



# For Pets' Sake Humane Society

# The Companion

February 2025

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

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## 2024 Finances in Review

As always, your support is the foundation of our success. Donations from our members, business members, and friends made up 60.14% of our revenue. We were especially fortunate to receive a generous bequest from our long-time member and supporter Terry Marsden. The Holiday Mailing campaign raised over \$20,600. Memberships, individual and pet, provided 7.29% of total revenue. A total of 67.43% of revenue came directly from YOU!

Fundraising events in 2024 provided 11.13% of total revenue. Thanks to our dedicated and talented bakers, we sold \$3,321 worth of goodies to satisfy the sweet tooth of local residents and our board of directors! Thanks to you and our friends in the community, the Fairgrounds Beef Barn was stuffed with treasures for our annual Fall Yard Sale, which grossed \$17,258. The Turkey Trot raised \$2,840, and our two- and four-legged friends entertained us with their creative costumes and tricks. Two new fun events sponsored by EsoTerra Cidery and Sharps Creek Tree Farm contributed to our fundraising success.

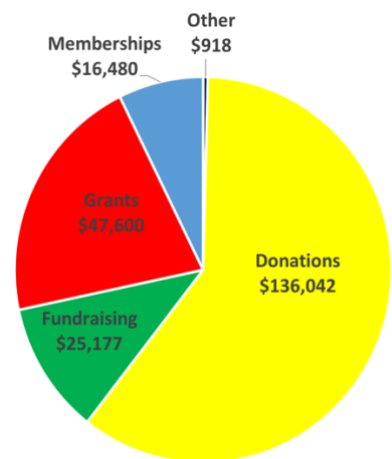
Grants received from Animal Assistance Foundation, Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund, and Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter were instrumental to our Medical Assistance, Spay/Neuter, and Feral Cat programs. A generous grant from LOR Foundation provided assistance to 31 people to learn about training their dogs. A grant from the Virga Foundation was used for general purposes as needed. Grants provided 21.04% of total revenue.

How did we spend the money? \$160,553 went to direct services to animals: dog training, medical costs, spays/neuters, vaccinations, food, community cat colonies, and foster cats and dogs. An additional \$10,940 was spent for fundraising costs such as rent for the yard sale building and administrative expenses such as advertising, publishing, postage, internet fees, licenses, storage, and insurance.

Please continue reading the newsletter to see how many animals we helped in 2024.

**THANK YOU FROM THE FPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!**

*Liz Markum*  
Treasurer



Total Revenue \$226,217



## ***February is Spay & Neuter Awareness Month***

**Besides saving lives and keeping animals out of shelters, spaying and neutering benefits your pet's well-being in other ways.**



- Reduces the risk of future medical problems, like cancers.
- Reduces behavioral issues, like howling, marking, and escaping.
- Lowers the probability of dog bites (most are caused by intact male dogs).
- Ensures your pet has a longer, happier life.

For Pets' Sake can help pay 50% of the cost of a spay or neuter with funds from the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund (CPOF) for low-income pet owners and our general fund for others. CPOF provides funding to Colorado shelters, rescues, and humane societies to help pay spay and neuter costs for pets across the state. In 2024, For Pets' Sake used their grant to spay and neuter 178 dogs and cats in the Four Corners area. Use form DR 0104CH and look for line 5 to donate. Or go to line 16 to make a donation to a Colorado nonprofit organization that you specify (of course we're partial to For Pets' Sake. Follow this link for our [Registration Number](#)).



**The Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance  
Mobile Clinic will be in Cortez  
September 11–14.**

# Cortez IFA Country Store Cat Food Donation



*Cortez IFA manager Tanner Young (at left, front) oversees the delivery of 56 thirty-five-pound bags of dry cat food and 15 flats of canned cat food donated via the Feeding Furriends program. FPS members Joyce and Dick Lundberg (at right) at the FPS storage shed.*

## Meet Your New FPS Board Member

DIANE BUSH moved to Mancos in 2017 from northern Utah, where she was a photojournalist at several small to mid-sized newspapers, the managing editor of a scholarly history journal, a soap maker, and a baker. She recently retired after 7 years as a technical editor and formatter at an environmental consulting firm.

Diane has been interested in helping animals in need for years. She spent one Christmas cuddling cats with leukemia at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary; fed a colony of feral cats at a trailer park near Utah State University as a grad student; and cashiered at the last two For Pets' Sake Yard Sales, where you might have found her leafing through old baking magazines.

She and her husband have rescued several feral cats, including one who crawled into her sleeping bag during a camping trip in the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona, and the aptly named Barney, who began living in the barn on their property last April and, much to their surprise, has been spending some time in their house during the recent cold snaps.

Diane is now putting together the For Pets' Sake newsletter, which will undergo some changes in the next few months on its way to becoming an email-based publication. She's excited to be an FPS board member and looks forward to the challenge of creating a better environment for all animals to thrive and live happy and healthy lives.

### **Board Meeting Dates**

Monday • February 10 • 6:30 p.m.

Monday • March 10 • 6:30 p.m.

Call 970-565-7387 for more information

### **Spring Bake Sales at the Cortez City Market**

10 a.m. until sold out

St. Patrick's Day • Saturday • March 15

Mother's Day • Saturday • May 10

# ***Help Frida and Buddy Bonded Buddies Need a New Home***

Frida and Buddy are incredibly bonded dogs desperately in need of a new home, preferably together.

Their owner, a great FPS supporter and former board member, was recently diagnosed with a terminal illness and is now living in a care situation. Frida and Buddy are the remaining pair of four dogs she wanted to rehome. Their home in Cortez, Colorado, has been sold, and time is running out for them to move. Although they would do best together, they could be rehomed separately.

Frida is a very affectionate 5-year-old, 58-pound red heeler mix and Buddy is a 2-1/2-year-old, 48-pound Malinois mix who is shy at first, especially around other dogs, but loving once he gets to know you. Both get along with dogs, but neither has lived with cats. They are altered, up to date on their vaccines, and used to quality food. Besides each other, they're accustomed to a lot of "people time."

There is no adoption fee, but FPS is very particular about where they'll go. You must have a relationship with a vet or be able to establish one. We will need to do a home visit.

Please call the FPS hotline at 970-565-7387 for more information.



*Frida loves belly rubs.*



*Buddy would love a female dog to guide him.*

# ***The Feral Cat Project—Changes Coming***

2024 was our best year yet for spays and neuters through the Feral Cat Project (FCP): we fixed 540 cats (275 spays and 265 neuters) for a total of 6,440 cats since the start of the project in 2009. This year's success is thanks in large part to the Bergen Spay and Neuter Alliance, which fixed 60 cats at their clinic in Cortez in September, (see related graphic on page 2), and to Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter (FAAS) FAAS has provided us with certificates for over 1,540 free spays and neuters since 2011 and added another 150 this past year. Our total income from donations, grants, and the FCP portion of donations to FPS this past year was \$97,695. Our expenses for spay and neuter surgeries, medical assistance, and food was \$83,790. Our cost per cat brought in for surgery was \$101. The FCP is in good financial shape going into 2025.



While monetary donations were down slightly this year, our dedicated supporters still gave us over \$33,000 to help pay for surgeries, medical attention, and food for the cats. In all, we helped cats in over 130 colonies, including providing over 36,500 pounds of discounted cat food. We also rescued 69 kittens and abandoned cats that went to new homes. Special thanks go to Joyce and Dick Lundberg who have been running the feral cat food program since 2018. (And this year they took on the pet food program too). I also want to thank Lynn Dyer for helping with the limited FPS trapping for colonies not being trapped by their caretakers; Liz and Richard Markum for returning those cats to their colonies; Denese Brisbin for handling most of the incoming calls; and Mike McGinnis and Jamie Wells for wrangling and cleaning traps we loan to caretakers. And I really want to thank all of the caretakers who care for these outdoor cats and have committed to keeping them fed and getting them fixed. They need you most of all. Pictured above is one of the litters of kittens rescued in 2024 (YOU try to get eight kittens to look at you at once!)

We are finally receiving fewer calls for assistance, which is fortunate because the program has had some major changes. As noted above, FPS volunteers are not trapping regularly any more—all new colonies have to be trapped and transported by their caretakers. But the biggest change is that our major veterinarian retired in December. We wish Dr. Wegner at Cortez Adobe Animal Hospital the best of luck in her new adventures. But, boy, are we going to miss her, especially since the practice will not be taken over by another veterinarian. Dr. Wegner performed well over 300 of the surgeries in 2024 and handled all of the Aspen certificates. Dr. Schmidt at Montezuma Veterinary Clinic has been doing FCP surgeries for several years now, and she will fix as many more cats as she can and take over the Aspen program for 2025. Dr. Byrd at Mancos Valley Veterinary Clinic will be able to do a few FCP surgeries a month. And even D-SNIP in Durango will help out if people can bring their cats to them. But, obviously, the FCP will be fixing many fewer cats this year. We are juggling the waiting list and getting the cats done as best we can.

So, a great 2024, but we'll have to see how the new year works out.

Thanks to all—Marian

# ***How We Helped in 2024 With Help from You!!!***

In 2024 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, For Pets' Sake continued to tirelessly help animals in their time of need.

Spay/Neuter services were provided to 161 companion animals. Of those, 137 were assisted through a grant from the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund (CPOF), including animals we assisted through Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance (Bergen). The general fund covered 24 animals who did not qualify for CPOF. Unfortunately, assistance continued to be more difficult to provide due to the limited availability of local veterinary services. Special thanks to Dr. Sue Grabbe, a semiretired vet who is still doing spays/neuters 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.

Emergency medical assistance was provided to 139 sick or injured animals. Due to a generous grant from the Animal Assistance Foundation (AAF) and YOU, our members, we were able to increase the amount of financial assistance provided to each animal, often making lifesaving contributions for emergency vet care only available in Durango and Moab.

The Feral Cat Project (FCP) fixed and provided needed medical care to 540 feral cats, 51% of which were spays. Total spays and neuters from the start of the program totaled 6,440. The FPC also provided over 36,500 pounds of food to 830 cats in 50 colonies and rescued 13 cats and 56 feral kittens. A successful spay/neuter program with Bergen helped to increase the number of fixed cats in the area. Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter provided 150 spay vouchers for the FCP. (See the article about the success and future of the Feral Cat Project on page 5.)

The Cat Foster Program fostered 86 kittens and cats. Through our partnerships with Eagle County Animal Services, CARE in Glenwood Springs, and other regional rescues, as well as local adoptions, many of these kittens and cats found forever homes. Going into 2025, there are no cats/kittens in foster homes. This is extremely unusual and we hope is a sign that spay/neuter is having a positive impact.

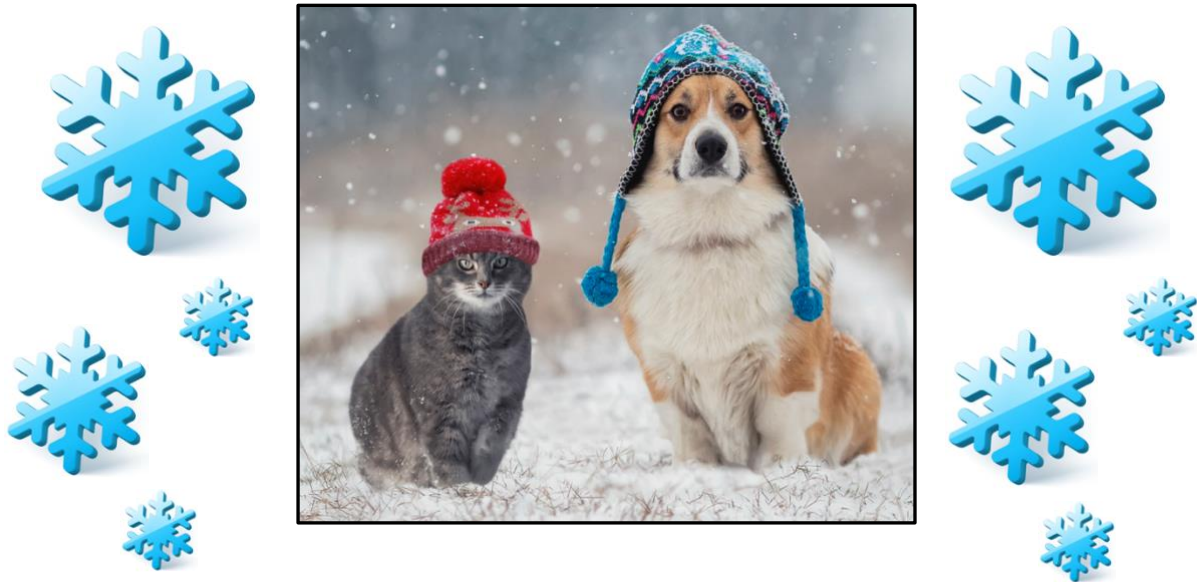
The Dog Foster Program assisted in the rescue of 49 puppies and dogs, many of which were transferred to our rescue partners. We ended the year with only a few dogs in foster care, although we know there are many out there needing our future help.

The Pet Food Assistance Program distributed thousands of pounds of food to hungry dogs and cats living with local needy families. This year, Walmart drastically cut back the food they donated to the food assistance program. Rising costs and decreasing inventory led to major changes in our food assistance program, but hungry animals still receive FPS assistance. The Cortez IFA Country Store again selected For Pets' Sake as a recipient of their Feeding Furriends program, adding much appreciated food to our inventory. (See page 3 for more on the IFA pet food donation.)

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

**YOU!!!!**





## ***Keep 'Em Warm and Safe This Winter Extra Care Goes a Long Way When the Temperature Drops!***

- Sweaters or coats provide an extra layer of warmth for outdoor walks and play.
- Instead of booties, massage petroleum jelly or other creams/balms into your dog's paws before outdoor activities.
- Regular ice melts can become trapped in and burn paws. Use a biodegradable ice melt that's safe for pets and the environment.
- Keep your pet's coat long when it's cold outside. Extra fur means extra warmth.
- Towel dry your pet when they come indoors and wash their feet and stomach to remove ice, salt, and other chemicals.
- Bathe pets as little as possible. Soaps and frequent baths can lead to dry, flaky skin. Brushing removes knots to keep your pet insulated and clean.
- Feed pets a little more in the winter. The extra calories build fat deposits to keep them warm.
- Antifreeze made with ethylene glycol—even a small amount—can be deadly to dogs. Store antifreeze safely and clean up spills quickly and completely and/or use a pet-safe antifreeze made with propylene glycol, which is less dangerous when swallowed. Call your vet immediately if you suspect your dog has swallowed antifreeze and don't induce vomiting unless instructed by your veterinarian.

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

**Business Members**

- Cortez Adobe Animal Hospital  
Dr. Nancy Wegner
- First National Bank, Cortez
- Four Corners Financial LLC
- Keesee Motor Company  
Mary Ann Keesee
- Montezuma Veterinary Clinic
- Slavens True Value Hardware
- Tequila's Mexican Restaurant
- Terry Woodrow: 4 Corners Properties
- The Dog Ranch  
Kathy Hennek
- Tierra Madre Herbs  
Matthew Keefauver

**Business Supporters**

- A&C Milling
- A to Z Storage
- Animal Assistance Foundation
- Aramark Mesa Verde
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Books
- City Market
- City of Cortez – Library & Parks
- Cliffrose Garden Center & Gifts
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Colorado Animal Rescue Express (CARE)
- Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund
- Colorado Pet Pantry
- Cortez Animal Bed & Breakfast
- Cortez Quilt Company
- Dairy Queen
- El Grande Café
- EsoTerra Ciderworks
- Fahrenheit Coffee Roasters
- FB Organics
- The Farm Bistro
- Fiona King / Artist
- Four Corners Free Press  
Gail Binkly
- Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter
- Goodwill of Durango
- Housing Authority of the County of Montezuma
- IFA Country Store
- JC Pets
- The Journal
- Kokopelli Bike & Board
- KSJD Dry Land Community Radio
- KVFC / KRTZ Radio
- LOR Foundation
- Lotsa Pasta
- Mona Makes
- Mud Creek Hogan
- Once Upon a Sandwich
- Pioneer Printing
- Salvation Army Thrift Store
- Smitty's Liquors
- Turquoise Raven Art Gallery
- Vibrant Pet Animal Hospital
- Walmart
- WildEdge Brewing Collective
- ZU Gallery



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



Other Ways to Donate:

