



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2014-15



Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

FY 2014-15

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The Doña Ana County Humane Society is the area's oldest animal welfare organization, with a proud 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 in 2008 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 the facility, our focus now is to simply save the lives of animals. We do that by administering a number of programs that help get pets out of the shelter and help keep them out of the shelter and in good homes.

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 other areas of unaddressed need.

For example, when parvovirus cases spiked last year, we collaborated with the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Comcast and DACC to produce an ongoing, space-available billboard and PSA campaign promoting education and low-cost parvo vaccinations. We also offer no-cost vaccination vouchers to low-income pet owners in Doña Ana County to further combat the problem.

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. 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 many 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. We also offer preventive and prescription medication aid.

Among the veterinary clinics we work with are: Animal Hospital of Las Cruces, Anthony Animal Clinic, Arroyo Veterinary Clinic, Banfield Pet Hospital, Calista Animal Hospital, East Lohman Veterinary Clinic, Jornada Veterinary Clinic,

Mesquite Animal Hospital, and Dr. William J. Schumacher, DVM.

Originally administered by SNAP, the ARF program came under the auspices of DACHS in September 2010, ARF has helped more than 600 low-income pet owners. The program's fiscal year 2014-15 budget is \$51,500, far higher than the \$12,500 budget we started with in 2010. In addition to funding from our corpus, ARF is also funded by co-pays, donations, grants and fundraisers.

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 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. 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, using \$1,300 in leftover grant money from the Pets for the Elderly Foundation. The program was so popular that we ended up spending \$1,712 on Pets for Seniors by the end of that fiscal year, currently have allocated \$6,000 for this program. The programs is entirely



funded by the Pets for the Elderly Foundation. We have given out 297 Pets for Seniors vouchers since February 2011.



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. The pilot program included nine people and the dogs they were either fostering or adopting from the ASCMV. The dogs' behavior and their home situations were evaluated, and both dogs and their families participated in training for basic commands and 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.

Today the Ruff to Ready program's trainer, Hope Movsesian, has worked with 48 dogs, with only six of them returned to the shelter, which is a remarkable record.

We have allocated \$4,000 for the Ruff-to-Ready program for the current fiscal year.

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 holiday. The program is going into its fourth year after three hugely successful events, in which a total of 199 shelter pets were adopted. DACHS funds this program through donations, fund-raisers and through our corpus, and paid \$3,425 to cover last year's adoptions.

Pet cemetery: Improvements continue at the Alicia Melgaard Memorial Pet Cemetery, which DACHS has owned and operated since the mid-1980s. No improvements were required this year, as we invested heavily in the cemetery last year with landscaping, a maintenance company contract, a backhoe and a storage shed for the backhoe. We discontinued the volunteer clean-ups, as two such events a year wasn't sufficient for keeping the weeds down. We want the cemetery to be well-kept for the people come to visit their pets' graves, thus the hiring of the maintenance company. Cemetery operation relies on burial fees, donations, and funding from our investments.

Ongoing projects: In addition to these programs, we also 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 animals out of the animal shelter and raising animal welfare awareness in the community.

Among our upcoming fund-raisers are the Halloween Extravaganza, which jointly benefits DACHS and the Women Veterans of New Mexico, Unit 1. This will be at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 at the American Legion Hall Post 10 on East Madrid, see Lori English for tickets; they're \$5 each. Also, the 5th annual Critter Christmas gala, scheduled for Dec. 4 at the Las Cruces Convention Center, benefits DACHS, SNAP and the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley. We also have Yappy Hour the third Wednesday of each month, March through October at St. Clair Winery & Bistro. Proceeds benefit DACHS and the Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP.)

FINANCES

Our FY 2014-15 budget includes program expenses and general expenses that include the lease that we share with SNAP for our office space, website, cemetery, office supplies, insurance (property, general liability, board liability and cemetery) alarm system, accountant & bookkeeper, phone, equipment maintenance and the executive director's salary (a contract position) and part-time administrative assistant position that was added this year.

Our total invested corpus with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney is \$412,182.15 as of 9/16/14. Some of this money came with us when we ended the shelter contract several years ago, and this money was 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 (after the contract ended) for operating expenses incurred while under contract to operate the shelter: just under \$109,000 from the county and \$160,000 from the city. Some of it is bequest money that we added to the fund later so that it could grow until we utilized it. 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 most of the proceeds are automatically reinvested, and we keep a portion of it _ 5 percent _ in a cash account at Morgan Stanley so that we have operating funds to draw from.

Here is how withdrawals from the investment account have been utilized over the years (these totals do not include our financial advisor's fees):

- **FY 2014-15:** We have transferred \$28,870 from the account this year (2014) to help fund our programs and operations, as donations, grants and fund-raising revenue are down.
- **FY 2013-14:** We did not have to use any of the investment fund for programs/operations in 2013.
- **FY 2012-13:** We transferred \$47,500 to help fund our programs and operations in 2012.
- **FY 2011-12:** We withdrew \$47,500. \$29,500 of the \$47,500 was paid out as grants and donations to other animal welfare organizations. The remainder went toward our

programs and operating expenses.

- **FY 2010-11:** 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.

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 from depleting the fund so that we can continue to do good work in our community.

Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

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