



# SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

“Working together to improve the welfare of reservation dogs and cats”

“Diné Bikéyah bikáá’góó, ahi-neilnishgo lééchaa’i dóó mósí baa’ ádahwiilyáago”

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## A whispered

# Farewell

One of the things you are sure to hear if you’re in animal rescue is “Why are you spending so much time and money on animals when humans are suffering?”

The truth is most people who care about animals also care very deeply about people. A case in point is our “puppy whisperer” Donna Fitzpatrick, who passed away April 7.

Donna’s favorite fosters were the tiniest pups, and if you saw her with them you could be forgiven for thinking dogs were her first love. But during Donna’s too-short time on this planet, her love flowed in all directions — mostly toward the most innocent and helpless beings.

After moving from California to Colorado in her 20s, Donna bounced from Ophir to Grand Junction to Telluride, eventually settling in Cortez. She founded several day care facilities and a Montessori school before becoming a foster provider for Blackhat. Up until she became ill, she was caring for a developmentally disabled woman in her home.

The Cortez community has lost a bright light, and she will be missed by two-legged and four-leggeds alike.

Donna leaves behind two siblings, a son, her little dog Carson and her Blackhat foster failure Caper, now living with a friend in Idaho.



## The Numbers

So far in 2024, Blackhat Humane found homes for **83** dogs and cats. We started 2024 with **46** dogs and cats in foster homes. We currently have **58**.

## The Money

From January through May 2024 Blackhat spent **\$20,782** on veterinary expenses,

**\$37,389** on foster support and supplies, and

**\$1,271** on community support

## Ahehee’ Thank you!

Airport Animal Hospital, Cedar Animal Medical, Coconino Humane Society, Continental Animal Wellness, Durango Animal Hospital, Kaibab Veterinary Clinic, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Prescott Animal Hospital, Rez Solutions, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Karzinsky, Dr. Sand, S. Alden, K. Ashcraft, P. Simonson, C. Bills, L. Burke, C. Conway, N. Davis-Bowen, W&C Foote, D. Gallagher, L&G Graham, E & A Hardin-Burrola, K. Hood, S&S Hutchinson, P. Massey, E. McCollum, M. Miller, M. Mitchell, M. Moriarty, S. Powell, J. Wood, J. Myers, B. Peacock, J. Patterson, L. Quinn, L. Reed, R. Sherwin, L. Smith, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.



## In memoriam .....

**K. Kalas:** Mi Anya... My first foster fail and my introduction to the wonderful organization that is **Blackhat Humane Society**. She was a badass (unless there was a thunderstorm), yet a patient stepmama and welcoming ambassador to the fosters that followed. She had a limp after

jumping out a second story window to get to her weaning puppies. Stubborn, sweet, smart, and sassy. I had her 11 years, and I will miss her so. RIP my beautiful mama.

**M. Axelrod:** In memory of Barney, the best doggo in the world

**M. Furney:** In memory of beloved dog Xander

**S. & S. Hutchinson:** In memory of mother, Olga Zablotny, animal lover

**Anonymous:** In honor of Loki

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

## Corporate compassion



When Chris Conway's company, Yearout Energy, took a contract with Gallup-McKinley County Schools to replace the HVAC system in one of the most isolated schools on the Navajo Nation, Chris figured he'd catch up on his reading.

Instead, he and his crew ended up rescuing seven dogs.

The winter in Pueblo Pintado, N.M., was bitterly cold and snowy, and as at every construction site on the Navajo Nation, stray dogs started showing up, hoping for a handout.

The school authorities warned Chris not to feed the animals or take them in, but Chris is one who follows a higher law.

"I told them, 'If I see an animal that's starving I'm going to feed it,'" he said. "If I see an animal that's freezing to death, I'm bringing it inside. If that's illegal around here, you can throw me in jail right now."

Chris and his wife adopted one dog, another member of the crew took home another, but the dogs kept coming. Eventually Chris discovered Blackhat and asked for our help. We were able to take three into foster care: a happy-go-lucky male Chris had christened "Yearout" after the company, a skittish mama and her last surviving pup (seven of the litter of eight had frozen to death). The puppy, Travis, has found a home, and the adults are in foster in Sedona, Arizona and Dolores, Colo., respectively.

Another female, who appeared to be a purebred Brittany spaniel, went to a breed rescue and had 32 applications before the rescue chose a family with a winter home in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

All because one man chose not to look away.