

★ ★ ★ In The Face Of Overwhelming Need, A Dash Of Hope ★ ★ ★

Thanks to a grant from Best Friends, we were able to offer a second targeted spay-neuter clinic in Chinle at the end of September, fixing 38 animals and providing a surprise happy ending for one lucky dog who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

As opposed to the usual open-admission clinics that various groups do on the reservation — which certainly have their place! — we wanted to offer one specifically for the families who have never been able to take their pets in, whether because of poverty, illness, lack of transportation or general dysfunction.

Once again we tapped volunteer Deanna Tsosie, a lifelong Chinle resident who has been working in rescue for years and is aware of the families who sincerely need the service, to identify 40 animals for us. We agreed that we would contract with Rez-Solutions to perform the operations (at no cost to the families), while Blackhat would supply the volunteers. Deanna, who is both a Blackhat volunteer and Best Friends employee, would use the Best Friends van to pick up animals whose people couldn't drive to the clinic, with help from Cindy and T'jasa in the Blackhat SUV.

Driving out to the homes, all teeming with animals, it was apparent these really were the people who needed the services most. Even if everyone in Chinle who could bring their animals in got them fixed, this handful of families would continue breeding enough dogs and cats to keep dozens of strays on the streets for generations to come.

The volunteer response was our best ever. In addition to Deanna, T'jasa and Cindy, foster moms Melvina, Didi and Krystin showed up. Two medical doctors, Cat from Flagstaff and Tracy of Seattle and Chinle, also rolled up their sleeves. Their expertise was invaluable in the operating and recovery rooms.



While Cat and Cindy were having dinner at the Holiday Inn the evening before the clinic, they noticed a large black dog with a fractured front leg ballooned to about twice its normal size with infection. It was hobbling around the parking lot and they vowed to capture it after dinner, but couldn't find it.

The next day, Tracy and Deanna saw the dog, by now nicknamed "Holiday," and were able to easily lure her into a crate with canned food and treats.

We had barely enough money to cover the cost of the 38 spays and neuters, but Navajo Nation veterinarian Kelly Upshaw-Bia generously offered to amputate Holiday's leg for the cost of the materials (we put up a fundraiser and raised a little extra). A few hours after her surgery, Holiday was walking around like she had been a trippawd for years (which, for all intents and purposes, she might have been). She won everybody over with her sweet, calm disposition, and Tracy ended up taking her back to Seattle, where she is now being fostered in hopes of finding a forever home (so if you have any connections in that area, let us know!).

It was Cat's first time volunteering at a spay-neuter clinic on the Rez. As a long-time volunteer for the Red Cross, she's used to responding to disastrous conditions, but the number and state of the animals on the Nation was daunting.

"It was a case of overwhelming need combined with very limited resources," she recalled in a recent interview. "I just felt very overwhelmed at first."

The matter-of-fact approach of the Navajo vet staff and Blackhat volunteers lifted her spirits.

"Eventually I realized that the only way to do this was one animal at a time, and I was part of a little team that really was making a difference," she said. "The need was overwhelming, but there was also this overwhelming sense of hope."

— C. Yurth

P.O. Box 3123
Durango, CO
81302
www.blackhathumanesociety.org



B L A C K H A T H U M A N E S O C I E T Y



Memorium



Donna L. Cassano – An “ardent advocate for animals both wild and domestically homeless, and mission-driven explorer and learner passed away gently on July 4 2022. Known to many as a foster mom for “challenging” dogs, Donna made finding loving homes for her own buddies a top priority as her health declined.” Her estate made a sizable donation to Blackhat Humane which allowed us to approve critical expensive veterinary care for dogs in need.

K. Trottingwolf in memory of beloved cat Chief.

The Numbers

September -
November 2022:
55 new dogs/cats
taken into foster care
25 adopted
4 to partner rescues
66 in foster care
looking for their
forever homes

The Money

September -
November 2022:
\$16,850 spent on
veterinary services
\$ 7,569 spent on
foster dog support /
supplies
\$5839 spent on
transport
\$5557 spent on
community service



YES- Donations to BHS are Tax Deductable

All **donations** to Blackhat Humane Society are tax deductible. BHS is a registered 501c3 non-profit with the IRS.

If you would like to donate for someone’s Christmas gift, we can send them a card as well. Its a great time to make your gift!

For other gift ideas that support BHS, check out our **merchandise** at **Blackhathumanesociety.org**

Ahehee' ★ Thank you!

Canyon Pet Hospital, Cedar Animal Medical, Continental Animal Wellness, Kaibab Vet, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Rez Solutions, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, S. Alden, K. Ashcraft, S. Boss, E. Caryl & A. McGregor, B. Daggett, J. Enns, L. Gilbert & T. Sharp, T. Hoier, J. Hoit, J. Kimbrough, Price, L. Reed, R. Sherwin, C. Walker and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any.