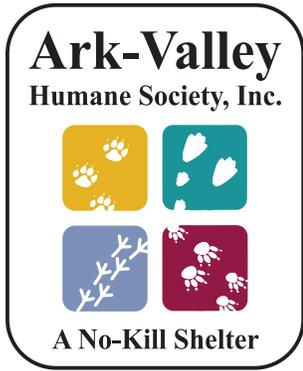


Making a Difference

2015 Annual Report



Mission Statement

Ark-Valley Humane Society maintains a compassionate no-kill animal shelter for all homeless, lost and unwanted pets without regard for time or space; reduces the number of unwanted pets through spay/neuter programs; connects homeless pets and adoptive homes; offers support services for the prevention of cruelty to animals; presents public education for responsible pet ownership.

Ark-Valley Humane Society

701 Gregg Drive / PO Box 1335
Buena Vista, CO 81211
ph. 719-395-2737

Sunshine Adoption Center

10128 W. Hwy 50
Poncha Springs, CO 81242
ph. 719-395-2737

www.ark-valley.org

Our 2015 Cover Models:



Chance - Adopted
February 2016



Padme - Adopted
March 2016



Milo - Adopted
February 2016



Coco - Adopted
February 2016



Executive Director Jonathan McDonnell & feline friend Sadee

Spring 2016

Message from the Executive Director

Foundations – A Better Humane Society, Today & Tomorrow

Reflecting on 2015, I recall the many successes and accomplishments our organization achieved. We had measurable growth in numerous areas and saw positive progress in others. Above all, it was the animals we served and the people we helped that had the greatest impact.

Our programs and services helped over 1,000 animals in 2015. One of the measurement tools we use to track our progress is Live Release Rate (LRR). In 2015 Ark-Valley Humane Society had a 98% LRR, our highest in five years. As the year drew to a close, we saw the length of time it took for an animal to find a home decrease (commonly referred to as Length of Stay), another indicator of our progress.

For the second year in a row our community assistance spay/neuter programs provided over 250 animals in Chaffee County with free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries – this underscores the need that our feline and pit-bull spay/neuter programs address.

Creating a foundation that supports ongoing growth, organizational maturation and provides the tools to face the challenges of tomorrow was and remains critically important to us in 2015. We improved policies, protocols and procedures; our climate and culture evolved, putting the animals first with an overarching sense of urgency.

We are progressing to our goal of being a model animal welfare organization with a top-notch facility that offers progressive humane programs.

The staff and volunteers of Ark-Valley Humane Society all have stories about the animals. Stories of inspiration, love and loss; stories that unite us and motivate us. Our furry friends play such an integral role in our lives.

2016 marks Ark-Valley Humane Society’s 25th anniversary – very few businesses and even fewer animal welfare organizations can boast such a milestone. Over the last 25-years our organization has helped tens of thousands of animals. I am honored to be leading Ark-Valley Humane Society into the next chapter and look forward to furthering our mission and goals. It is through your support that we are able to accomplish so much.

Thank you, as always, for supporting our mission.

Jonathan McDonnell
Executive Director

ARK-VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marsha Sailer,
Chair

Flo Chrusciel,
Vice Chair

Kay Gardner,
Treasurer

Ruth Phillips,
Secretary

Melissa Berndt-Snyder,
Director

John Ellis,
Director

Greg Phillips,
Director

Forrest Whitman,
Director

The Ark-Valley Humane Society Board of Directors is responsible for the general oversight of the organization. The Board is committed to ensuring financial health through effective management of resources and fundraising. In collaboration with the Executive Director, the Board engages in the ongoing evaluation of Ark-Valley Humane Society programs, activities, objectives and goal setting to ensure that all undertakings support the organization’s mission and long-term strategic vision.

Humane Humans



Logging nearly 5,000 hours in 2015, Ark-Valley Humane Society volunteers provide compassion for the animals and support for the programs. Volunteers continue to play a huge role in successful targeted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) projects, enabling our organization to spay and neuter over 120 free-roaming and feral cats last year.

Our foster families opened their homes to 189 animals in 2015, giving litters of orphaned kittens a chance and giving under-socialized and fearful dogs a second chance.

Thank you volunteers, your lifesaving help allowed Ark-Valley Humane Society programs to be so successful.



Counting Noses



Since 2010, an average of 882 animals per year enter Ark-Valley Humane Society shelters. Each animal comes to our organization with his or her own story. Some animals are young and some are old. While most are healthy, many are ill, needing treatment, rehabilitation or medical attention.

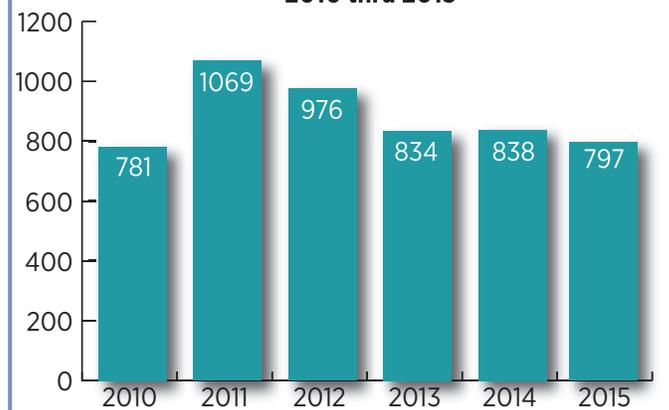


Klaus - Adpoted March 2016

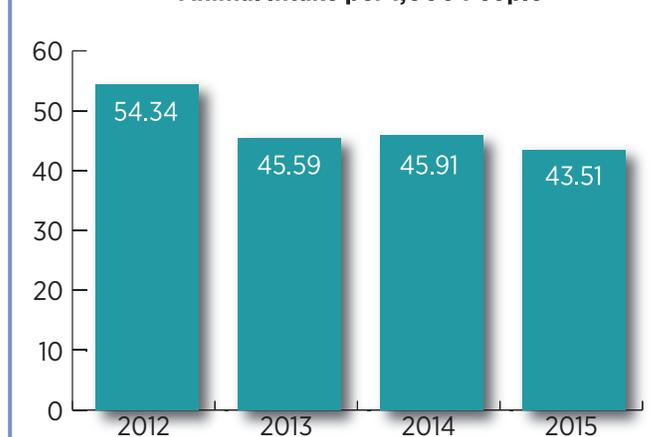
When they arrive, we never know which ones will impact us on a personal level – remaining in our hearts and minds long after they have moved on, sometimes it's the lone kitten; other times it is the pair of bonded senior dogs.

Although Ark-Valley Humane Society animal intake figures are decreasing nearly 7% on average annually since 2011, our organization continues to intake substantially more animals per 1,000 residents than the state average. According to the 2014 PACFA and US Census data, Colorado shelters intake an average of 31-animals per 1,000 residents – while Ark-Valley Humane Society intakes over 43-animals per 1,000 residents.

**Total Animal Intake
2010 thru 2015**



Animal Intake per 1,000 People





The philosophies and practices of the animal welfare industry have changed greatly over the last ten years and while our industry is continually evolving, some very basic principals remain cornerstones. Enrichment and behavior assessment beliefs routinely change, advancements in shelter medicine occur almost daily; however, the importance of Spay/Neuter programs as a fundamental aspect of our work is steadfast.

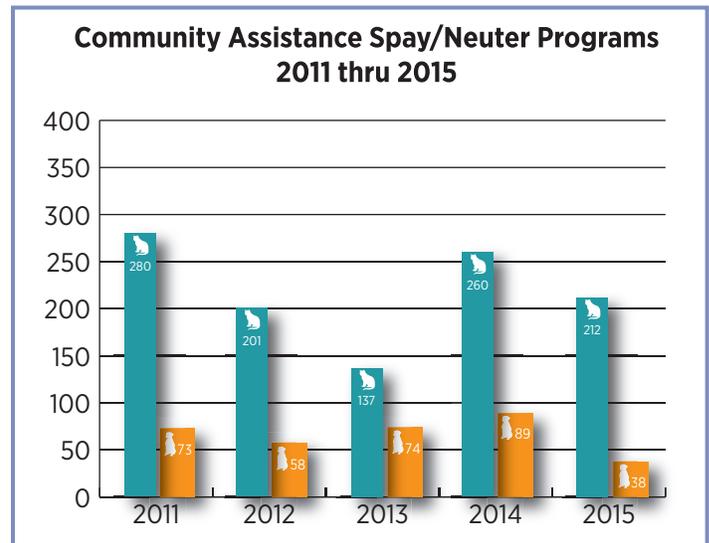
Ark-Valley Humane Society goes to great lengths to ensure all adopted pets are spayed or neutered prior to going into their forever homes. Simply put, its just part of what we do. However, our organization believes there is more to be done.

Since 2011, Ark-Valley Humane Society Community Assistance Spay/Neuter programs have resulted in 1,425 surgeries; 1,090 of those surgeries were for cats and almost 70% of those were through our long-running Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. In 2015, our TNR efforts became very targeted, by leveraging counseling, conversation and trust, we were able to make great strides by systematically and strategically addressing established feline colonies. We are confident our years of work are beginning to pay off.

In its third year, Ark-Valley Humane Society's "Incred-A-Bull Chaffee County Pit Fix" continues to have a positive impact on the community. Through this program in 2015, 33 pit bull and pit bull mix dogs were spayed or neutered. In an effort to help make the decision to spay or neuter pit bulls even

easier, the program not only provided the spay or neuter surgery at no cost to the owner. The dogs also received core vaccinations including the rabies vaccination as well as getting microchipped. We love pit bulls and want them to live long, happy, healthy, well-socialized and loving lives in their forever homes.

The continued success of Ark-Valley Humane Society Community Assistance Spay/Neuter programs is due in large part to the participation of the local veterinarians and veterinary clinics. Thank you to Animal Care Center, Buena Vista Veterinary Clinic, Central Colorado Veterinary Service, Cottonwood Veterinary Service, Mountain Home Veterinary Clinic, Mountain Shadows Animal Hospital, Salida Veterinary Clinic and Your Best Friends Mobile Veterinary Service.



Securing Shelter



After years of discussion and conjecture, Ark-Valley Humane Society is moving ahead with a full renovation of the Buena Vista campus. The project plan has been deliberate and measured – starting with an exhaustive search for an architect, comprehensive best practice research and consultations with world-renowned experts in animal sheltering.

The project will address the expansion and growth needs of Ark-Valley Humane Society, while maintaining modesty in size and cost. Major elements include a new 4,100-sq ft animal sheltering facility and adoption center with indoor/outdoor kennels and living spaces for dogs and cats as well as full

utilization of the entire campus and grounds, providing enhanced enrichment for the animals as well as a positive adoption experience for the community.

With design elements and planning coming to fruition, we anticipate breaking ground in late 2016 or early 2017. We look forward to sharing project progress with you.



Starch - Still looking for his forever home.

Pathways and Transparency



Honey - Adpoted February 2016

The moment an animal enters the shelter, we immediately begin to plot his or her path to outcome. Our goal is a positive outcome for every animal that comes to Ark-Valley Humane Society. In 2015 the 469 animals brought to Ark-Valley Humane Society as a stray, over 45% were

reunited with their families - over 75% of the 270 total dogs brought in as strays were reunited with their families, most within 24-hours. In 2015, 526 animals found a fresh start with a new home and all of the 526 were spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped prior to going home.

Ark-Valley Humane Society makes great effort to maintain a strong Live Release Rate (LRR). Unfortunately there is no single, widely accepted formula to arrive at an organization's LRR. Because of this, and to always be transparent with data, Ark-Valley Humane Society is

employing the three most widely used formulas to calculate LRR - the ASPCA, Best Friend's "No More Homeless Pets" Save Rate and the Asilomar Accords formulas. The result is that Ark-Valley Humane Society achieved a 98% LRR for 2015. More importantly, our organization has consistently maintained a 95% or greater LRR since 2012.



Mopsy - Adpoted March 2016

Critique to Create



Peach - Adpoted August 2015

Ark-Valley Humane Society is committed to ensuring our animal care operations are aligned with best practices and that our organization is positioned to provide the best care and services possible.

In 2015, Ark-Valley Humane Society had the pleasure of welcoming Dr.

Cindy Karsten, DVM from the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis. A leader in establishing shelter medicine and shelter operation best practices, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program provides an incredible resource to animal shelters both domestic and international.

Through a voluntary assessment of our facilities and capacity for care, Ark-Valley Humane Society was fortunate enough to receive tailored and specific feedback about how we are doing, as well as how we can improve to further our role as a leading animal welfare organization.

As a result, Ark-Valley Humane Society implemented improvements to animal housing as well as streamlining and refining our processes for readying animals for adoption - all in an effort to find the dogs and cats a home sooner. Further feedback and recommendations from Dr. Karsten and the team at UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program influenced and shaped planning and long-term operational objectives for our organization.

Having the opportunity to work with the team at UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program was a tremendous experience; the results of the evaluation and recommendations will have long-lasting and far-reaching impact on Ark-Valley Humane Society.



Rio - Adpoted March 2016

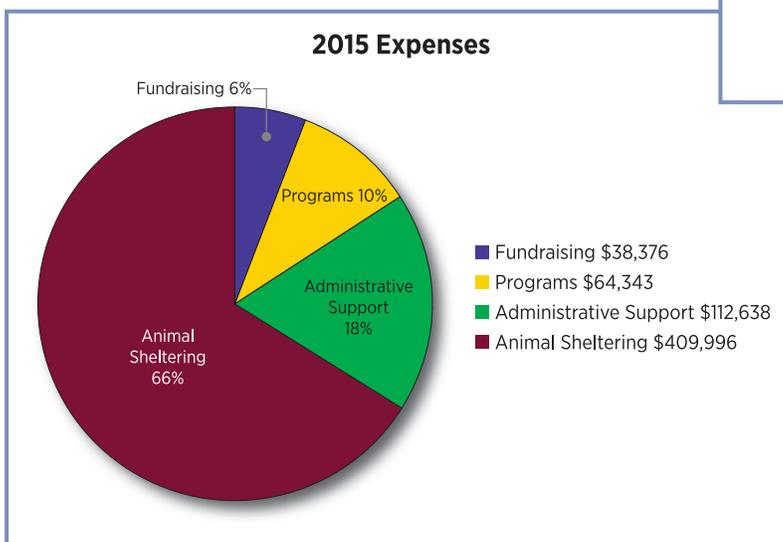
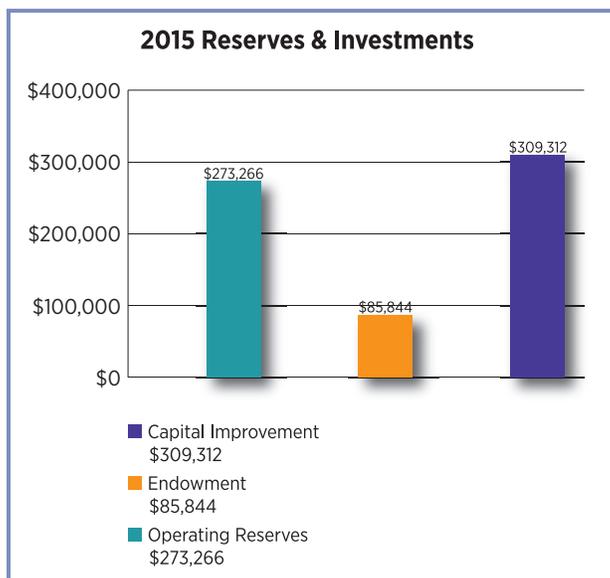
Providing Closure



For almost 16 years, Ark-Valley Humane Society has provided pet cremation services to Chaffee County and the surrounding areas. During that time, countless families found closure and healing thanks in part to this honorable service.

In early 2015, after months of ongoing maintenance issues, the decision was made to replace our outdated crematorium. Then, in December, the new state-of-the-art crematory came online. The new crematory allows more cost and energy efficient operations, along with expanded services.

When the time comes, we are here for you. We take pride in treating every animal as if it were our own, with dignity and respect.



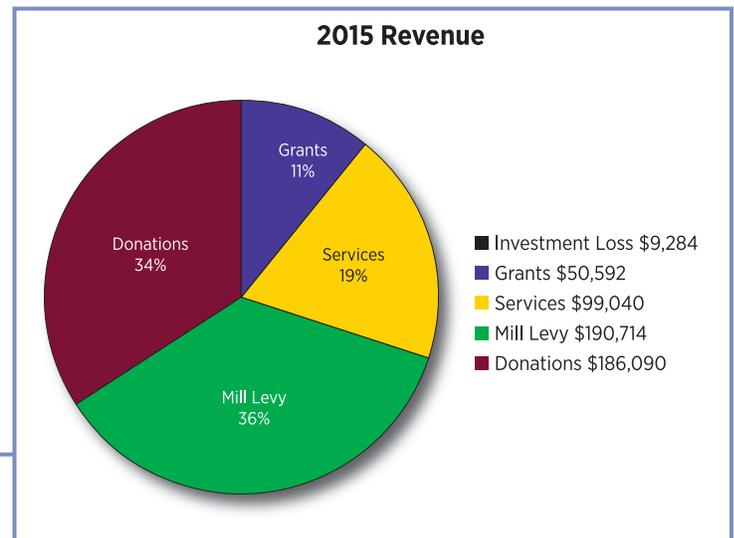
Financial Reporting



Through annual financial reviews and routine audits conducted by independent accounting firms, Ark-Valley Humane Society is committed to financial responsibility. With this, as well as thorough supervision and a commitment to transparency, Ark-Valley Humane Society maintains a Gold rating from GuideStar. Actual investment earnings were offset by the reduction in market value of the portfolio resulting in net investment loss for 2015. The figures in this section are preliminary, a formal financial review will be performed by an independent CPA firm in the second quarter of 2016. Finalized financial statements will be available at a later date.



Silvio - Adopted July 2015



Come find your new best friend



719-395-2737
701 Gregg Drive ■ Buena Vista
10128 W Highway 50 ■ Poncha Springs
www.ark-valley.org