/care in the California area affected by the Camp Fire in November.

We continue to contract with a marketing company to help raise our social media presence and help separate us from the shelter, as some of the public still believes we run the shelter on Hwy. 70. The company also manages our website, and has been key in attracting new faces to our events.

We reduced the Pets for Seniors budget, as program usage has dropped since the ASCMV is having more free and reduced-cost adoption events. We also trimmed our postage budget and our office equipment/repair budget, as we bought a new main computer in the last fiscal year that shouldn't incur much in the way of repair bills for a couple of years.

On the income side, we received a \$40,000 grant from PetSmart Charities for the Animal Relief Fund and its related expenses. We also received a grant \$3,500 grant from the City of Las Cruces for our Paws 'n Claws Road Rally, and we continue to receive grant money from the Pets for the Elderly Foundation for our Pets for Seniors program; just over \$2,000 to date this fiscal year.

Our total invested corpus with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney is \$613,260 as of 11/15/18, down by approximately \$40,000 from this time last fiscal year. This fiscal year we drew out \$30,000 for operating expenses and an additional \$33,000 for the ARF and Ruff-to-Ready programs, as last fiscal year's invested bequest money is donor-advised for the care of animals only. Still, with 2018's devastating market downturns, our fund is only down 2.5 percent, compared to the overall market's 10 percent drop.

Some of this invested money came with us when we ended the shelter contract several years ago. 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, \$25,000 in FY 2017-18, and \$63,000 in FY 2018-19.

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 growing 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

Janice Shiflett, secretary

Jerome Dodson, treasurer

#### **Board Members**

Willie Apodaca-Fisk

Christi Getz

Robert Moreno

Alisha Munn

Sherri Rials

#### **Executive Director**

Kathy Lawitz



## DACHS Budget 2018-2019

**updated 011/2018**

### INCOME

Fund Raising Events	\$ 11,300.00
Bequests	\$ 113,000.00
Donations	\$ 25,428.00
Membership Dues	\$ 5,000.00
Grants	\$ 56,000.00
ARF co-pays	\$ 12,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 223,228</b>

### EXPENSES

#### PERSONNEL

Executive Director, Contract consultant	\$ 54,000
Gross receipts tax	\$ 3,645
Admin assistant	\$ 200

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounting/audit	\$ 3,547
Bookkeeper	\$ 240

#### PET CEMETERY

Maintenance	\$ 2,470
Utilities	\$ 600
Materials	\$ 426

#### OPERATIONS

Liability Insurance/fidelity bonds	\$ 1,036
Insurance, general & property, cemetery	\$ 1,279
Office Equipment Repair	\$ 500
Postage	\$ 250
Office supplies	\$ 1,200
Membership dues, chambers	\$ 300
Website maintenance and upkeep	\$ 50
Office lease	\$ 3,600
Internet/cable/phone	\$ 1,373
Cell phone reimbursement	\$ 135
Security office system	\$ 424
Sponsorships	\$ 3,000
Marketing	\$ 21,600

	<b>PROGRAMS</b>		
		Animal Relief Fund	\$ 84,900
		(Donor-advised)	\$ 12,393
		Ruff to Ready	\$ 6,500
		Gross receipts tax	\$ 540
		Pets for Seniors	\$ 4,000
		A Home for the Holidays	\$ 2,500
	<b>TRAVEL</b>		
		Mileage reimbursement	\$ 350
	<b>TRAINING/EDU.</b>		
		Conference fees	\$ 600
	<b>FUND-RAISING</b>		
		Printing, general	\$ 1,200
		Printing/Mailing Holiday Appeal Letter	\$ 4,280
		Expenses (misc. YH/Paws n Claws)	\$ 4,000
	<b>MEMBERSHIP EXP.</b>		
		Printing quarterly newsletter	\$ 2,090
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 223,228</b>
		<b>Summary</b>	
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 223,228</b>
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 223,228</b>
		<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>