



DOÑA ANA COUNTY  
HUMANE SOCIETY  
EST. 1985

**"KEEPING PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER"**  
**FALL 2022 EDITION**



## CONTACT US

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**FACEBOOK:** [www.Facebook.com/DonaAnaCountyHumaneSociety](http://www.Facebook.com/DonaAnaCountyHumaneSociety)

**INSTAGRAM:** @DonaAnaHumaneSociety



## WHAT WE DO

**ANIMAL RELIEF FUND:** Assistance for veterinary care for low-income families and their pets

**RUFF-TO-READY:** Free behavior training for dogs coming out of the shelter into their new adoptive homes.

**PETS FOR SENIORS:** \$25 adoption fee discount for people age 60+ who adopt a pet from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley.



## DACHS BOARD

Willie Apodaca-Fisk, President  
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Jen Garcia  
Caroline Zamora  
Adam Rivera

# DOÑA ANA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY HUMANE NEWS

## RISE AGAIN STRONGER: THE STORY OF ASH

Imagine a helpless, injured dog running in the street with matted, dirty fur, covered in ticks, nails overgrown into her paws, and red, bulging eyes as a result of blunt force head trauma. This is the condition Ash was found in by her new Mom. Ash was unchipped, had no collar or tags, and was not spayed. Terrified and shaking, Ash was immediately attached to her Mom's side for safety and comfort, and that is exactly what she found.



Slowly but surely, Ash's Mom began addressing her dog's issues. After a bath and grooming, her Mom contacted SNAP to qualify for a voucher to get her spayed. It was soon discovered that Ash had cysts on her belly that needed to be removed. Disabled and on a fixed income, Ash's Mom was unable to financially cover the costs of surgery. Our friends at SNAP advised her to contact the Doña Ana County Humane Society regarding the Animal Relief Fund.

The Animal Relief Fund allows for financially under-resourced pet parents to apply for vouchers to help cover the cost of vaccinations, medical care, and long-term prescription medications for their pets. Ash's Mom was able to qualify for medical vouchers to help pay for the cyst removal and Ash is recovering quickly! "Ash is a doll! She is a beautiful dog, she's my mamacita," gushed Ash's Mom.

When she was asked what having access to a program like the Animal Relief Fund meant to her, Ash's Mom said "I am extremely grateful! I will tell anybody to donate and support these programs because they are so needed in this community. Being on a fixed income, you can't add extra bills. I would've had to choose between leaving her that way or getting her the help she needed." Luckily, thanks to our friends and supporters, Ash's Mom didn't have to make that choice.

Ash is getting stronger everyday in a safe and loving place she calls home. For more information on the Animal Relief Fund and how you can help keep people and pets together, call (575) 647-4808 or visit [www.dachslc.org/animal-relief-fund](http://www.dachslc.org/animal-relief-fund).



# DACHS HUMANE NEWS

## WELCOME OUR NEW DACHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SARAH KURTZ



Born and raised in Las Cruces, NM, Sarah Kurtz is proud to call Doña Ana County home. Having recently accepted the position as Executive Director of the Doña Ana County Humane Society, she is ready to go above and beyond to keep people and pets together!

Serving the community and helping nonprofits has been a passion of hers for many years. Kurtz joined the Rio Grande Chapter of the MS Society in 2007 and was an active committee member for the annual Las Cruces MS Walk. In 2018 she joined the Hispanic Chamber as an Amigo Ambassador and served as the Amigo's Board Secretary contributing to re-establishing the Junior Amigo program, volunteering at major fundraising events, and a member of the marketing committee.

Kurtz is an NMSU graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration, double minor in Marketing and Management, with a professional background in Special Event Coordinating and Office Administration. She is excited to begin her career in the non-profit sector and continue to give back to this amazing community she calls home. Join us in welcoming Sarah to the DACHS family!

## DACHS RUFF TO READY TRAINER EARNS PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER CERTIFICATION

Put your hands—and paws—together in a round of applause for the Doña Ana County Humane Society's Ruff to Ready trainer, Hope Movsesian, on her professional certification by the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT).

The CPDT-KA® certification recognizes the knowledge and experience of professional dog trainers. Certificants must provide references that attest to their work and pass a rigorous written exam that focuses on the science behind dog behavior and the application of training techniques. CPDT-KA® certification provides an independent, scientifically valid measure of an individual's understanding of the field of dog training, including instruction skills, learning theory, ethology, equipment, and animal husbandry.

The certification will allow Hope to provide resources to better serve our Ruff to Ready clients. When asked how the certification

will impact her work, Hope said "The certification is a tremendous accomplishment and partnered with my annual CEU goals, will allow me to keep up to date on techniques that I will be able to share with our Ruff to Ready clients."



The Ruff to Ready program provides training for dogs recently adopted or being fostered from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley or ACTION Programs for Animals. Pet parents are able to qualify for up to two complimentary training sessions. Ruff to Ready training can help pets adjust to their new homes and provide training, advice, and guidance to help set pets up for success and stop them from being returned to shelters and adoption centers. For more information on the DACHS Ruff to Ready program, visit <https://www.dachslc.org/rufftoready>.

# DACHS HUMANE NEWS

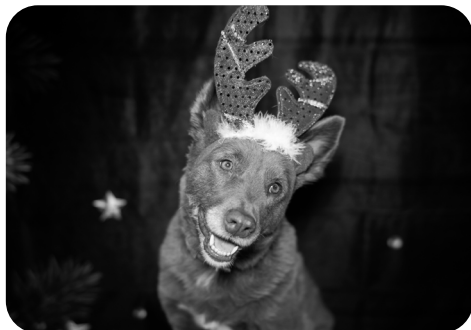


## WE'RE HERE TO PAW-TY! CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

**Cornhole for a Cause Tournament:** Join DACHS on **November 5 from 1-5 p.m.** as we let bags fly for fun during our fall cornhole tournament. Teams of 2 can register for this double-elimination cornhole tournament and enjoy pints of Icebox Brewing Co. craft beer. To learn more and register, please visit <https://DACHSCornhole.eventbrite.com>.



**Happy Paw-lidays Mini Photo Sessions:** Save the date for **Sunday, November 13 from 1-5 p.m.!** Book your festive mini photo session for you and your pet, just in time to send out holiday cards! Once booked, we will call you to coordinate a time for your session in Hacienda De Mesilla's Poolside Cabana complete with festive backdrop and holiday pet accessories to make the photos extra special. You will receive your pet's pictures digitally by December 1st. To register, visit <https://DACHShappypawlidays.eventbrite.com>.



**POUND for Paws on the Plaza:** Join POUND Icon Daniel Shattuck for a day of rocking fitness fun that supports pets in our community. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 20 at 10:30 a.m.** where Daniel will lead us at the Plaza de Las Cruces in an exhilarating drum-inspired full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training. After the workout we will celebrate across the street with a mimosa or pint of craft beer at Icebox Bone yard Cantina. One drink is included in the registration cost for guests age 21+. For more information or to register, visit <https://PoundOnThePlaza.eventbrite.com>.



## WELCOME OUR NEW DACHS BOARD MEMBER, ADAM RIVERA!

Help us welcome our newest board member, Adam Rivera! Adam was born in Albuquerque but has lived most of his life in Las Cruces. He graduated from Las Cruces High School and received his degree from NMSU. Adam and his wife recently moved back to Las Cruces after a few years of living in Denver, CO. He has spent time in the banking, insurance and events industries and is currently employed with Emerald X, a publicly traded company that organizes and manages "business to business" trade shows and events across the U.S.

When Adam isn't busy putting together trade-shows, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Sabrina, and their two sweet pups, Flor, Melo, and Luka.





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Did you know DACHS has been able to continue our work due to generous supporters who placed us in their wills and estate plans? To learn more call (575) 647-4808 or visit <https://www.dachslc.org/> request.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I believe in keeping people and pets together and would like to make a difference:**

By investing in the programs at the Doña Ana County Humane Society, you change and save the lives of pets in our community! Our Animal Relief Fund provides veterinary care vouchers for low-income families to take their pets to receive much-needed medical care. The Ruff to Ready program provides training for recently adopted shelter dogs to help get them the necessary training they need to adapt to their new home, helping to ensure they don't return to the overcrowded shelter. Our Pets for Seniors Program provides a \$25 discount for people age 60+ who adopt a forever companion from the local shelter. You can also donate at [www.dachslc.org/donate](http://www.dachslc.org/donate).

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!**