

Officers & Directors

President Mark Sterling
Vice President Jamie Dye
Secretary Laurie Palazzolo
Treasurer Bernard Huser
Gayle Basso
Bev Best

HSWM Director
Joshua Smith

Terry Young

Assistant Director
Debbie Neff

Shelter
Shelter Manager
Cally Grimes

3212 N. Porter Mountain Road P.O. Box 909 Lakeside, AZ 85929

Phone: (928) 368-5295

Tuesday - Saturday Noon to 5 pm Closed Sunday & Monday

DOGhouse Thrift Shop
DOGhouse Manager
Bonnye Knoche

3002 White Mountain Blvd. Lakeside, AZ 85929 Phone: (928) 368-2248

HOURS
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

www.**hswm**.org

The Datest Poop FALL WINTER 2023/24 A biannual newsletter for friends of the Humane Society of the White Mountains



Director's Message

by Joshua Smith, Director

Hello. My name is Joshua Smith. I was born in Lancaster California and

lived in Palmdale CA until I was 8 years old. My family then moved to Show Low, where I have spent most of my life. I worked various jobs as a young man until January 2010 when I started a career in Animal Control. I worked for Navajo County Animal Control for nearly twelve years, and was the Program Manager for my final four years. During this time, I had a great deal of interaction with the staff at the Humane Society of the White Mountains and came to know and respect the people and organization.

I left Navaio County Animal Control to start a small home remodeling business. I had my construction company for just over two years while I also served as a Board Member for the Humane Society of the White Mountains. At the regular Board of Directors meeting on October 18, I was voted in to become the new Director of the organization. I'm excited to help the Humane Society of the White Mountains grow, and to serve the community. Along with me becoming the new Director, Debbie Neff agreed to take on the Assistant Director position. Cally Grimes also accepted the position of Shelter Manager. With strong leaders in these positions, we look forward to great success in helping as many animals and their humans as possible for the communities of the White Mountains. I plan, in time, to meet all of the HSWM members and catch up with old friends. My door is always open and I am eager to hear fresh new ideas.

Trying Times by Debbie Neff, Assistant Director

Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 1, 2023, the HSWM has taken in 390 dogs and cats. This may not seem like a lot but



our shelter has been entirely full all year. Normally, we would have taken in many more pets but because of a significant decrease in the number of adoptions,

we can only accept a limited number of in-coming animals. At HSWM, we have an iron clad policy to never euthanize a pet simply to create an empty kennel. So, animals in our care stay with us until they are adopted. Currently, this overpopulation is a nationwide problem with nearly all shelters in every city and town completely full. Consequently, we are unable to even transfer pets to other rescues where they might have a better opportunity of being adopted. We all have our personal thoughts on why this situation is occurring while we work to find solutions in our local communities.

There seems to be two primary reasons people relinquish their pets: behavioral and financial. It is so sad and frustrating when someone gives up on their animal too easily. Often, if the owner is willing to do some training with the pet and give them attention and exercise, they will find themselves and their pet much happier, healthier and very compatible. If one doesn't want to take a training class, there are many excellent courses available online. Just taking a walk every day with a dog takes little effort, costs nothing and is pleasurable for both human and canine. Play games inside with a cat and you might have a friend for life.

For those who feel they must relinquish their pet for financial reasons, it's usually devastating for the humans as well as for the animals. Often the dog or cat has been a genuine family member for years. We forget that our pets are the only beings that love us more than they love themselves. We owe them the kindness to search for ways to keep them in our own homes. There are a multitude of different avenues to help you keep your animal in your own care. If you feel you can no longer afford to keep a beloved pet, please come to the shelter and talk with us before you relinquish them. We may be able to give you some fresh strategies for how you can support your pet.

Animals depend on us to protect them and to be their voice. They need all of us to step forward and be as strong and kind as they think we are! We can work together as community members to keep these pets in their homes. If your neighbor has animals and seems to be struggling, why not offer to help? Maybe buy some pet food, take their dog for a walk, give them a ride to the vet. You don't have to support them all on your own but every little bit helps. There are many ways you can be that "Voice for the Voiceless" but it usually comes back to helping your neighbor, your friend, your family and a total

stranger. In these trying times we all should remember to help each other.

At the shelter, we genuinely love the animals we care for but, even more, we would truly love to see them in their own homes! They all deserve to be loved and cared for. We look in those gentle, innocent eyes and hope that each and every one of them can have a great home to call their own. With all of us working together, we can make these hopes into reality!

A Great Team!

by Cally Grimes Shelter Manager

Our loving animal care technicians work tirelessly every day to provide the best quality of life for the animals who call the HSWM's shelter "home". The employees focus on keeping our residents healthy, happy, comfortable and safe while they are staying with us. This amazing staff spends the majority of the day completing core tasks to ensure that the shelter stays clean and that all pets are healthy.

After all kennels are sterilized, the laundry is being cleaned and all meal dishes washed, the staff takes time to learn each animal's personality. We do this through one-on-one socialization, behavior testing, and what we call "making pen-pals" These dog-to-dog introductions allow them to make new friends and spend time playing together in one of our many exercise yards. These experiences help keep our pets happy and exercised. The cats get the same attention to their needs. When each cat is ready to socialize, they get moved into the "free range cat rooms" where they can play, snooze and just watch the world go by through the many windows.

In addition to the daily tasks and socializing, the staff is always checking on our residents which can be over 110 animals on any given day. This number varies depending on whether we have litters of puppies or kittens. Throughout the day, we check to ensure there are no messes in the kennels or play yards and that all animals have fresh water, clean bedding, and toys. This is to ensure that each animal is comfortable.

Our staff is not only trained in how to handle animals properly but also how to conduct introductions with potential adopting people who may have children and other pets. These introductions must be done slowly with sensitivity and solid knowledge of the shelter pet's behavior. Aside from training in this area, all of our staff love each of our residents as if they were their pets. And they speak on behalf of our animals. We are the Voice for the Voiceless pets in our community.

Please allow me to introduce the extraordinary employees whose passion and dedication go above and beyond!

Debbie – Assistant Director, Animal Care Tech **Cally** – Shelter Manager, Animal Care Tech

Brittany – Outreach/Volunteer coordinator, Animal Care Tech

Katelyn – Front Office Secretary, Animal Care Tech

Vikki - Animal Care Tech, Cats

Laura - Animal Care Tech, Cats **Diana** - Animal Care Tech, Cats

Sara - Animal Care Tech, Ca

Savannah - Animal Care Tech

Beth - Animal Care Tech **Jordan** - Animal Care Tech

Amanda - Animal Care Tech **Heather** - Animal Care Tech

Joe - Bookkeeper

Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters who do so much for these homeless pets. Everything you do helps to make sure our shelter is a wonderful place for our furry residents to call "home" until they find their forever families!



www.facebook.com/The-DOGhouse-Thrift-Shop-1539090302976736/



Holiday Greetings from The DOGhouse Thrift Shop

by Bonnye Knoche, Manager

There is always so much excitement around the Holidays . . . family gatherings, decorations, fantastic food, and Santa! The DOGhouse team wants to help make your Holiday Season much easier on the pocketbook.

We have several sales planned for December that we want to share:

December 2nd - Sale Saturday 50% OFF Everything in the store

December 5th to 9th - All Clothing is 50% OFF December 12th to 16th - All Dishware is 50% OFF

December 19th-23rd - All Christmas Decorations will be 50% OFF

We also have Regular Sale Days of:

First Saturday of the Month -50% OFF of Everything All Wednesdays -25% OFF for Military and Senior Citizens

And let's not forget our fur babies at the Humane Society of the White Mountains. We will have an Angel (because they are our angels) Tree set up at the store. Items listed on the tags are needed at the shelter. Any item fully donated from the tree will get you a 25% off that day. For a bigger savings, bring in 2 bottles of Bleach and receive a 50% off that day!

We are having a Holiday Raffle this year! A few of the great prizes are bicycles, decorated Christmas trees, yard decorations, a corn hole board and so much more. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the DOGhouse Thrift Store and at the Front Office at the Shelter. The drawing will be on Dec. 15th. Please watch our website HSWM.org and our Facebook page for additional information.

As a final reminder, ALL proceeds from your purchases go directly to the Humane Society of the White Mountains! The thrift store is the primary funding source for the shelter. What you spend at the store is immediately transformed into kibble, medicine, heat, toys, surgeries, lighting, snowplowing, comfy beds and so much more that is necessary to maintain a shelter for over 100 homeless pets. So, not only are you "shopping local" but you are also shopping with purpose for a great cause! Thank you for every dollar you spend.

Have a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season!



Thanks for the Warm Welcome

by Brittany Rypkema, Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with the best volunteers in the world and I have enjoyed getting to know many members of our HSWM family since joining the team.



I began my career in animal welfare as a volunteer with Great Plains Pointer Rescue in 2015 and I was immediately hooked! It's so rewarding to change the lives of homeless pets, but I was also hooked on connecting with like-minded animal lovers. I met so many incredible people through rescue who inspired each other to continue on, even when the work was difficult. I also worked with animals and "animal people" as an adoption counselor at Capital Humane Society in Lincoln, NE. I loved caring for the shelter cats and dogs and especially enjoyed getting to talk about pets all day.

When I moved to the White Mountains last winter, I immediately began noticing animals in need in our community and I knew I needed to get involved. I called around to learn about the animal welfare organizations in the area. Thank you to Sara Middleton, a super foster and supporter of HSWM, who encouraged me to reach out to the shelter! That was a great idea!

I experienced my first Happy Tails this summer and I knew I'd landed in the right place. The enthusiasm and support our little shelter receives from the White Mountains community is truly astounding. Over 110 volunteers showed up during the weekend of Happy Tails to make it a success and our volunteers gave nearly 1000 hours of their time the week of the event. That's in addition to all of the hours our volunteers spent asking for donations, processing donations at the Donation Center, and preparing for Happy Tails all summer long.

I can't imagine my life in my new home in the White Mountains without the friends I've made at HSWM. Thank you so much for the warm welcome! It is so moving to hear the ways that our volunteers and staff support each other, even outside of the work we do for the shelter animals. We check on each other when we're sick. We take care of each other's pets. We celebrate holidays together. We comfort each other through pet illnesses and losses. We share behavior tips. We text each other cute cat pictures. I am so grateful to be a part of this special community and the best part is that we will always welcome newcomers into the family. All you need to do is send me an email or call and I will gladly show you the ropes and get you involved right away!

Most people know that we need volunteer help to socialize cats, walk dogs, and keep up on our mountain of laundry and dishes daily. Our incredible volunteers also take pets to offsite adoption events, transport to other shelters and rescues, work in the PAWS Clinic, help in the shelter office, collect money from our donation canisters, sort donations in our Doghouse Thrift Store, foster cats and dogs, help us maintain our shelter grounds, and take photos of our adoptable pets. I encourage you to consider what special skills you have to offer as a volunteer because the possibilities are endless! Are you an artist or crafter? A witty wordsmith? A teacher? A marketer? A baker? A tech genius? A fundraising expert? A handyperson? Please reach out to me at volunteer@hswm.org so that I can find an opportunity for you to do what you love for a cause you care about.

During this holiday season, I encourage all of our volunteers to make a bit of extra time to visit the shelter and spend time with our cats and dogs. As the temperatures cool down and the snowflakes begin to fly, our dogs will appreciate shorter, more frequent walks. Our cats and dogs would love to have their enrichment toys stuffed with yummy goodies to stay busy while their caretakers are spending extra time with family. Remember that the animals and their staff and volunteer caretakers are still here, even when the shelter is closed.

Volunteers are so crucial to our success as an organization and we all appreciate our volunteers more than words can express.

THANK YOU!

(Pictured at left Brittany and shelter dog Bear visit the residents at Solterra Senior Living to thank them for their donations to HSWM. Bear has since been adopted by our very own Bonnye Knoche, manager of the DOGhouse Thrift Shop.)



Good Boy Conner

by Katelyn Kellogg, Receptionist

Hello everyone, my name is Connor. I am a super sweet boy and I use my mouth to explore the world. I am 3 years old and a very handsome Black Mouth Cur

mix. The shelter staff thinks I might be hard of hearing (or I could just be selective but I'm not telling), so I use my mouth to learn what's what. This is how I live my life and it works well for me. After I am able to sniff and taste everything around me, I learn that it is safe and I am perfectly content!

I can be a little shy when I meet new people, which means I can get "mouthy" while I get to know you. So, several introductions are the perfect way for me to learn who you are. If you just spend a little bit of time with me every day, we will be best of friends in no time. (Hint; I love treats, they are a straight line to my heart!).

I have been here at the HSWM's shelter for two years now and in this time, I have made many good friends with humans and dogs alike. I really enjoy being active and playing with my BDFs (best doggy friends). But it makes me sad when my friends get adopted and leave me behind. Although it can be fun here, I really truly want a home and family of my very own! Can you help me out? If you have any dogs in your home, we need to meet each other to make sure we will be best buddies. I adore stuffed squeaky toys, best invention from humans ever. They are my absolute favorite kind! But I am also happy to play fetch and am pretty good at this game too. Maybe you can teach me the finer tricks of retrieving? If you are interested in getting to know me, I can't wait to meet you and show you my lovely toys. Please come by the shelter and spend some time with me. We will have so much fun together!

The Rising Adoption Crisis

by Terry Bankert, Adoption Chairperson

Shelters around the Nation, including the Humane Society of the White Mountains, are packed to furry capacity! Nationally, rescues and shelters are understaffed, workers are overwhelmed and the calls for animal surrenders never stops. Adoptions are lagging as a procession of families are asking to surrender pets that they can no longer keep for a myriad of reasons including rising costs, a decline in virtual work, a national housing crisis and many other factors that we are still trying to understand. According to the annual data report released by Best Friends Animal Society earlier this year, 4.4 million dogs and cats entered shelters in 2022. This is a 1.6% increase over 2021. Also, according to the Best Friends Animal Society, in 2022 in the state of Arizona 106,611 animals entered shelters and 6,441 animals were euthanized.

As a volunteer at the HSWM, I see so many dogs that have been with us for well over a year! We have Kuno, Kota, Conner, Leroy, Kendra, Malarky, Molly, Jango, Sparkle and Brody to name a few. They are all

great dogs. Yes, they may not be perfect, they may not be purebred, they may not be adorable fuzzy pups, they may have a behavior issue, but they are all great dogs that deserve a permanent home. At the Humane Society of the White Mountains we are doing everything we can to combat this national problem.

The HSWM works hard to give our resident dogs and cats the opportunity to be adopted utilizing social media to get their stories out, running newspaper ads and participating in as many outreach and adoption events as possible. Of course, you can always see our available animals on our website www.HSWM.org and on PetFinder www.petfinder.com.

One partner that is incredibly important to us is PACC911. PACC911 brings together the many animal welfare organizations throughout Arizona by uniting them and offering opportunities to work together for the greater benefit of the animals. We participate in 3-4 adoption events annually in the Phoenix area. These events will typically draw 20-30 rescue groups into one venue and have been very successful for us. The PACC911 adoption events require 8-10 volunteers. Two volunteers will leave the shelter with a van full of dogs at 6 a.m., drive to the Valley and join other volunteers who have already have set up our adoption area. We then work on adoptions and networking with other rescue organizations until 3 p.m. when we pack up and drive 4 hours back home to the shelter! It's an exhausting day but finding good homes for our residents makes it totally worthwhile.

How can you help us out of this crisis?

ADOPT your next pet, don't shop at a commercial business or breeder. FOSTER a pet by opening your home and heart . . . we pay all the bills! VOLUNTEER at the shelter - come cuddle a kitty and play with a puppy. VOLUNTEER at the DOGhouse - it's fun and really helps the animals. DONATE - you can help us keep costs down & do more for our residents. SPAY/NEUTER your own pets! Encourage others to do the same.

Critter Camp + Public Relations = **Future Volunteers**

by Jamie Dye. Critter Camp Director

Every summer, the HSWM hosts a camp at the shelter for students ages 7-13. It is called Critter Camp, and campers learn about different aspects of the shelter and interact with various community service groups. But what happens after each age group of Critter Camp ends or if campers are too old to attend? This year, the leaders of Critter Camp decided to keep some of the attendees busy with summer activities where the HSWM was involved. One event even led to a special adoption!

Critter Camp currently has three sessions: ages 7-9, 10-13, and the Seniors who have attended for more than 2 years. The campers gain knowledge from many different groups in the community who donate their time. This includes Navajo County Search and Rescue, Navajo County and PTLS Animal Control, Wendy's Obedience Dogs, Gayle's Agility Dogs, and they even learn about some exotic pets on Wild Wednesday. Campers also learn about the importance of spay/neuter/microchip through our PAWS clinic, and brave ones are allowed to watch surgery and microchipping. The dogs and cats love it when campers read to them, and this often helps animals to relax around smaller humans. Kids leave Critter Camp with a ton of great knowledge, and the joy on their faces when they earn their official shirt is proof of a good time.

Senior Camp looks a little different, as these amazing kids have chosen to keep coming simply because they love the shelter so much. They become more involved in the daily working activities of the shelter and are "junior workers". They wash dishes, do laundry, walk dogs, etc. Seniors also work a day at the DOGhouse Thrift Store by beautifying the area with dusting and straightening the main floor, and helping customers with their purchases.

This is where the idea arose of getting even more campers involved in community events, as these kids may become future volunteers if they can stay involved with the HSWM. This year, 3 Senior Campers participated in Happy Tails Auction by helping with the Live Auction, and there was a magnificent turnout for the Fall Festival Parade with TEN campers walking the whole parade route and collecting donations. Having all these kids in their Critter Camp shirts made the crowd smile, and these future volunteers helped collect over \$625!

All campers did a great job at collecting money at the parade, but one camper collected something irreplaceable: IRENE! Olivia Winters attended Critter Camp this summer and fell in love with Irene. She was always asking her mom to look at her on the shelter page, and she even made a "Thank You for Adopting Me" card on Irene's behalf to her future adoptees. Olivia wanted to walk in the parade, and her family asked if they could join. While waiting for the parade to start, there was a last-minute change regarding which adoptable dogs were participating, and Irene joined us in the fun. It was pure love for Olivia's dad and family, and they adopted her the next week!

Having Campers participating in different events is going to become an extension to Critter Camp, and it is thrilling to know they will be able to expand their love for the shelter. They will continue to learn the value and importance of volunteering, and the community will see how this provides educational opportunities for these young people and can grow some exceptional community citizens.

Thank you, Critter Campers!



Critter Campers gather for the Fall Festival Parade with the HSWM float, Pinetop 2023



Axcel, a Senior Critter Camper (4 years a participant) assisting in the Live Auction at Happy Tails, 2023



adorable Irene. HSWM helps complete families and make more smiles

Exciting Spay and Neuter News for Local Pets

The Humane Society of the White Mountains is extremely happy to announce that we have been awarded \$20,000.00 by the Arizona License Plate Pet grant. These funds are for the sole purpose of offering low cost spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats in the area. This is double the amount of money we have ever been awarded!

The surgeries will be done by Tammy Helzer, DVM in our Paws Clinic at the shelter at 3212 N. Porter Mountain Road in Lakeside. We are scheduling appointments now. To make an appointment or for further information, please call the shelter at 928-368-5295, Tuesday -Saturday, 12:00pm - 5:00pm.

We are extremely grateful to the AZ. License Plate Pet granting agency. They are able to award these funds as a result of Arizona residents buying the Spay/Neuter license plates for their vehicles. A huge Thank You to all of you who support this effort.



Welcome to the P.A.W.S. Clinic



Yes! Pets Are Worth Saving!

By Laurie Palazzo, certified veterinarian tech

With the cost of everything sky-high, it is definitely hard to think about paying over \$500.00 to get your four-legged family member spayed or neutered.

The Humane Society of the White Mountains is proud to bring low cost spay and neuter surgeries to the animals of our communities.

Low cost DOES NOT mean LOW QUALITY! Here at the P.A.W.S. Clinic, our team; Dr. Tammy Helzer, DVM; Laurie Palazzolo, CVT; Debbie Neff, Assistant Director - Vet Assistant; and Annie Anderson, Vet Assistant - volunteer have a combined total of over seventy-five years of experience. We provide your pets with professional, kind, loving care throughout their procedure. We also provide low-cost vaccines and microchips to help keep your pet healthy and safe.

Call 928-368-5295 and make your appointment. Let us help you give your pet a healthier, longer life. See you soon!

Stay "Pawsitive"

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers Plan Ahead. Get Involved.



DEC 15 Holiday Raffle Drawing

JAN Happy New Years. Keep your pets safe.

FEB No Show Ball

APRIL AZ Gives

Please check our website **HSWM.ORG** for event updates

petsense in Show Low

Our adoptable cats and kittens are always there, dogs are available most Saturdays from 11-2

See all of our adoptable animals on our website:

www.HSWM.org



See our facebook page for the Pet of the Week

PAWS Clinic

PETS ARE WORTH SAVING LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER

Located at the Humane Society of the White Mountains on Porter Mountain Road in Lakeside.

Be a part of the solution . . . Spay and Neuter all pets!

Open to the public by appointment (928) 368-5295

Become	а	membe	er or	renew	today.	Y	lour	member	rship	make	es all	the	e di	tter	ence	<u>?</u> /
--------	---	-------	-------	-------	--------	---	------	--------	-------	------	--------	-----	------	------	------	------------

Name								
Mailing Address								
City	State Zip							
Phone	Email							
■ New membership	☐ Renewal Donation Amount \$							
☐ Junior (16 & under) \$10 ☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Family \$50	☐ Supporting \$100☐ Sponsor \$500☐ Business \$250Memberships are renewed on an annual basis							
	From							



of the White Mountains

P.O. Box 909 3212 N. Porter Mtn Rd Lakeside, AZ 85929

928.368.5295

www.hswm.org

Our Wish List . . .

Organic Hemp Oil for Pets

Canine Items: Canned Food Adult and Pup Pedigree Dry Puppy Food Dog Treats Treat Puzzles Toys (Rope, Kong, Etc.) **Puppy Teething Toys** Powder Puppy Formula

Miracle Nipples (Amazon)

Feline Items: Canned Cat & Kitten Food Purina Kitten Chow Purina Cat Chow Cat Tovs Powder Kitten Milk Scoop-able Litter Pelletized Horse Bedding (Tractor Supply) **Treats**

Bleach Laundry Soap Dish Soap and Dish Sponges Fabuloso or OdoBan Window Cleaner **Disinfecting Wipes** Latex Gloves **Paper Towels** 13 Gal/55 Gal Trash Bags **Toilet Paper** Deck Brushes w/Handles Floor Squeegee w/Handles Bathroom/Toilet Bowl Cleaner Pet Friendly ICE Melt

Cleaning & Laundry:

Professional Services: Pro Bono Electrician

Plumber

Other: Canopys 12x 12

Thank You!

Utility Donations Welcomed: Navopache Electric Unisource Energy Sparklight / AZ Water Pinetop/Lakeside Sanitation

Office Supplies: Pens & Printer Paper Receipt Books - Duplicate or Triplicate Disposable Cups **Hand Sanitizers** Dry Frase Markers **USB Drives** Manilla Clasp Envelopes (Legal Size) AA & AAA & 9V Batteries Masking Tape Sharpie Markers Other Services: FOREVER HOMES Gift Cards: **VOLUNTEERS** Welcomed

FOSTER HOMES

the **OG**house 3002 Wht Mtn Blvd, Lakeside Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Thanks to the volunteers that prepare our mailings.

EDITOR: Gayle Basso

CONTRIBUTORS:

Joshua Smith, Debbie Neff, Cally Grimes, Brittany Rypkema, Katelyn Kellogg, Bonnye Knoche, Terry Bankert, Jamie Dye, Gayle Basso & Laurie Palazzolo



Miracle Nipples (Amazon)

Small Animal Bottles

We are now a part of the Walmart Spark Good Round-up program. Simply sign up with Walmart to support the HSWM. At check-out your bill will be rounded up to support the shelter.







Newsletter layout donated by







If you are receiving duplicate mailings, help us to cut down on waste by notifying us. Thank you.

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID LAKESIDE, AZ 85929 PERMIT NO. 30



