



For Pets' Sake Humane Society

The Companion

November 2025

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

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For Pets' Sake to the Rescue!



For Pets' Sake recently received a call from a man in a neighboring town who needed help with some bottle-fed kittens and a few older puppies he wanted to rehome. I went out to meet him and see how we could assist.

It immediately became clear that the situation was more complex than I had expected. Many dogs and cats of all ages roamed his property. All the males, both dogs and cats, were intact. FPS would have to cover the costs as well as handle the logistics.

The animals were all friendly and sweet, but the puppies were nearing 6 months old, which is a tough age to place with rescue partners or adopters. Our mission shifted from simply finding homes for them to fixing as many as he would allow. He was resistant to neutering the males, believing it unnecessary if the females were spayed. Meanwhile, he was dealing with dog fights on the property, and at least one male dog regularly escaped and roamed the area.

He eventually let us spay the females and agreed to surrender the three older puppies and some of the older kittens. Sadly, the youngest kittens disappeared. We hope they were taken in by kind strangers, but it's more likely they fell victim to predators or traffic. Four Corners MASH in Cortez spayed and vaccinated three adult female cats, which he chose to keep, and FPS returned them to him. D-SNiP in Durango vaccinated and spayed five kittens, three puppies, and two adult female dogs in a single day. He surrendered all of them except for one kitten, and we placed the others with rescue partners.

We were very grateful that this man worked with us because the arrangements took a long time and finding volunteers to help with transports was quite the task. I'm disappointed that he wouldn't allow us to neuter the males, but I'm grateful that his females will no longer be reproducing. It's thanks to members and supporters like you that we can help folks with no resources and a lot of intact animals. We are always grateful to all of you.

—Debbie Davis, Dog Foster Coordinator

A Year of Thanks



For Pets' Sake is extremely thankful for our members and supporters who have continued to support FPS in 2025.

Even with rising food prices, FPS has continued to provide feral cat food to colony caretakers who face the financial burden of feeding hungry cats. FPS has also assisted individuals needing help to feed their pets through our Public Food Assistance Program. Walmart donations have been reduced considerably this year. "Free" food comes only when FPS receives a call and prices have continued to increase. With your support, no animals go hungry.

Thanks to a grant from the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund and your donations, FPS continues to follow its original mission of planned pethood. No one is turned away if they need help

to spay/neuter (S/N) their animal. A grant from the Animal Assistance Foundation helps animals in medical need and allows FPS, with your help, to prevent animal suffering and keep pets with their people. Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter certificates assist with the cost of spays and neuters for feral cats. The Feral Cat Project has reached over 6,700 cats in the area, allowing them to live their lives without contributing to the ongoing problem of more unwanted animals.

For Pets' Sake is also thankful to the veterinarians in the area who work with us to care for many needy animals, and especially to Montezuma Veterinary Clinic for stepping in to handle S/N for the Feral Cat Project. All area vets know they can count on us if they have a client in need and FPS knows we can count on vets to respond to our requests and approvals.

For Pets' Sake is continually grateful to those who make it possible for these programs to continue, even as demand and prices increase. By working together, we improve the lives of animals in our community. At this time of Thanksgiving, FPS is extremely thankful for YOU.

Dog House Donations Needed

As winter approaches, For Pets' Sake is asking for donations of dog houses (or money to purchase them) to keep dogs warm when the temperatures drop. Best are igloo-shaped—large or extra large are especially needed, but medium are accepted too—along with the straw needed to line them. If you can help, call 970-565-PETS/7387 and leave a message for Debbie. If you're donating a previously used dog house, please send a photograph and any additional information to info@forpetsakehs.org.

2025 22nd ANNUAL CORTEZ



TURKEY TROT

to Benefit

FOR PETS' SAKE
HUMANE SOCIETY



Thanksgiving Day • November 27

1 Mile FUN walk
for pets & their best friends!

10:00 am at Parque de Vida

Registration begins at 9:30 am

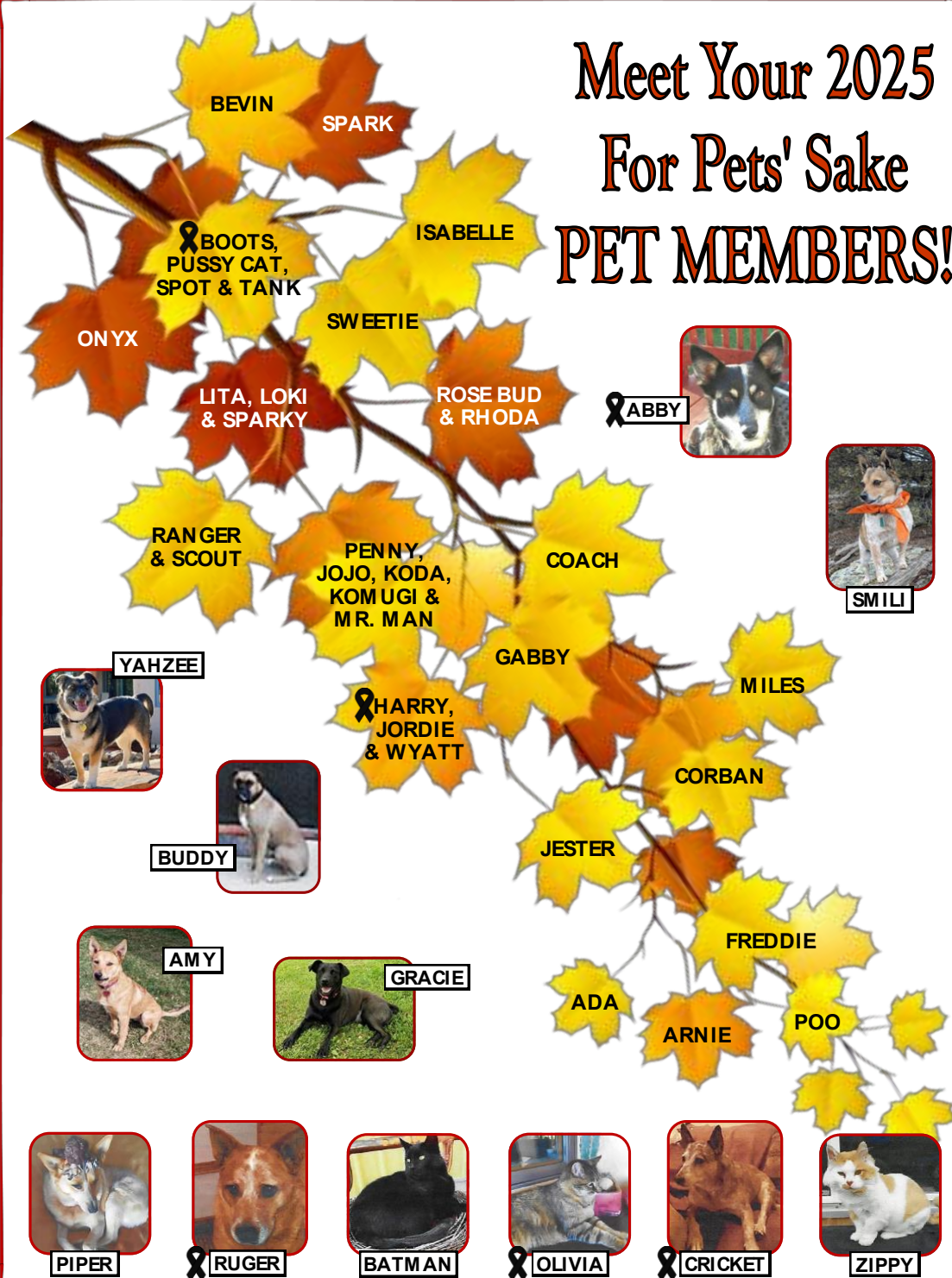
\$25 registration includes a *Cool T-shirt*.



*Prizes for best costume, first & last to
cross the finish line and best trick!*

(970) 565-PETS/7387

Meet Your 2025 For Pets' Sake PET MEMBERS!



The Story of a Feral Cat Colony

In 2013, For Pets' Sake was called to help with a feral cat colony of approximately 25 cats. The owner was hospitalized, and the family had no way to handle the cats. Two FPS volunteers began feeding the cats, and the Feral Cat Project trapped and spayed/neutered all the adults while rescuing the kittens for foster and eventual forever homes.

Originally there were three feeding stations, and over time, volunteers were additionally tasked with hauling food and water for six sheep on the property. The situation was touch and go for many years; as the owner continued to live on the property, the property and he continued to deteriorate and the cats still needed care. After the owner passed away, no provisions were made for the cats or the property, and FPS volunteers continued to care for them on a daily basis.

Over the years, three feeding stations were condensed to one, with volunteers feeding cats every day. Sick cats received medical care, and many were moved into one of the volunteer's indoor/outdoor catios. In September 2025, three of the original cats were still there, along with another that had moved into the colony, and FPS decided to close the colony. Conditions at and access to the property were further deteriorating, and the volunteers who continued to feed there expressed concerns for their safety. With winter coming access would be even more difficult and dangerous.

The FPS board voted to move the remaining cats to the volunteer's catio. For Pets' Sake paid for vet visits and dentals. Provisions were put in place for the cats if something should happen to the volunteer who took them in. The volunteer will provide all food and shelter for them, along with others from previous colonies, and give them a forever home. Thanks to help from all of YOU, this rescue, and many more, happen all the time.

To prove that point, after closing this colony, FPS was asked to assist a woman who was unable to care for herself; both inside and outside cats needed help. Cats are now being fed daily, and some of the older cats that formerly lived indoors are being fostered. For Pets' Sake was called into a similar situation in Towaoc. Thankfully, another organization took the lead on this rescue, but FPS provided some of the medical funding needed for the animals and took four sick kittens into foster care. Who knows what phone call may come in tomorrow? But thanks to YOU, For Pets' Sake will be there to answer the call.

November is National Senior Pet Month

Our furry friends are living longer, healthier lives thanks to veterinary research and funding and preventative care at every age. Applying the term *senior* depends on an animal's species and breed, cats 8 to 10 years old, dogs greater than 50 pounds and 6 years old, and dogs less than 50 pounds and 8 years old are generally considered to be seniors.

Common health conditions associated with senior pets that affect quality of life and well-being range from arthritis, cancer, kidney and liver disease, and neurological conditions to lumps and bumps and dental issues. Discussing your expectations with your veterinarian as your pet ages and scheduling regular checkups, including bloodwork, helps your pets live safer and happier lives.

All older pets appreciate easily accessible food and water and toenails that are clipped regularly. Dogs may benefit from ramps, toe grips, orthopedic dog beds, harnesses, and potty pads. While cats find wider and shallower litter boxes easier to use and enjoy daily grooming with a soft brush and low steps that allow them to access the places where they like to climb.

Welcoming a senior pet into your home provides companionship and comfort, curbs loneliness, and keeps both of you active as you age more gracefully together.



Halloween Bake Sale a Howling Success!



Thanks to ALL for making the Halloween Bake Sale the most successful yet! Thanks to Bill and Janet for organizing the event, all those who also helped and, of course, our spectacular bakers. Thanks to everyone who stopped to buy treats and make donations. For Pets' Sake raised \$949! If you didn't get enough tasty treats this time around, our Holiday Bake Sale is coming up on December 20th.

Board Meeting Dates

Monday • November 10 • 6:30 p.m.

Monday • December 8 • 6:30 p.m.

Call 970-565-7387 for more information

Upcoming Events

Turkey Trot • November 27

Holiday Bake Sale • December 20

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Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-7387



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