

Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

Annual Report

This is an exciting time to be a member of the Doña Ana County Humane Society. We are the area's oldest animal welfare organization, but with a new outlook and fresh ideas.

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 five years ago 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, 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.

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 is what we do toward those goals:

Animal Relief Fund (ARF): exists to aid low-income pet owners with emergency 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.

Among the veterinary clinics we work with are: Animal Hospital of Las Cruces, Arroyo Veterinary Clinic, Calista Animal Hospital, Jornada Veterinary Clinic, Mesquite Animal Hospital, and Dr. William J. Schumacher, DVM.



Operated by DACHS when we ran the shelter, the ARF program went away when the shelter

contract ended. Since the program was restarted in September 2010, ARF has helped more than 150 low-income pet owners. The program's original fiscal year 2011-12 budget was \$30,000, but the need and demand for help was so great that we voted during the year to increase the program's budget by supplementing it from our corpus and ended up spending \$43,602.58 on ARF and streamlining the program to help control the outflow and get more funding back in (via co-pays) to keep the program going. In addition to funding from our corpus, ARF was also funded by donations, a \$10,000 grant from Banfield Charitable Trust, and a \$1,000 grant from ACTion Program for Animals. The two grants allowed us to also aid pets with vaccinations and medications for long-term illnesses, and help pet owners who could not afford the ARF co-pay.

In the current fiscal year (2012-2013), we are again allocating \$30,000 to the program, which is once again being supplemented with a second \$10,000 grant from Banfield Charitable Trust.

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 back when we ran the shelter and it went away after the shelter contract ended. We restarted 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,

and allocated \$2,850 from our corpus and from donations for the fiscal year that just ended. Going forward, we are allocating \$3,000 for this program. We have given out 108 Pets for Seniors vouchers since February 2011.

Community Grant Program: Implemented in fiscal year 2010-2011, this program awards grants to area animal welfare organizations whose goals and missions align with ours. In FY 2010-11, we distributed \$20,000 in grant monies among the following: Spay/Neuter Action Program for spay and neuter surgeries; Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary for their infirmary project; Southern New Mexico Basset Hound and Beagle Rescue for veterinary expenses, and Southern New Mexico Shepherds for kennel and run upgrades. This money is paid in two parts; the first half was awarded at the start of the fiscal year (July 1) and the second half was awarded on Jan. 1, 2012, after receipt of approved reports from the groups.

In the current fiscal year (FY 2012-13), DACHS distributed \$10,000 in Community Grant Program funding among Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary to help build a new cattery; Southern New Mexico Bassett Hound and Beagle Rescue for help with veterinary bills; Big Kitty Fix team

of the Coalition for Pets and People for a spay/neuter mobile clinic; ACTION Program for Animals for their Second Chance Dogs rescue project, and Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP) for a spay/neuter effort in southern Doña Ana County.

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. 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 adopting 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 will be monitored for six months to see if any dogs are returned to the shelter, and if so, why. So far none of those dogs has been returned to the ASCMV.



We have allocated \$12,000 for the Ruff-to-Ready program for the current fiscal year, and are in the process of hiring more trainers to facilitate more training for more dogs.

Thor Corps: This education/outreach program, designed to teach school children the importance



of humane animal treatment, was implemented this year by education committee member Rick Hahn. He collaborates with the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico to make presentations in schools and to Weed and Seed program participants, utilizing educational materials that feature his rescue dog, Thor, as a mascot. Rick rescued Thor after the dog was injured at the hands of an abuser, and Thor lost a leg as the result of that abuse. Today, Thor accompanies Rick on these education presentations, to the delight of the children. \$600 has been allocated for the Thor Corps program this fiscal year.

Other 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 second annual pet calendar/planner/organizer, which

will be available the second week in October. Also, the annual Critter Christmas gala, scheduled for Dec. 6 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. It grew to the point that we moved it from Andele's Dog House in Mesilla to St. Clair Winery & Bistro, which has a much larger facility. Proceeds benefit DACHS and the Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP.)

FINANCES (see attachment)

Our FY 2011-12 budget includes Community Grant Program funding, program expenses and general expenses that include the lease that we share with SNAP for this office space, programs, website, cemetery, office supplies, insurance, alarm system, accountant, phone, and the executive director's salary; a contract position. DACHS has had increases in our property and general liability insurance costs and printing costs, along with general pet cemetery maintenance expenses.

Our total invested corpus with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney is \$359,009.74 as of 9/26/12. Some of this money came with us when we ended the shelter contract several years ago, and 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 _ approximately \$40,000 _ in a cash account at Morgan Stanley so that we have operating funds to draw from.

We transferred \$65,000 from the account in FY 2010-2011 to help fund our programs and operations. In the fiscal year that just ended, we transferred \$47,500 to help fund our programs and operations. 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, \$19,500 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.

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 dipping further into the fund so that we can continue to do good work in our community.

Doña Ana County Humane Society, Inc.

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