

# A Message From Our Executive Director

Hello Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the generosity and compassion shown by supporters like you. Thanks to your kindness, 2024 has been a year of enormous impact for the animals in our care and the Yuma community as a whole.

This year, we provided safe shelter, medical care, and second chances to thousands of homeless, injured, and neglected animals. From lifesaving surgeries to adoption success stories, every milestone we achieved was fueled by your support.

Your generosity has also helped us expand our community programs, including low cost spay/neuter services, vaccination clinics, and education initiatives aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership. Together, we are building a brighter future for Yuma's animals, one step at a time.

I am honored to share our 2024 Annual Report with you and I hope you feel a sense of pride in all that we've accomplished together. Every number represents a life touched, a heart healed, and a new beginning made possible by your kindness. Your support means the world to us and we are committed to using your gifts to create even more meaningful change in 2025 and beyond.

Thank you for standing with us as we strive to make Yuma a better place for animals.

With gratitude,

Annette Lagunas
Executive Director

Smritte Zazuras



Angel, adopted 10/3/2024

### **OUR MISSION**

To reduce the number of homeless pets through adoption, rescue, and spay and neuter programs.





### **Board of Directors**

David McHone President

Athena Godwin Vice President

**Brock Gill** Treasurer

**Debbie Frydenlund** Secretary

Tom Cockburn Wendy McKay Lori Arney Charlen Williamson

**Anna Martinez** 

### **Directors**

**Annette Lagunas Executive** Director



**James Mackell** Director of **Operations** 



# **Managers**

**Kateary Silva Adoption Manager** 



**Lauren Twerdak** HR Manager



Rafa Garcia Shelter Manaaer



**Trentie Oliver Volunteer Manager** 



**Abby Cervantes** Administrative Services Brandelle Domenack Manager



Clinic Manager



**Lauren Weinberg** Development Manager



Isabel Cedeno Thrift Store Manager



# 2024 Statistics



# Intake

owner surrender...... 909 stray..... 5,553

**Total 6,712** 

# other intakes...... 250

# Spay/Neuter

shelter animals......3,105

owned animals...... 1,069

community cats...... 1,560

**Total 5,734** 

# Outcomes

adoptions...... 3,246

transfer...... 1,511

return to owner...... 1,003

return to field...... 184

shelter euthanasia...... 992

**655 Cats 337 Dogs** 

#### **Owner Requested Euthanasia**

In 2024 the Humane Society of Yuma humanely euthanized 247 animals for the community. The owners of these animals felt that their pet should be euthanized because of age, injury or illness. In each of these cases HSOY staff concurred.

#### 202 Dogs 45 Cats

These numbers are NOT reported in the number of animals entering our shelter. HSOY does reserve the right to deny owner requested euthanasia if HSOY staff does not feel it is in the best interest of the pet.

# Transfer

dogs transferred to other shelters....... 838 cats transferred to other shelters....... 673

**Total 1,511** 

**Cats: 2.717 Save Rate 66%** 

- 284 owner surrender
- 2,398 strav
- 35 other intakes

### **Dogs: 3,995 Save Rate 90%**

- 625 owner surrender
- 3,155 stray
- 215 other intakes

**81%** 

save rate for dogs and cats in 2024

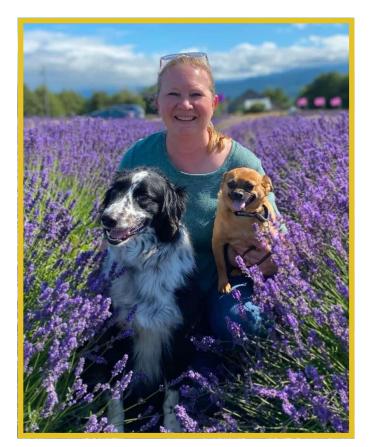
### **We Love Best Friends**

In 2024, the Humane Society of Yuma had the privilege of collaborating with Best Friends Animal Society in a partnership that improved our ability to save lives. Best Friends generously provided funding for multiple programs, including an embed program that placed a dedicated representative on-site for six months, Jean Gibowski. This program, among



others, played a crucial role in improving shelter efficiencies and increasing lifesaving efforts.

Best Friends not only funded the embed program, but also provided funding for improving our animal enrichment programs, establishing bio-security protocols to mitigate a feline panleukopenia outbreak, and increasing our clinic's spay/neuter capacity. Additionally, new policies were introduced to better promote shelter animals to potential adopters. Personalized bios were added to each animal's profile and kennel card, helping adopters connect with them on a deeper level. The staff implemented daily rounds and team huddles, promoting teamwork and strengthening cross-departmental collaboration. The importance



that photos showing an animal's personality could make the difference in an animal finding a loving home was also stressed. To compound the impact of this collaboration, staff was incentivized to achieve key goals and metrics directly tied to saving more lives.

The impact of the Best Friends Animal Society's support in 2024 was truly remarkable. Their investment in HSOY's programs and processes directly resulted in more lives saved, more animals finding their forever homes, and a more efficient shelter operation. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and helping HSOY consistently meet industry standards.

Jax, Jean and Stinky

# Data and the Art of Life Saving

### **Purpose**

How can we use relevant data to drive day-to-day decisions in operations, reduce length of stay and increase life saving rates?





### **Methods**

#### Identified relevant data

- Focused on monthly average length of stay (LOS) as a key performance indicator (KPI)
- Monitored save rate monthly and identified gap to achieving 90%
- Changed focus from LOS to save rate to better measure impact of program changes

### • Piloted Pathway Planning Program

- Added daily rounds with key staff members to make observations
- Established clear plan for each animal within a week of intake
- Expedited spay/neuter surgeries
- Optimized transport of animals to off-site adoption center
- Quickly matched animals with rescue partners

# Incentivized staff with goals to increase pet promotion and adoption

- Get top 10 longest-stay animals adopted
- Challenge each staff to write bios and take quality photos for 10 animals in the shelter
- Make a TikTok video with an adoptable animal



# **Data and the Art of Life Saving**

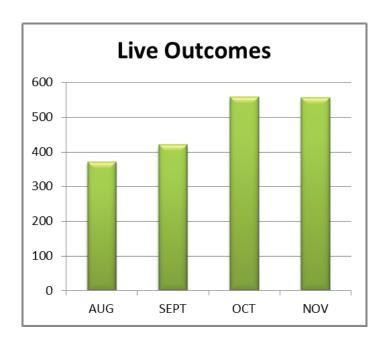
### **Results**

#### Quantitative

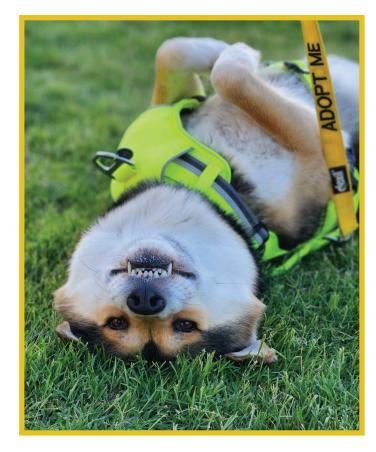
- Eliminated space-related euthanasia for 4 months
- · Increased adoptions
- Decreased gap to 90% save rate
- Reduced average shelter population

#### Qualitative

- · Boosted staff and volunteer morale
- Increased animal enrichment
- Increased animal health







### **Save Rate**

**Total Intakes - Non live Outcomes** 

Save Rate =

**Total Intakes** 

### **Benchmark**

"No Kill" = 90% or more Save Rate

**81%** save rate for dogs and cats in 2024

Save rate is calculated by using total lives rather than averages of the species saved.



90% Dogs • 66% Cats

# **Adopt, Don't Shop**

During 2024, the Humane Society of Yuma continued to save lives through adoption. We couldn't do it without the support of PetSmart Charities, the Bissell Foundation and our community partners.

Shelter dog adoptions ...... 1,368

Shelter cat adoptions ...... 1,021

Petsmart dog adoptions .... 586

Petsmart cat adoptions ..... 271

total 3,246



### Volunteers Make It All Possible



383

23,656

**Active Volunteers** 

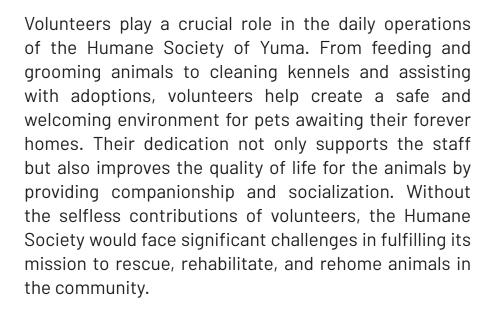
**Donated** Hours

428

153,305

**Active Fosters**  **Donated** Hours

\*does not include foster to adopt



The Humane Society of Yuma welcomes volunteers of all ages, fostering a sense of community involvement and compassion. Children between the ages of 12 and 15 can participate in this rewarding experience by volunteering alongside a parent or guardian, promoting family bonding while instilling values of empathy and responsibility. Teens aged 16 and older can volunteer independently, gaining valuable skills and experience while making a meaningful impact.



### What do volunteers do?

Walk Dogs Cuddle Cats Help at Events Thrift Store Foster Care Spay & Neuter

Clinic

Greeter

PetSmart Marketing

Transfer Team 4 Paws Pantry

Glamour Photos

Front Desk Assistant

**Answer Phones** 

# **Puppy Influx**

In one week alone, the Humane Society of Yuma took in a total of 78 puppies between December 29 and January 7. The puppies were from several litters, of which four litters fortunately were surrendered with their mothers. "That helps," said Trentie Oliver, volunteer manager. They represented a variety of breeds, among them boxers, chihuahua mixes, spaniel mixes and coon hounds

"Puppy season was all year," she said. "We get puppies constantly. But it was unusual to get so many in a short amount of time. We would get a litter and just a few days later get another litter. We put out a request for help and the community was fantastic. We got everything we needed - pee pads, puppy formula, puppy food." The puppies were quickly placed in foster homes, then most went to PetSmart and were adopted while some went to rescue.

One example was a litter of five female Boston terriers that came to the shelter during that time. One died and one had a leg amputated. Willow was quickly adopted by a medical technician in the shelter's clinic, is doing fantastic and has become a loving and loved pet.

There was also a significant influx of surrendered puppies last summer, including a heartbreaking case of a litter of puppies left in a crate outside the door of the HSOY Thrift Store in July. While we are immensely grateful that these puppies were not left in the desert where their survival would have been uncertain, we must emphasize the importance of keeping young animals with their mothers.

"Our community's support is vital in helping these puppies get the care they need," said Annette Lagunas, HSOY executive director. "We urge everyone to consider donating or volunteering to aid in their recovery and ensure they find loving forever homes."



Willow

# **Humane Society Thrift Store**

The Humane Society of Yuma Thrift Store plays a crucial role in supporting our spay and neuter program. Proceeds from thrift store sales directly fund these essential services, helping to reduce pet overpopulations in the community.

Due to a major facelift last summer, the store is even more attractive to shoppers. The store was closed for the month of July to undergo a thorough cleaning and remodeling. A grand reopening event was held November 9, attracting a large crowd of shoppers and supporters. Since then, business has been brisk, thanks to the community's support, generous donations and the help of several volunteers. This support makes a tangible difference in advancing animal welfare and promoting responsible pet ownership.



\$169,362

in revenue to support spay and neuter surgeries

# **Foster Care Program**

The Humane Society of Yuma's foster care program is an essential lifeline for animals in need, offering them a safe and nurturing environment while they wait for their forever homes. Foster families provide individualized care to pets who may be too young, ill, or stressed to thrive in a shelter setting, giving them the attention and stability they need to recover and grow. This program not only frees up space in the shelter, allowing the Humane Society to assist more animals, but also helps pets become better socialized and ready for adoption. Foster caregivers play a critical role in the rehabilitation process, ensuring that animals receive the love and care they deserve while increasing their chances of finding a permanent, loving home.

If you would like more information on fostering or would like to become a foster you can fill out an application on our website, www.hsoyuma.com, or call our shelter at (928) 782-1621 ext. 104

**3,753**Fostered Animals

Foster Parents

# BEHUMANE

# **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

Desert View Academy
Orange Grove Elementary
Ed Pastor Elementary
Mesquite Elementary
Mary A. Otondo Elementary
Southwestern Christian School
Dorthy Hall Elementary
Gowan Science Academy



The Humane Society of Yuma's BeHumane program combines education and fundraising to teach children about animals while empowering them to make a positive impact. This innovative program introduces students to the principles of responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and the importance of compassion through engaging lessons and handson activities. In addition to learning about animals, students participate in fundraising

efforts to support the Humane Society's mission. By blending education with action, the BeHumane program not only fosters empathy and respect for animals but also instills a sense of responsibility and community involvement in young participants, inspiring them to become advocates for animal welfare. For more information on the program contact Lauren at LWeinberg@hsoyuma.com.



Smilie the ambassador

# **Legacy Circle**

The Humane Society of Yuma's Legacy Circle program offers individuals a meaningful way to leave a lasting impact on the lives of animals by including the organization in their estate plans. Through this program, supporters can bequeath assets, such as funds or property, to the Humane Society upon their passing, ensuring that their commitment to animal welfare continues for generations to come. As an added assurance, members of the Legacy Circle can arrange for the Humane Society to care for their beloved pets after they pass away, providing peace of mind that their companions will be loved and well-cared for. By joining the Legacy Circle, individuals leave behind a legacy of compassion, helping to rescue and protect animals in the Yuma community long into the future. For more information contact Annette Lagunas at annettel@hsoyuma.com.





Pictured: Modine Uribe (1924-2024) was a longtime supporter of the Humane Society of Yuma. HSOY was the beneficiary of her estate, leaving her legacy to help us care for the animals that enter our shelter.

# **Monthly Donors**

Monthly donors contributed \$43,650 to the Humane Society of Yuma in 2024 playing a pivotal role in sustaining our mission "to reduce the number of homeless pets through adoption, rescue, and spay and neuter programs." These generous contributions provide a reliable source of funding, enabling us to cover essential expenses such as medical care, shelter maintenance, food, and supplies for the hundreds of animals we serve each month. This consistent support also allows us to plan and expand critical programs, including spay and neuter initiatives, community outreach, and educational efforts.

\$43,650 in monthly donor donations

### in memoriam

## **Glamor Teams**

Volunteers who run the Glamor Shot teams at the Humane Society of Yuma play a vital role in helping shelter animals find their forever homes. By capturing professional-quality photos that showcase each animal's unique personality and charm, these volunteers ensure that the animals are presented in their best light to potential adopters. The dedication and creativity of the Glamor Shot teams not only improve the animals' chances of finding loving homes but also highlight the care and commitment the Humane Society invests in every pet. Their work is a critical component of the adoption process, making a life-changing difference for countless animals.





# **Facebook Fundraisers**

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in raising money for the Humane Society of Yuma through Facebook fundraisers over the past year. Your generous support has made a significant impact on our shelter operations, enabling us to provide essential care, medical attention, and shelter for countless animals in need. Thanks to your efforts, we've been able to give these animals a second chance at life by finding them loving forever homes. Your kindness and dedication remind us of the incredible power of community, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission. Together, we are making a difference for the animals of Yuma!

If you would like to create a Facebook fundraiser, click "See more" on the left side of your homepage and then click "Fundraisers." Click "Select nonprofit" and type "Humane Society of Yuma" in the search bar.



Donations received from Facebook Fundraisers

\$24,401

# **Peaches and Zayin**

Peaches, the little kitten rescued from his abusers by a boy who gave up his precious skateboard to save the feline, is now a beloved pet in the home of Zayin Berry, his rescuer.

"He's doing great," Zayin's mother, Rhiannon, said of Peaches. "His eye (that had to be removed because of infection) is healed up and he's become very playful with our other cats and me. He loves to get his belly rubbed." And he's inseparable from his boy, who was given a cat carrier backpack so he can take Peaches with him wherever he goes.



The story began a few weeks before Christmas

when Zayin, 8, was at the Somerton Skateboard Park with his brothers and sisters. There he saw some other kids abusing the kitten. "That made me sad and mad to see the cat abused," said the third-grader. He offered his skateboard in exchange for the kitten and took it home. The family nursed the sick kitten for several days but it wasn't getting better. So Zayin's mother, realizing it needed professional medical care, took it to HSOY on November 26.

Zayin and Peaches were reunited two weeks later when Zayin was able to adopt the kitten. It was a happy occasion, with the little white and orange kitten loudly purring as it snugged into



the arms of broadly smiling Zayin. In recognition of his action, Zayin was presented a new skateboard and items for Peaches, including a pet bed where Zayin's mother sometimes finds him curled up with his pet.

Annette Lagunas, HSOY executive director, was touched by the kindness of the 8-year-old boy. "He was willing to give up his most precious possession to save a kitten's life. I hope he's an inspiration to others ... help them to be as kind and loving as he is to all creatures."

The story tugged at the heartstrings of many people from around the country, who sent cards to Zayin and donated to HSOY. One supporter donated \$1,000 after hearing about the story.

# **Fundraising Events**

2024 was another successful year with fundraising. Like last year, we were able to hold 2024's Critter Country at Britain's Farm. We auctioned off 60 silent auction items at this event which was a great start to 2024's fundraising efforts.

Our Fore! Paws Golf Tournament took place the first week of June at Desert Hills Golf Course. A total of 143 golfers took part in the event. Everyone had a blast and enjoyed lunch and raffle prizes in the club house after hitting the greens.

Poker for Paws Texas Hold-Em Tournament was held in July this year at Sage and Sand cocktail lounge with 81 players participating in this event. A great time was had by all and much needed funds were raised for the shelter.

Fur Ball 18 "Paws in Paradise" was held in September at AWC's Schoening Center.

This is our signature event and it continues to get better each year! We had 114 items for the silent auction and 15 awesome items for the live auction. We recognized our Legacy Members and sponsors and then we danced the night away with live music! This event was originally started to obtain funds to build our new shelter and sustain the mortgage year after year.

These were our four core events of the year. In addition to these 4 events, we were also able to host several online auctions to boost revenue in our fundraising department. We had our fourth annual quilt auction, our PetStar calendar auction and an art auction this year.

\$276,895 in total events

### Critter Country \$62,301



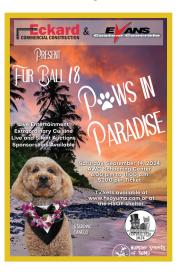
### Fore! Paws Golf Tourny

\$31,594



## Fur Ball XVIII

\$137,321

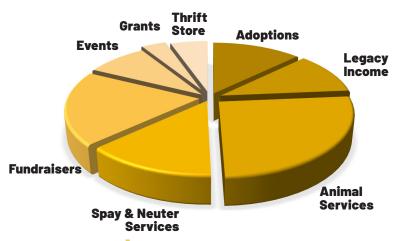


### Poker for Paws

\$45,769



### Revenue



\$3,167,447 in total revenue

\$403,490 **Legacy Income** 

> \$344,803 **Adoptions**

\$821,320 **Animal Services** 

\$429,639 **Spay & Neuter Services** 

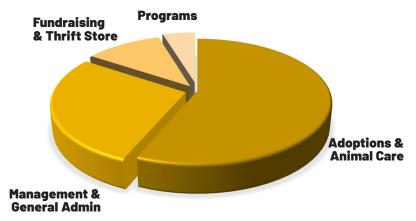
\$609,068 **Fundraisers** 

> \$276,895 **Events**

\$112,600 **Grants** 

\$169,632 **Thrift Store** 

## **Expenses**



\$3,747,645

### in total expenses

**Adoptions &** \$2,110,150 **Animal Care** 

Management & \$1,051,403 **General Admin** 

Fundraising & \$411,317 **Thrift Store** 

> \$174,775 **Programs**

### **Grants**

Each year the Humane Society of Yuma is awarded grants to aid in our mission to

save homeless and unwanted pets.

\$19,500 **Arizona Pet Plate Grant** 

\$5,000 **Best Friends Animal Society** 





\$38,100 **Arizona Community** 

**Foundation** 

\$50,000 **PetSmart Charities** 



\$112,600 in total amount of grants

# **4-Paws Pantry**

The 4-PAWS PANTRY is a volunteer program that provides supplemental food to those in our community who may be struggling to feed their pets. By offering this program we can keep pets in their homes and out of the shelter.

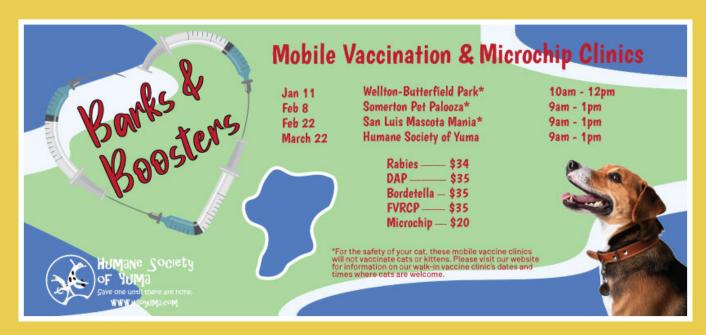
23,401 lbs

of pet food was distributed to low income households



## **Barks and Boosters**

The Barks and Boosters Mobile Vaccination Clinic brings essential pet care directly to your neighborhood, making it easier than ever to protect your furry friends. Vaccinating your pets is a vital step in safeguarding them against dangerous diseases like rabies, parvovirus, and distemper, while also helping to prevent the spread of these illnesses in the community. The clinic also offers microchipping services, ensuring that if your pet ever gets lost, they can be easily identified and reunited with you. Accessible and affordable, the Barks and Boosters Mobile Clinic ensures every pet owner has the opportunity to provide their beloved companions with the health and security they deserve. Don't wait—protect your pets today!



# **Transfer Program**

state and sometimes across the country who accept dogs and cats from our shelter.

The transfer partner organizations include groups such as Friends for Life Animal Rescue and Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary. They include a mix of other shelter-type organizations, breed specific groups and those that facilitate adoptions with the help of for the past 18 years, including the weeks of Christmas and New Year, with the support of a

dedicated group of volunteers.

dogs transferred to other shelters....... 838 cats transferred to other shelters....... 673

**Total 1,511** 



# **Spay and Neuter Clinic**

2024 brought exciting developments for the Humane Society of Yuma's Spay and Neuter Clinic. In May 2024, Dr. Ashra Hall officially joined our veterinary team, bringing with her a genuine passion for animal care and love for the shelter. She has been instrumental in continuing our public vaccine clinics and is also gaining expertise in specialty surgeries including leg amputations, eye enucleations, mass removals, and other orthopedic surgeries.

The HSOY Spay & Neuter Clinic spayed and neutered 5,734 animals in 2024. Of these surgeries, 1,069 were publicly owned animals, 1,560 were community cats, and 3,105 were shelter dogs and cats. The clinic also organized and hosted two mass spay/neuter events focusing on the local community cat population.



Dr. Ashra Hall



Dr. Munoz, HSOY interim medical director, would like to thank Dr. Ashra Hall, visiting relief doctors, clinic manager Brandelle Domenack and our incredible support staff for all their hard work in 2024. Together the clinic provided over 1,500 more surgeries compared to previous years.

The Humane Society of Yuma's Spay and Neuter Clinic is ready to continue growing and supporting the Yuma community while remaining committed to our mission to reduce the number of homeless pets in Yuma county.

# **Microchips**

A microchip is a small, electronic device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted just beneath your pet's skin, typically between the shoulder blades. This chip contains a unique identification number that can be read with a special scanner. When registered in a pet recovery database, this number is linked to your contact information, making it a reliable and permanent form of identification. Microchips are crucial because collars and tags can easily be lost or damaged, leaving no way to identify your pet if they become lost or stolen. With a microchip, shelters and veterinarians can quickly reunite you with your beloved companion, providing peace of mind and ensuring your pet's safety.



### 821 2024 TOTAL ANIMALS MICROCHIPPED

# **Low Cost Vaccinations**



**423**FVRCP
Vaccines

628
Bordetella
Vaccines

2,376
Rabies
Vaccines

### 4,870 2024 TOTAL VACCINES GIVEN AT HSOY



Vaccinating your pet is a fundamental aspect of responsible pet ownership and plays a crucial role in safeguarding their health and well-being. Vaccines are designed to protect animals from a range of potentially life-threatening diseases, including rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and more. They also help to prevent the spread of these diseases to other animals and humans. The Humane Society of Yuma's spay and neuter clinic offers a variety of low cost vaccinations for your pets. Vaccinations are given by appointment only.

# Spay-a-Thon

Nearly 700 community cats were spayed or neutered in two spay-a-thons in 2024 in an ongoing effort by the Humane Society of Yuma to manage the population of feral cats. Each spay-a-thon was held over a very busy two-day weekend, with local veterinarians, assisted by visiting medical professionals and volunteers, performing the surgeries on cats brought in by caregivers of the some-1,000 registered community cat colonies in Yuma County. Each colony has an average of 10-15 cats, cats that are too poorly socialized to be placed as a typical pet. They live full, healthy lives with their feline families (called colonies) in their outdoor homes with a caregiver's attention.

The inaugural spay-a-thon was held February 10-11, 2024 with 408 community cats spayed or neutered. During the second event held in October, a total of 297 cats were altered.

"Managing the community cat populations is a specific goal of mine and one I plan to strive for lifelong," said Dr. Danielle Munoz, interim HSOY medical director, who suggested the event, helped organize it and recruited other medical staff to assist. As well as other local veterinarians, they included students from the University of Arizona Veterinary School, a Tucson clinic, and several veterinarian technicians from around the state and even from California. Several local businesses also supported the events, donating food, supplies and providing lodging for the out-of-town workers.

Munoz is already gearing up for another spay-a-thon in March, with plans to continue to have two each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. "I would love to see a decrease in the number of unsterilized community cats," she said. "I would love to see a reduction in pregnant cats coming into the shelter, sick kittens and cats that are suffering."

While it's too early to determine the success of the spay-a-thons, Munoz is pleased to report some colonies have been closed, meaning each cat that colony caretakers provide for is spayed or neutered. "That's rewarding ... small baby steps."

To register a cat colony, go to catstats. org/Yuma or contact our Community Cat Coordinator, Valarie Beebe, at vbeebe@hsoyuma.com.



# Sun Graphics

# Sun Graphics

