



**DOÑA ANA COUNTY  
HUMANE SOCIETY**  
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"KEEPING PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER"  
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## WHAT WE DO

- **ANIMAL RELIEF FUND:** Assistance for veterinary care for low-income families and their pets.
- **RUFF-TO-READY:** Free behavior training for dogs coming out of the shelter into their new adoptive homes.
- **PETS FOR SENIORS:** \$25 adoption fee discount for people age 60+ who adopt a pet from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley.



## DACHS BOARD & STAFF MEMBERS

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# DOÑA ANA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY HUMANE NEWS

## KEEPING PEOPLE & PETS TOGETHER THROUGH THE ANIMAL RELIEF FUND: MOLLY'S STORY

Studies have shown that there are multiple benefits to having a companion pet and that pets play a significant, supportive role in relieving depression and reducing loneliness. Kelly, a disabled senior residing in Las Cruces, was aware of the many benefits a companion pet offered and set out to find one for herself. She went to the local shelter, the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, in hopes of finding her perfect match. It was there that she met Molly, a three-year-old boxer mix with a sweet face and calm demeanor. Kelly and Molly bonded immediately and have been companions for the past decade.



Unfortunately, Molly injured her leg this past November, right before the holidays. Kelly took Molly to the veterinarian right away where they discovered Molly had torn her cranial cruciate ligament (CCL), an important ligament inside the knee joints of dogs. As a disabled senior, Kelly was unable to afford the cost of the surgery for Molly. Fortunately, Kelly contacted the Doña Ana County Humane Society and was able to qualify for the Animal Relief Fund Program.

When asked what access to the Animal Relief Fund meant to her and Molly, Kelly said "It meant the world to us. I had given up hope of getting her the surgery. I am so very grateful. Your program has been a huge blessing in our lives."

The Animal Relief Fund allows financially under-resourced pet parents to apply for vouchers to help cover the cost of vaccinations, medical care, and long-term prescription medications for their pets. For more information on the Animal Relief Fund and how you can help keep people and pets together, call (575) 647-4808 or visit [www.dachslc.org/animal-reflief-fund](http://www.dachslc.org/animal-reflief-fund).

## JOIN US FOR OUR ST. PATRICK'S CLOVER DASH: RUN, WALK, WAG!

We will be hosting our inaugural St. Patrick's Clover Dash: Run, Walk, Wag! The event will take place on March 16, 2024, on the NMSU Campus. Check-in will be at 8 am at the Corbett Center Outdoor Stage and the Clover Dash will begin at 9 am.

Registration is required for individuals or teams to participate, and every dollar raised helps to keep people and pets together in Doña Ana County! Prizes for the top three fundraising teams will be awarded at the event as well as the best pet costume.

Register your team to participate today at <https://bit.ly/DACHS2024>

To learn more about the Clover Dash, or for questions regarding registration, please email [dachslc@gmail.com](mailto:dachslc@gmail.com) or call (575) 647-4808.



## COFFEE TALKS WITH DACHS: A QUARTERLY HUMANE EDUCATION TALK



Join us for our quarterly humane education meetings, Coffee Talks with DACHS! Mark your calendar for March 29, June 7, September 27, and November 29 All meetings will be held at The Bean on Mesquite located at 130 N. Mesquite St, Las Cruces, NM from 4-5 pm.

In March, our guest speaker will be our Ruff to Ready certified dog trainer, Hope Movsesian! Hope will answer any questions you have regarding issues integrating newly adopted dogs into your home.

Come early to order your favorite beverage from The Bean and grab a seat. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

## DON'T MISS OUR SPRING YAPPY HOUR EVENTS!

Mark your calendars for our spring Yappy Hour events! Join us on March 19, April 16, and May 21, at Salud! De Mesilla from 5:30pm-7:30pm. We will have food trucks onsite for meal purchases, a cash bar & appetizers available by Salud!, themed pet parades, and more! For Yappy Hour dates and monthly pet parade themes, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or check our website event calendar!

**Minimum \$5 donation for entry to benefit DACHS**

# YAPPY HOUR



## THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT APA'S PET FOOD BANK

In early November, ACTION Programs for Animals (APA) asked the community for help and support to continue their pet food bank operations. APA distributes pet food & supplies to low-income residents on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. To date, they have distributed more than 1 million pounds of food and pet supplies to thousands of needy families. They distribute an average of 10,000 pounds of pet food per month and help approximately 50 families per week. APA has been operating the pet food bank since 2009 and is an integral part of Doña Ana County.

Together with our friends at Soul Studio, NM Vintage, Old Barrel Tea Co, RAD Retro-Arcade, and Ladies Night Out Bingo, we launched a pet food drive to benefit APA from November through the end of the year. The response from the community was overwhelming! The generous donations resulted in over 900 lbs of pet food donated to support APA. Thank you to our incredible community for answering the call for coming together and supporting your local nonprofits in need.



Pictured left is DACHS Executive Director Sarah Kurtz.. Pictured Right are the owners of NM Vintage & Old Barrel Tea Co, Morgan and Marshall McGinley

## 2024 NUSENDA FOUNDATION COMMUNITY REWARDS GRANT SUPPORTS DACHS RUFF TO READY PROGRAM

The DACHS' Ruff to Ready program offers free basic behavior training for recently adopted shelter dogs, shelter dogs in foster care, or dogs in foster-to-adopt homes. DACHS partners with our municipal shelter, the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV), and the ACTION Programs for Animals adoption facility to provide the Ruff to Ready Training Program.

The Nusenda Foundation recently awarded a \$4,600 Community Rewards grant to the Doña Ana County Humane Society to support the Ruff to Ready Program and enable the expansion of the program to include training for dogs that need to be adopted from the ASCMV. This spring, DACHS will begin to offer training to adoptable pets while they are still housed at the shelter. Providing training for loose leash walking, jumping, and nose training will give shelter pets tools that would help make them more adoptable and address behavioral issues that sometimes hold them back from participating in community adoption events. As a second-year grant recipient, we are grateful for the partnership with the Nusenda Foundation and for their commitment to keeping people and pets together!

To learn more about Doña Ana County Humane Society and the Ruff to Ready Program, visit [www.dachslc.org/rufftoready](http://www.dachslc.org/rufftoready)



**DOÑA ANA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY, INC.**

**P.O BOX 1176**

**LAS CRUCES, NM 88004**

**DACHS HUMANE NEWS**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I believe in keeping people and pets together and would like to make a difference:

By investing in the programs at the Doña Ana County Humane Society, **you change and save the lives of pets in our community!** Our Animal Relief Fund provides veterinary care vouchers for low-income families to take their pets to receive much-needed medical care. The Ruff to Ready program provides training to recently adopted shelter dogs to help get them the necessary training they need to adapt to their new home, helping to ensure they don't return to the overcrowded shelter. Our Pets for Seniors program helps seniors age 60+ find forever companions at the local shelter by sponsoring their adoption fees. You can also donate at [www.dachshic.org/donate](http://www.dachshic.org/donate).

Did you know DACHS has been able to continue our work due to generous supporters who placed us in their wills and estate plans? To learn more call (575) 647-4808 or visit <https://www.dachshic.org/bequest>.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!**