



Pueblo Animal Services

Mission

a compassionate community where animals and people are cared for and valued

Private nonprofit

Pueblo Animal Services is a division of Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, a private, nonprofit animal welfare organization that contracts with the City and County of Pueblo to provide animal sheltering and control services.

Open admission philosophy

Pueblo Animal Services is an open admission shelter, which means no companion animal is turned away. Pueblo Animal Services is committed to helping the animals and people in Pueblo when they have nowhere else to go, caring for more animals per year than any other shelter in the area.

Pueblo Animal Services DOES

- evaluate each animal as an individual
- follow industry standards of care
- work with other shelters and agencies to save animal lives
- treat animal welfare as more than just a placement rate

Pueblo Animal Services DOES NOT

- euthanize for time or space
- select which animals it will accept
- adopt out animals that have given a clear indication they will cause harm to people and/or other pets
- hide or alter shelter data

Statistics

Intakes and outcomes

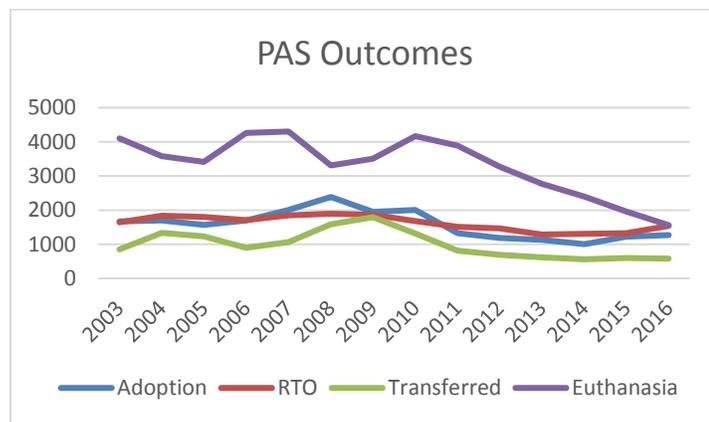
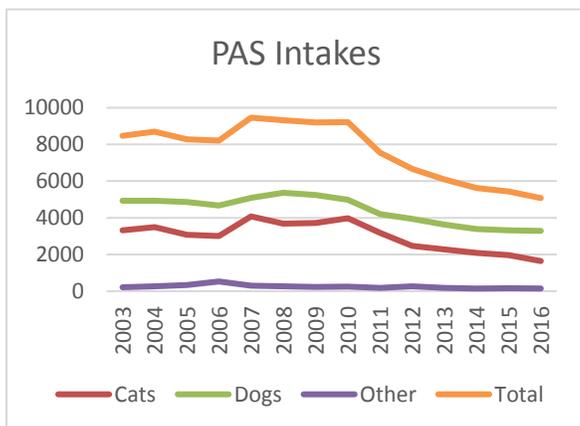
Since the contract began in 2002, Pueblo Animal Services has worked diligently to lower the numbers of stray and lost animals entering the shelter. 2007 saw the highest intake to the shelter, 9,460

animals, which was the first year at the new larger facility. Since that time, through donor-funded programs, intake policy changes and education, the intake has been reduced 46%. That means over 4,300 fewer animals are entering the Pueblo shelter.

The number of animal lives saved has increased dramatically since we began operating in Pueblo. In 2003, only 50% of animals entering the shelter were adopted, returned to owner or transferred. In 2016, the percentage was 80%. This dramatic increase was made possible through donations, grants and other support of our adoption, medical rehabilitation, and transfer programs, and the commitment of our dedicated staff members. Offering spay/neuter procedures has reduced the birth of unwanted animals.

Every year we work to save more animal lives while fulfilling our animal service contract to enforce the laws of Pueblo and Pueblo County. As an open admission shelter, PAS cares for all types of animals - including the most difficult animals in the community with serious behavior and medical conditions. We partner with limited admission (no-kill) agencies and rescues that select animals they can accept from us when they have space and resources.

Our number one priority is ensuring the safety of the animals and people in our community. Saving an animal's life is important, but not at the expense of risking the health and safety of others. PAS has made great strides in reducing euthanasia over the last fifteen years, a 62% reduction in euthanasia between 2002 and 2016.



Programs

In addition to fulfilling our contract obligations, our donor-supported programs are essential to making Pueblo a better place for animals and people. It is through these programs that we are able to work towards our mission of a compassionate community where animals and people are cared for and valued.

Cruelty investigations

Our team of Animal Law Enforcement officers investigate more than 2,000 cruelty reports to prevent suffering and enforce local and state animal laws. They respond to more than 20,000 citizen requests for assistance relating to the health and safety of people and animals

Trap, neuter and return program

Since 2011, Pueblo Animal Services has trapped, neutered and returned over 7,700 community cats in the Pueblo and Pueblo County area. Solely funded through generous grants and donations, our

program oversees 355 permitted colonies and provides free spay/neuter, vaccination and ear tipping. Since the start of this program, PAS has seen a 40% decrease in the number of stray cats entering the shelter.

High-volume, low-cost spay and neuter program

From 2005 through 2008, Pueblo Animal Services offered grant-funded spay/neuter certificates to pet owners throughout Pueblo and Pueblo County. In 2008, Pueblo Animal Services began performing in-house spay and neuter surgeries for owned pets. Since then, we have performed nearly 30,000 spay and neuter procedures with 7,000 of those being owned pet dogs and cats thanks to grants and donations. This reduced the number of unwanted animals being born in our community and addressed pet overpopulation.

Rescue partnerships

With the help of over 55 transfer partners, Pueblo Animal Services has transferred nearly 15,000 animals to shelters or rescues in Colorado and beyond in the last 15 years. We continue to develop new relationships with reputable, licensed organizations able to assist us when they have space and resources available.

Volunteer program

Since 2002, PAS has relied on volunteers in its volunteer program to help with walking dogs, raising kittens, fostering animals, grooming animals, assisting in the surgery clinic, helping with vaccination events, assisting customers, cleaning kennels, attending and helping at outreach events, and assisting in disaster response. Over 111,000 hours of volunteer service have been donated to Pueblo Animal Services, each one helping us save animal lives. We highly value our volunteers as team members essential to our life-saving mission.

Foster care

Since 2002, Pueblo Animal Services has utilized a foster care program to help care for hundreds of animals in need of extra time and care prior to adoption. Foster homes are a lifeline for underage kittens, puppies and animals in need of medical rehabilitation. This year, we expect more than 170 animals will go through our foster program before returning to the shelter to be adopted into loving homes.

Comprehensive adoption program

Pueblo Animal Services finds loving homes for animals available for adoption. All adoptions include a comprehensive value-added wellness package:

- spay/neuter
- vaccinations
- microchip
- certificate for a free veterinary exam
- 30 days of pet health insurance

Pueblo Animal Services offers offsite cat adoptions through the local PetSmart store. Using social media, we regularly offer adoption sales and specials, and facilitate donor sponsored adoption events to increase adoptions.

Pet retention services

Pet retention is a new focus for Pueblo Animal Services. In 2017, Pueblo Animal Services began offering medical rehabilitation for pets surrendered to us because the owner is unable to afford veterinary care. In an effort to keep pets and families together, we assist owned pets with medical conditions ranging from parvovirus to orthopedic issues to diagnostic testing. This program is funded by grants and donations, as well as whatever the owner can afford to contribute. In addition to this service, we regularly refer pet owners to local pet food pantry services and behavior consultation services.

Medical and behavior rehabilitation

Pueblo Animal Services provides prompt and necessary medical care, age appropriate vaccinations and internal/external parasite prevention to animals entering our facility. In addition, our veterinary team annually performs over 3,500 spay and neuter procedures, performs 250 other surgical procedures and provides medical rehabilitative care to over 1,100 animals. Pueblo Animal Services is able to work with a number of minor behavior issues in-house when resources allow. Nearly 60 animals received behavioral rehabilitation in 2016.

Community involvement/public relations

Pueblo Animal Services has an active Facebook page with nearly 3,400 followers. Daily posts featuring animals available for adoption, current events, sales, specials and other pet-related information keep our followers informed of what's happening. Regular pet of the week segments on local radio and television stations also help us promote adoptable animals. Our website displays all stray animals and animals available for adoption, including pictures, as well as information about our programs and services. Pueblo Animal Services has been involved in 575 community education events by having a presence at festivals, fairs, pet adoption events and other places where people gather. Over 34,000 children and adults have been reached through these programs since 2002. Additionally, when grant funding allows, Pueblo Animal Services uses traditional media, such as billboards and print advertising, to advertise services.

Proactive redemptions

Pueblo Animal Services goes through extensive steps to locate owners of lost pets in our care. Through phone calls, emails, social media, texts and regular mail, we make numerous attempts to notify identified owners about their lost pets. When pets are unaltered, we work with the owners to have their pet sterilized before it goes home. Every year, Pueblo Animal Services staff reduce and waive reclaim fees to reunite pets with their families who qualify for financial assistance. When possible, Animal Law Enforcement officers return animals in the field to eliminate lost pets from ever entering the shelter.

Veterinary services

Pueblo Animal Services has a full-time veterinarian on staff, Dr. Patti Canchola, who received the 2017 Veterinary Hero Award from American Humane Association. Vaccinations and grant subsidized spay and neuter services are made available to families in need.

Emergency response

As administrators of the Pueblo Community Animal Response Team (CART), Pueblo Animal Services stands ready to rescue and care for displaced pets in the event of an emergency such as the Beulah Hill Fire. Pueblo Animal Services' staff are recognized as experts in animal disaster response and have been chosen by FEMA to evaluate and assist other emergency programs outside of Colorado, including the most recent hurricane relief efforts.

Collaboration

Pueblo Animal Services' staff are active, contributing members to the Southern Colorado Animal Coalition, Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies and the Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers.

Organizational history

On June 20, 1949, Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region was formed by a group of concerned citizens in Colorado Springs. HSPPR is a local, independent nonprofit not affiliated with national organizations. The agency provides animal protection services for 23,000+ homeless and stray animals in El Paso, Pueblo and Douglas Counties, and the City of Centennial and is the largest animal sheltering organization in southern and western Colorado.

In 2002, on the verge of having animal sheltering operations shut down by the state, the City and County of Pueblo contracted with HSPPR for the professional management of the shelter and Animal Law Enforcement services. Pueblo Animal Services rescues and cares for animals in distress, investigates cruelty, reunites lost pets with their owners, finds loving permanent homes for homeless animals and teaches people how to properly care for and respect animals, as well as enforces licensing and other animal ordinances. On average, over 5,000 animals pass through the doors of Pueblo Animal Services every year.

In 2004, HSPPR and Pueblo Animal Services, along with community volunteers, put forth a bond initiative to support funding a new facility to take the place of the inadequate, overcrowded municipal shelter on Stockyard Road. Once passed, this initiative helped HSPPR and Pueblo Animal Services garner donations to subsidize the project. The land the current shelter sits on (Eagleridge Place) was donated to HSPPR for the project and another nearly \$1 million in financial donations were collected to furnish the building. Included in the new facility was a surgical clinic to provide spay and neuter services to shelter animals and owned pets in the Pueblo community. The shelter is a great example of private-public partnership resulting in positive benefits for the Pueblo community

The majority of the life-saving programs provided by Pueblo Animal Services are not funded by contracted services, but rather generous grants and donations – more than \$2.3 million in the last five years alone. These grants have been given by foundations who value the impact Pueblo Animal Services has on the community. Thanks to outside support, Pueblo Animal Services is able to make a difference in the lives of abandoned and abused animals.