

BARKIN' BRIEF



Española Valley Humane Society's Newsletter |

'Love is our overhead' |

www.evalleyshelter.org

What a Marvel!

Foster Mom Falls for Recovering Dog



Dawn Tirschel had recently lost her 17-year-old dog when she saw Marvel's photo on our Facebook page last December. Marvel had been found by the side of the road in El Rito by a good Samaritan and brought to the shelter. With two broken hind legs and broken bones that had already begun to heal (his legs had been broken for awhile), he was in rough shape. He required surgery and months of healing ahead of him. We needed to find him a foster home with a quiet space and some TLC.

"His sweet face grabbed me," says Tirschel. "I had never fostered before. Marvel was pretty frail when I brought him home but had lots of spirit and was a really good boy from day one. It took a little while for us to get our stride and then his healing process was pretty easy to deal with. Fostering him was pretty awesome and I really enjoyed it, especially because the last time I had taken care of an ailing dog he was dying. This time Marvel was healing."

"He clunked around in his casts for months, but that didn't stop him from doing anything except for jumping up on the couch. He's so goofy and sweet and smart and loving. As I was care-taking him, I fell in love and decided to adopt him."

Tirschel says the fostering process was easy, surpassing anything she could have imagined.

"EVHS worked around my schedule and was incredibly appreciative and supportive. The check-ups with Dr. Parker were reassuring and Marvel never seemed afraid to go there. It gave me a lot of confidence. Once he got his casts off he started running! Now he can jump up on the couch and into the car, which he loves. He's doing really well and is slowly regaining the strength in his back legs."

For others considering fostering, Tirschel encourages you to just do it. "It's so rewarding and it feels so good," she says. "Since I work from home, fostering was perfect for me. I had wanted to volunteer with animals for a long time and it was so easy. EVHS was incredibly helpful and grateful throughout the process. It made me want to continue doing this for other animals."

A big thanks to Dawn for fostering, and congratulations Dawn and Marvel! Last year, our foster program served 884 needy homeless pets, including adult cats and dogs with litters, young kittens and puppies, and special-needs animals like Marvel who found the space and time they needed to recover and thrive in loving foster homes.

To learn more about fostering visit: <https://evalleyshelter.org/animals/fostering-pets/>

We are Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary. See page 2 for story.

EVHS Celebrates 25 Years

This year marks our organization's 25th anniversary. Española Valley Humane's humble beginnings were a decidedly grassroots effort by a concerned group of animal lovers and dedicated residents who joined together to reduce animal suffering and impact Española's pet overpopulation.

The group, called Friends of St. Francis, formed in 1992 and initially raised monthly cash donations from area residents to subsidize free spays, neuters, and vaccinations at local veterinary clinics. In their first month, they raised \$600 from private donations. "We felt strongly that the way to address animal suffering was to reduce the population through spaying and neutering, and providing education about animal health and welfare to the local community," says founding member Jeannie Cornelius.

At the time, the City of Española's shelter was taking in between 50 to 70 animals each week, but only an average of two animals were being adopted. The rest were euthanized on Thursday afternoons, and the shelter was closed on weekends. Lee Goodwin, one of the founders, recalls that "about 8 to 10 of us got together because we were overwhelmed by the number of strays and the amount of animal suffering, abuse and neglect in our communities. There were strays everywhere and they were constantly being hit by cars. Residents didn't really want to take them to the shelter because they knew they would be killed. The shelter itself was pretty filthy and the animals weren't well cared for."

By July of that year, Friends of St. Francis, along with other area residents, approached the shelter with a wish list that included opening the shelter on the weekends with volunteer staffing and changing the 'kill day' from Thursdays to Tuesdays to allow for adoptions over the weekend. The group hoped to impact the abandoned animal problem by creating a "model shelter" at the Española facility, with volunteer efforts.

By November, volunteers were working at the shelter five days a week and helping with feeding, cleaning cages and socializing animals so they were more adoptable. The weekly adoption average increased to twelve animals. In the coming months, they went on to develop a monthly low-cost shot clinic and a licensing system for pets (a license for a vaccinated and spayed animal was \$2). They eventually created a foster program, made presentations in the local schools and began off-site adoptions at local events.

During this time the organization had grown, morphing into the Northern New Mexico Animal Protection Society. They also filed for non-profit status. Eventually, they took over the running of the shelter completely. Goodwin remembers, "We promised to run the shelter at no cost to the city. The city was enticed by the idea of saving \$40,000 a year. It was a bold gamble on our part."

For the first few years an annual holiday bazaar raised money to cover operating costs. "Everyone contributed, and we raised about \$25-30,000 per year. We gathered everything that didn't sell at the fundraiser and opened a thrift store in the city of Española that brought in about \$1000 per month. We hired Diana Wells, a vet tech, to oversee shelter operations. Everyone else involved in operations was a volunteer and dedicated and driven to help animals. It was a remarkable group."



"The group hoped to impact the abandoned animal problem by creating a "model shelter" at the Española facility..."



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Humane Hero, Linda Walrack

I love the Española Valley Humane Society! They are changing northern New Mexico one animal at a time by spaying/neutering and finding good homes for unwanted pets. As they make the world kinder and safer for these animals, they are helping these communities become kinder and safer as well.

I am a long-time donor and supporter of the organization. Helping animals is pure joy, and I have been fostering puppies that are too young to be adopted for the past 16 years. I help potty train them and get the puppies used to being cuddled (my favorite part!). For me, saving a life is never an inconvenience.

I believe in this solid, wonderful organization and have included the Española Valley Humane Society in my estate planning. I know my legacy gift will help them to continue their important work.



Linda Walrack and her 15-year-old Rottweiler, Tunes

Celebrating 25 Years continued

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Goodwin says they had to petition the City Council to run the shelter every year. "The city would threaten to take it back from us and eventually approve a one-year contract. We ran the shelter for 3 to 4 years with no money from the city and then we got a contract from them for \$40,000 a year. We worked hard to increase adoptions and shipped thousands of puppies via flights donated by Delta Airlines to Salem, Massachusetts where they had a long waiting list to adopt our mixed breed puppies."

In 2006, the shelter changed its name to Española Valley Humane Society. Current executive director, Bridget Lindquist, says, "It's visionary that in 1992 a group of people from the Valley wanted to focus on spay/neuter. Decades later, shelters across the nation are finally shifting resources towards proactive spay/neuter and away from reactive sheltering. I love that the original spay/neuter focus of our founders has been stewarded forward by shelter staff to make such a dramatic difference in the lives of Española animals."

Goodwin says he rarely sees dogs dumped in his neighborhood now. Things have really changed. "I love seeing how professionally run the shelter is now. We were always hoping to have a clinic, and I'm so impressed with everything that they're doing."

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RESALE

Janella March

Stories and photos by Jane Bernard

Healthy & Happy at Española Valley Humane Society

Dr. Tom Parker, Medical Director, EVHS

Part of our mission here at the Española Valley Humane Society is to improve the health and quality of life for companion animals. The cornerstone of what we do at our clinic is to promote good health with preventative care.

The companion animals that come through our shelter are given a thorough exam, are spayed or neutered, and given their first round of vaccines before being offered for adoption. We give cats feline distemper and rabies vaccines and respiratory illness immunizations. All dogs are immunized against parvo, distemper, adeno and parainfluenza viruses, as well as rabies. We admit puppies here every year that turn out to have parvo and distemper, but always make sure that only healthy and vaccinated animals are available for adoption.

By spaying or neutering a dog, and vaccinating them even just once, you vastly improved an animal's quality of life and life expectancy. While just one vaccine helps to improve an animal's life and longevity, we also recommend and provide low-cost opportunities for regular vaccinations.

Heartworm is endemic in Española. This is an irrigated valley, with plenty of water for mosquitoes to breed and pass on infection. As a result, one in twelve dogs that come into our shelter is heartworm positive. Many don't realize what a big issue heartworm is here in the valley and that we are considered a "heartworm hotspot." We now require anyone adopting a dog to purchase six months of heartworm prevention from us. This helps new owners build healthy habits in caring for their new dog.

As part of our mission to improve the quality of health and life for companion animals, we offer no-cost spay and neuter surgeries for residents that live within 10 miles of the shelter. Once a week we have a low-cost vaccination clinic that is open to the public and do heartworm testing for pets that are fixed (unaltered pets must have a breeder's permit).

If you take care of these basic preventative steps, you'll give your pet a head start for a healthy and happy life.

For more information about the EVHS spay/neuter program and low-cost shot clinics please call 505-753-8662.



Honoring the Humane Heroes who have included the Española Valley Humane Society in their estate plans.

2017 Humane Hero Celebration

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
5 pm – 7 pm

Santa Fe Room
La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe

**COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAILS
AND HORS D'OEUVRES**



Please RSVP to
Bridget@evalleyshelter.org
or call 505-930-1450

Additional information available at evalleyshelter.org/Humane-Heroes