

**SHAP CONFIRMS CLOSURE OF COMPLAINTS MADE TO NMDOJ,
REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SERVING NEW MEXICO’S VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS THROUGH ALLEVIATING SUFFERING AND KEEPING
ANIMAL AND HUMAN FAMILIES TOGETHER**

Santa Fe, NM — May 22, 2025 — the Street Homeless Animal Project (“SHAP”), a privately funded 501(C)(3), recognized by various institutions for its excellence in the field of animal protection, is proud to announce that New Mexico Department of Justice (“NMDOJ”) has closed two complaints filed against the organization in 2025.

On April 8, 2025, the NMDOJ notified SHAP of a complaint made against the organization. The complaint went to the heart of SHAP’s charitable purpose. In essence, the complaint alleged that SHAP violated animal cruelty laws through the performance of its routine and ordinary operations.

On April 16, 2025, the NMDOJ notified SHAP of a second complaint against the organization. Much like the first complaint, the second complaint took issue with SHAP’s routine and ordinary operations. Unlike the first complaint, the second complaint falsely accused SHAP of “giving away puppies to homeless people who cannot take care of themselves... AND adult dogs[.]”

On April 25, 2025, SHAP gave its response to the NMDOJ. The response included one hundred and eight pages of evidentiary exhibits meant to refute the allegations made against SHAP. Additionally, SHAP contended and disputed that its routine and ordinary operations violate either state or local animal cruelty laws in any way.

SHAP’s response stated in part:

SHAP’s primary objective is to act within the confines of the law and keep families together through providing for the health, safety, and welfare, of companion animals belonging to the unhoused...

SHAP does not give away animals to anyone, SHAP’s only mission is to keep families together. Unhoused people often face challenges that are unique to their circumstance. One of those challenges being that none of the emergency or long-term human shelters in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico have the resources to house companion animals along with their unhoused owners...Since these unhoused people choose to live outdoors, they are often targeted by law enforcement and jailed for violating trespassing and loitering laws... Once the animal’s owner is in custody of law enforcement, the companion animal is taken by Animal Control and brought to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. SHAP then steps in to ensure that the animal is cared for and reunited with their family members.

At no time was any finding of wrongdoing made. The closure of these matters reinforces SHAP's commitment to serving New Mexico's vulnerable populations through alleviating suffering and keeping animal and human families together while operating with integrity, accountability, and compliance with all applicable laws.

SHAP stands firmly against animal abuse in all forms. *We do not condone or tolerate cruelty to animals, whether committed by individuals who are housed or unhoused. If you witness animal abuse, please call 911 for emergencies or contact the Santa Fe Police Department's non-emergency line at 505-428-3710. Compassion for all living beings is central to our mission and values.*