



For Pets' Sake Humane Society

The Companion

February 2026

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

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P.O. Box 1705
Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-PETS/7387
www.forpetssakehs.org
info@forpetssakehs.org

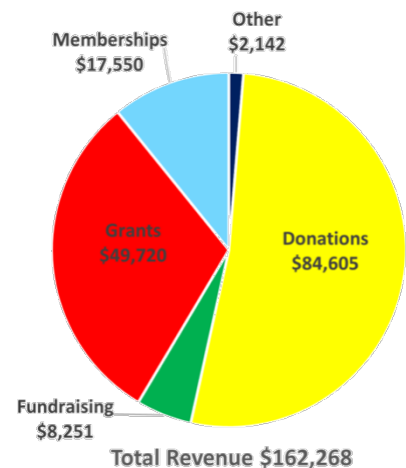


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2025 Finances in Review

As always, your support is the foundation of our success. Donations from our members, business members, and friends made up 52.14% of our revenue. Memberships, individual and pet, provided 10.82% of total revenue. A total of 62.96% of revenue came directly from YOU!



Fundraising revenue was significantly lower last year. After approximately 30 years of yard sales, we decided to take a break. Other fundraising events in 2025 provided 5.08% of total revenue. Our four seasonal bake sales raised \$4,760 from generous donors and from the sale of delicious baked goods provided by our dedicated and talented bakers. The Turkey Trot raised \$3,491, and we had the pleasure of talking to and trotting with two- and four-legged friends who entertain us with their creative costumes and tricks.

Grants received from Animal Assistance Foundation, the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund, and Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter were instrumental to funding our medical assistance, spay/neuter (S/N), and feral cat programs. A grant from the Virga Foundation was used for general purposes as needed. Grants provided 30.64% of total revenue.

How did we spend the money? \$142,757 was spent for direct services to animals: dog training, medical, S/N, vaccinations, food, community cat colonies, and foster cats and dogs. Fundraising expenses totaled \$1,729. An additional \$7,420 went to administrative expenses such as advertising, publishing, postage, our website, transaction fees, licenses, storage, transport, and insurance.

Please continue reading the newsletter to see how many animals we helped in 2025.

THANK YOU FROM THE FPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Liz Markum
Treasurer

How We Helped in 2025

In 2025, For Pets' Sake faced many challenges: overworked vets, too few vets, a never-ending need for medical assistance, and way too many abandoned and unwanted animals. Nevertheless, thanks to YOU, FPS continued to tirelessly help animals in their time of need.

Spay/Neuter (S/N) services were provided to 148 pets. Of those, 116 were assisted through a grant from the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund (CPOF), including animals we aided through Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance (Bergen). The general fund covered 32 animals that did not qualify for CPOF. Unfortunately, providing assistance continued to be more difficult due to the limited availability of local veterinary services. Special thanks to Dr. Sue Grabbe, a semiretired vet who is still doing S/N 2 days a week. She is helping to fill the gap for those who do not have a regular vet but hope to prevent unwanted animals. We are now working with several vets in Durango to expand the availability of S/N services in the area.

Emergency medical assistance was provided to 132 sick or injured animals. Due to a generous grant from Animal Assistance Foundation (AAF), and YOU, our members, we were able to increase the amount of financial assistance provided to each animal and to make lifesaving contributions toward their well-being. Even when the AAF grant was depleted, FPS assisted animals with member donations. Many medical situations required traveling to Durango vets again this year.

The Feral Cat Project (FCP) fixed and provided medical care to 425 feral cats, 49% of which were spays. Total spays and neuters from the start of the program is 6,865. The FCP also provided over 31,000 pounds of food to over 750 cats in 45 colonies and rescued 19 cats and 59 feral kittens. A successful S/N event with Bergen helped to increase the number of fixed cats in the area. Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter provided 225 spay vouchers for the FCP. See the article about the success of the Feral Cat Project on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Cat Foster Program took in 21 adults and 65 kittens. We transferred out 21 cats and 62 kittens. One kitten died while in foster care, two cats and two kittens were adopted out locally, and one kitten was returned to its owner. At the end of 2025, two kittens with chronic upper respiratory issues remained in a foster home.

The Dog Foster Program assisted in the rescue of 24 puppies and dogs, many of which were transferred to our rescue partners. We ended the year with two adult dogs in foster care, although we know there are many out there needing our future help.

Pet food assistance fed many hungry pets by distributing thousands of pounds of food to hungry dogs and cats living with local needy families. This year, Walmart donations, although appreciated, have been sporadic. Rising costs and decreasing inventory continued to impact our Food Assistance Program, but hungry animals still receive FPS assistance.

All of these program successes are thanks to our dedicated program managers, volunteers, and, most of all, **YOU!!!!**

FEBRUARY IS



The Feral Cat Project Annual Report



2025 was the 17th year that the Feral Cat Project has helped outdoor cats in southwest Colorado. In that time, we have spayed and neutered over 6,800 cats that have been returned to their colonies and rescued over 1,200 kittens and cats that have moved on to be cherished pets.

This past year, only one of our local vets worked in the program, but Dr. Michelle Schmidt at Montezuma Veterinary Clinic did an outstanding job, fixing 344 cats. Several of our caretakers brought 55 cats to the Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance spay and neuter clinic in Cortez in September and 26 cats to the D-SNiP clinic in Durango for a total of 425 more cats now out of an endless breeding cycle. Our heartfelt thanks to Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter. They

have provided certificates for free spays and neuters since the start of the program, and this year they covered the expenses for 225 cats, totaling \$28,220. Without them, this program would be so much less effective. Our donations were slightly down from 2024 (from \$33,072 to \$32,450 in 2025), but our expenses were down too (from \$83,789 to \$73,350 in 2025).



In addition to spays and neuters, the program also treats minor medical issues so that the cats can go back to their homes healthier than we got them. This year we averaged \$113.41 per cat for surgeries and simple medical treatments. Our discounted food program provided 31,000 pounds of food to over 750 cats in 45 colonies. In all, we helped cats in 110 colonies with spays/neuters, food, or both. We also rescued 19 cats and 56 kittens.

One of our biggest accomplishments this year was working with two colonies of 19 cats each that had lost their caretakers. We made a huge difference in these cats' lives, but that's a story for the next newsletter! And this year there is some light at the end of the tunnel: we have 13 fewer colonies on our waiting list than we did at this time last year.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who share this work: our colony feeders, Sally Jo Leitner, Lynn Dyer, Sharon Fisher, Liz Markum, and Marian Rohman; our food program coordinators Joyce and Dick Lundberg and their assistant Brian Lopez; our trap wranglers, who coordinate traps for the caretakers, Mike McGinnis and Jamie Wells; and Stacy O'Shields for providing our trap pickup location. And thank you to the many people who have made donations, from small to very large, that inspire and enable us to keep going.

Art For The Animals

Saturday, March 21st

5 to 8pm

Tickets are \$10

\$25 admission includes 2 glasses of wine

Music by **Cottonwood** 5:30 to 7:30

Ticket sales and art purchases benefit:



For
Pets'
Sake
Humane
Society



Turquoise Raven Art Gallery
104 E Main St Cortez
(970)529-3597

Purchase tickets at the Gallery
Cash or Check Please

Cash or check
and carry
All work \$350
and under



**NATIONAL
LOVE
YOUR PET
DAY**
FEBRUARY 20

Meet Your New FPS Board Member Amy Moore

The work that For Pets' Sake does in this community is more deeply rooted and far reaching than I appreciated when I was merely an interested resident of Cortez with a love of animals. It was really through the foster kitten program that I got to know the dedicated members of the FPS Board. Before I met the people, the kittens convinced me of the value of FPS. Our home has been filled with the pure joy of rambunctious kittens, shy kittens and playful, cuddly ones. These hungry street urchins become irresistible adoptable family members who continue to share their love. I just had to give back to the organization that has given me such delight.

Board Meeting Dates

Monday • February 9 • 6:30 p.m.

Monday • March 9 • 6:30 p.m.

Call 970-565-7387 for more information

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale • March 15

Art for the Animals • March 21

(see flyer on page 4)

Thank You to Our Business Members and Supporters and ALL of Our Members and Volunteers!

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First National Bank, Cortez
Four Corners Financial LLC
Keesee Motor Company
Mary Ann Keesee
R121 Ranch
David and Rebecca Dull
Straight Edge Home Inspections
Jeff Sand
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Terry Woodrow: 4 Corners Properties
The Dog Ranch
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Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund
Colorado Pet Pantry
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KSJD Dry Land Community Radio
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Telluride Humane Society
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Virga Foundation
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Serving pets and the people who care about them since 1984. Can **YOU** help?

Donate on our webpage: [For Pets' Sake](#)

Or by mail at:
P.O. Box 1705
Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-7387



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