



**DOÑA ANA COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY**
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DOÑA ANA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY HUMANE NEWS

"KEEPING PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER" SPRING 2021 EDITION



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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: Adoption fees waived for people age 60 and over adopting pets from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley.



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HELPING PETS IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE POWER OF A PLANNED GIFT

Have you ever been asked what you would like your legacy to be?

As you may know, our Animal Relief Fund—the program that helps low-income families with vouchers to help with unexpected veterinary care—has been sustained by a donor's legacy gift. A donor chose to leave a planned gift to the Doña Ana County Humane Society & asked that funds be used toward "the care of animals." With guidance from our board of directors & investment professionals, funds from that gift were placed in an investment account that has been able to grow and provide income for the program for several years now.

You may be asking, "What is a planned gift?" A planned gift allows you to support a charity of your choice through the acknowledgment of a gift for the future through your estate or will. This can include a percentage of your estate or could include a gift of real estate, life insurance, or other personal financial property. Planned gifts usually require the assistance of professionals & can have many advantages for donors.

Planned gifts have transformed DACHS programs & have allowed us to continue caring for pets in our community while honoring the legacy of those who wanted to make a difference for animal welfare initiatives. To learn more about the power of planned giving, please call our Executive Director at (575) 647-4808.



DACHS HUMANE NEWS

FROM OUR DIRECTOR



As we get settled in a new year and a new season, we reflect back on the work we have accomplished throughout this last year. In March of 2020, we pivoted to serve clients through phone and email. Now a year later, we are still keeping the safety of our small staff and volunteer base in mind and continue

to serve clients remotely. In 2020, we managed to provide over \$64,000 in assistance through our Animal Relief Fund, allowing us to issue vouchers for medications, vaccinations, and veterinary care to pets in need. The trainer for our Ruff to Ready program—Hope Movsesian—continued assisting the owner’s of recently adopted shelter dogs with socially distanced and remote training sessions to help give them the tools and guidance they needed to help their dogs adjust to their new homes. And together with support from the Pets for the Elderly Foundation, we continued sponsoring the adoption fees for persons age 60+ who adopted a pet from the local shelter.

We also learned to adjust by hosting virtual Yappy Hour events, trivia nights, costume contests, and scavenger hunts. While we prefer seeing you and your four-legged friends in person, we enjoyed seeing photos of you and your pets experiencing the virtual events in the safety of your homes.

In a year like no other, we are beyond grateful that you—our friends and community members—continued to support us financially so that we could continue the work to Keep People and Pets Together. Our work would not be possible without the confidence and trust you have placed in us to support pets and families in Doña Ana County. Thank you!

April

PETSMART CHARITIES AWARDS \$40,000 COLLABORATIVE GRANT TO DACHS AND SNAP

One of the most common reasons pets are surrendered to local shelters is the lack of affordable pet wellness. Due to cost and other barriers, pets in under-resourced communities often do not have access to basic veterinary care such as spay/neuter services, vaccinations, dental care and other medical and preventative care.

With a \$40,000 grant from PetSmart Charities, the Spay Neuter Action Program (SNAP) and Doña Ana County Humane Society (DACHS) are collaborating to support pets and pet parents in need of these services through the Animal Relief Fund and Spay/Neuter Vouchers.



“Pets are family, and we know in times of uncertainty, pet parents will do whatever they can to care for their beloved pets,” said Kelly Balthazor, community grants manager at PetSmart Charities. “We’re thrilled to support this work to make affordable veterinary care accessible to the Doña Ana County community. Whether for emergency care, spaying and neutering services or preventative care to avoid costly treatment, these two programs working in tandem will ensure pets in need receive essential care.”

Since 1994, through its partnership with nearly 4,000 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across North America, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 9.5 million pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 1,650 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated more than \$451 million, to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets, to help preserve families and to improve access to veterinary care through initiatives like this with the Spay Neuter Action Program and Doña Ana County Humane Society. On behalf of the staff, board of directors, and families we serve, thank you for your generous support of the Animal Relief Fund!



JOIN DACHS FOR A VIRTUAL YAPPY EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT



March usually means one thing—it's time for the first Yappy Hour event of the season. While this year still looks much different, we did not want to miss an opportunity to gather virtually and have a bit of springtime fun.

Join DACHS on Facebook on Wednesday, March 31 at 6 p.m. for a virtual Yappy Easter Scavenger Hunt. A scavenger hunt list will be provided promptly at 6 p.m. Once posted, you can begin hunting! When you find the item, take a photo of you and/or your pet with the scavenger hunt item and post it in the comment section of the Facebook scavenger hunt list post. The first person to get all the items in the scavenger hunt list will win a prize, with a few other select prizes for most creative photos.

A suggested donation of \$5 is recommended to participate in the event. Mark your calendars for a night of fun in support of DACHS!

PETS FOR THE ELDERLY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$4,000 GRANT TO DACHS TO FUND VET CARE FOR SENIOR PET OWNERS OWNERS

The Pets for the Elderly Foundation has been an invaluable partner to DACHS by funding the Pets for Seniors program for many years. With the tremendous need for veterinary assistance for low-income families, the Foundation expanded its reach and offered participating organizations the opportunity to apply for grant funding that would specifically assist senior pet owners age 60+ with veterinary care assistance.

The generous grant received by DACHS will provide \$4,000 that can be used over the next six months to provide Animal Relief Fund veterinary assistance vouchers to under resourced senior citizens in Doña Ana County. Pets for the Elderly Foundation Executive Director, Susan Kurowski, said of the Animal Relief Fund program “We are proud to continue our partnership with DACHS. They have been a model participant in our program for many years, so we could not be more pleased that they will be one of the first to utilize our enhanced program for veterinary needs for senior citizens. We look forward to seeing the results of their work within the community, using the PFE program.”



While the increased veterinary assistance from the Pets for the Elderly Foundation is a welcomed benefit for our senior friends, the DACHS Board of Directors still found great value in the Pets for Seniors program as it helps seniors find companionship and helps shelter pets become adopted. Because of this, the board has voted to continue the Pets for Seniors program by using DACHS funds to cover \$25 of all adoption costs, up to \$2,000 per year.

Thank you, Pets for the Elderly Foundation, for your generous support in supporting our seniors and keeping people and pets together!



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Amount of Gift: _____

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 to 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 helps seniors age 60+ find forever companions at the local shelter by sponsoring their adoption fees.

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!