



# For Pets' Sake Humane Society

## The Companion

April 2023

**Supporting Planned Pethood: Volunteers working to improve the lives of companion animals in Montezuma & Dolores Counties, Colorado**

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### Foster Home Application

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## Animal Artworks Returns with a New Direction

The annual Animal Art Works Exhibit has transmogrified. For the first time, local artists' work on view in previous Animal Art Works exhibits will be featured in a limited edition, collectible deck of 52 art trading cards. Each card features a work of art, the medium, the title of the work, and the name of the artist. The cards are color reproductions scaled down to "gambling card" size, packaged in a cotton pouch with an inventory sheet listing each card by artist and title of the art work.

These cards are hard goods. Hold them in your hands; check off the name of artist and title of the art work on the inventory list and engage in active negotiations to complete your collection. Each deck will not have all 52 works of art. To get the complete set of 52, you will need to trade with other people who have what you are missing.

How it works: Come to the Cortez Cultural Center Trading Card premier event, April 22, 2023 from 4-6 pm, where you may purchase the whole deck for \$60, 52 works of art about animals. The \$10 admission fee may be applied to the purchase price of your deck that night. **Proceeds from card sales will benefit FPS and Black Hat Humane Societies.** Light refreshments will be served, and wine will be available for purchase.

At Home: check your cards with the inventory list. Identify your missing cards and the duplicates you can trade. There will be a few.

How to trade: The Cortez Cultural Center will announce a date and time to reconvene for

TRADING CARD NIGHT ON THE PATIO in late May 2023. There is no door charge for the May trading night event. Just come for the fun of it and complete your deck.

Watch: the Facebook page for announcements like, "Seeking Touria Berrada's Medicine Horse Trading Card," at <https://www.facebook.com/artjuicestudio/>

Talk: to each other. What are you looking for? Who has it? These are Trading Cards, so trading must be part of the experience.

The 2023 Animal Art Works Trading Card Deck is a limited edition. It will not be printed a second time. In addition, the miniature reproductions are 52 works of art for you to take home, discuss the collection of artists with others, and maybe learn who has one of the originals hanging in their home. Each card is also a reminder that For Pets' Sake and Black Hat Humane Societies are always at work supporting the well-being of our animal populations, helping them to find forever homes, and receive the care they need to lead healthy, loving lives.



# The Continuing Story of the Dove Creek Cats

FPS has more updates to the story on the Dove Creek feral cat colony. When we first got the call about this colony, it went on our waiting list, since we always have more feral cats to help than we can get to immediately. By October it was their turn. Over the next two months, For Pets' Sake volunteers trapped sixteen cats to be fixed and rescued seven kittens and one adult. As you know, the rescues were VERY sick. Three of the kittens had ruptured eyes that needed to be removed, one of the kittens had scar tissue from an ulcer covering one eye, and they ALL had serious upper respiratory infections that needed several rounds of antibiotics to get under control. In addition, the three-year-old adult had such bad teeth that he had to have every one removed. (Harrison is such a sweet gummy bear now). The kittens have all been transferred to our rescue partners and been adopted and Harrison was adopted by his foster mom.

We realized this colony needed as much help as we could give it, as quickly as possible. FPS funds were low, so we started a GoFundMe for the colony. And YOU came through! Thanks to our dedicated members and an article in the Cortez Journal, **we raised over \$2000** to spay/neuter and medicate the remaining cats. And we've been busy! We brought eye medicine to the caretaker to take care of two newborn kittens. Wiggles and Hopper are now in a loving foster home. We rescued an older kitten who was so sick it took the veterinarian hours to raise her body temperature enough to even register on the thermometer. Miss Scarlett only weighed two pounds and needed medicine EVERY TWO HOURS initially, but thanks to her very dedicated and sleepy foster mom, she got what she needed and is now a beautiful snuggly 7-month-old girl. This same foster mom also took in a pregnant cat from the colony to make sure the kittens weren't born outdoors. But Missy was NOT happy in a crate. She was moved to a new foster home where she could have a sunny room to herself, turned into a sweetie and promptly had four adorable kittens. Millie, Merlin, Mitzi, and Minnie (the smallest one) are all doing great.

FINALLY the weather cooperated and FPS trappers got out to the colony and trapped eight more cats, seven of them females. There are still about eight cats left to trap and fix. FPS has made a BIG difference in the lives of these cats and kit-tens and their caretakers. Thanks to ALL of you who keep the program going through the year and especially for coming through for this one special colony.



Happy Harrison



Rhianna



Scarlett



Ramona

**Bergen Spay/Neuter** will hold a clinic at the Cortez Shelter May 11-14, 2023. This is a low-cost clinic for dogs and cats, and a free clinic for feral cats in humane traps. For Pets' Sake grant funding from the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund will help underwrite the cost for owned cats. In addition to the spay/neuter clinic, Bergen will also sponsor a Vaccine Clinic on May 13 at Lewis/Ariolla Community Center. Appointments are required. To register visit their website: [www.bergenspayandneuter.org](http://www.bergenspayandneuter.org).



# The Yard Sale is Coming

During your Spring Cleaning this year, please remember For Pets' Sake. The Fall 2023 For Pets' Sake Yard Sale is scheduled for September 20-23, 2023, in the Beef Barn at the Fairgrounds. Early donations will start in August. Look to future newsletters for more information!



## Calendar of Events

### Spring Bake Sale

Friday, May 12, 10 am to 1 pm.

City Market. More to come in the May newsletter.

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### Board Meeting Dates

April 20, 2023 6:30

May 18, 2023 6:30

Call (970) 565-PETS for more information.

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## Pennies for Pets

It's never too early to save those coins for Pennies for Pets in July at the Cortez Farmers' Market. Local animals appreciate all forms of coins and bills to support For Pets' Sake programs.

## Cortez Quilt Company FPS Fundraiser

On May 19, Cortez Quilt Company and For Pets' Sake will collaborate on a fundraiser to benefit FPS. Quilt Company clients and FPS members will come together for a unique way to advocate for animal rescue. Amiee King, owner of Cortez Quilt Company will premier a new quilt fabric, Rescued and Loved. This will be the first opportunity for her clients to purchase this new fabric. Twenty percent of all fabric sold that evening, and through July 3, will benefit FPS. A beautiful quilt will also be auctioned with 100% of the proceeds benefiting FPS. In addition, FPS will hold a silent auction of several special items donated to them over the past few years. Many locals stroll Main on Friday evening enjoying the local galleries, stores and restaurants, and will also hopefully stop by to bid at the auction, or just donate to FPS. More information to come in the May newsletter, but mark your calendar now for a new, innovative FPS fundraiser. Special thanks to Amiee King for this creative idea.

## Challenges Just Keep Coming for the Animal Rescue Community

When COVID happened, we thought things were pretty bad because lots of spay and neuter clinics didn't happen, and lots of people adopted dogs because they were home and wanted some companionship. Then they went back to work or started going on vacation again and the dogs needed to be rehomed. So suddenly there were way more puppies than there had been, as well as more adult dogs being rehomed at what was then an almost unprecedented rate. Then 2022 came and it seemed like it was even worse. Now we're in 2023 and it seems like it's shaping up to be worse still. As most of you probably know, FPS works hard to get surrendered animals out of the Four Corners region whenever possible, rather than adopted locally. We just have too many challenges here with an overabundance of unwanted animals and a shortage of veterinarians. There are still only one or two veterinarians in Montezuma County that are accepting new clients, and most Vets are still weeks out on many appointments and procedures.

We began partnering with other local rescues and shelters and try to help them move animals as well. However, rescue partners are experiencing their own crises with lots more animals being surrendered, lots more strays, and people are still breeding, so lots of puppies. For the first time since COVID, we are not able to move even the cutest of puppies. It's very discouraging and every week that goes by the puppies get a little older and a little less desirable for many adopters who want the whole puppy experience. We still have very few foster homes, so the number of animals that we are able to help is greatly diminished. It's constantly challenging and just when I think it HAS to improve, it seems to get a little worse.

We still managed to move out 76 FPS dogs in 2022 and assisted with placement of at least as many for other rescues and shelters. I'm grateful for our transport volunteers, many of whom step up time and time again. Without them we would not be able to move these dogs to other parts of Colorado, sometimes half a day away. So we are hanging in there and still helping animals when we can, and haven't had to say flatly no to anyone yet. I always at least try to network a dog and if the people requesting help can hang on to the dog for a bit, I can at least do a courtesy post on Facebook and Petfinder, as well as send their photos and bio to rescue partners. Unfortunately, despite all this networking, sometimes we don't get a response and we're not able to help. Some of these dogs have behavioral issues and some are breeds that are difficult to get adopted.



The ideal would be to get them into experienced foster homes with the time and inclination to work with them, but those are like unicorns. It can be heartbreaking to have no options to offer some of these animals who have nowhere to go through no fault of their own.

Above are a few photos of some of our 2022 successes—dogs and puppies that we were able to take into our care, get vetted, find a rescue partner and they were able to find good homes because someone stepped up to foster, or their current owners were willing to hang on to them until we could find help from people willing to assist. In spite of all this, I can say that we are still experiencing some success.

Debbie Davis/ For Pets' Sake Dog Program Coordinator  
720-271-9040



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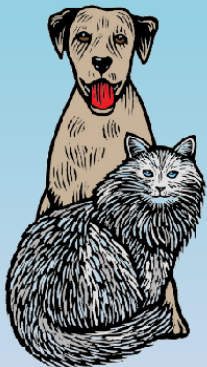
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