

SAM BLANKENSHIP

Santa Barbara Humane

Shelter Manager

Sam is a CPDT-KA that comes from Albuquerque, New Mexico where he worked with Animal Humane New Mexico (AHNM) as their Operations Director for 9 years. During his time with AHNM, he helped develop innovative safety net programs to help keep loved pets in homes, lowered the euthanasia rate by 10%, and stood up a state wide transfer support program that helped manage rural shelters with over population problems. He was also responsible for standing up a new outcome evaluation committee that quickly identified potential long term residents and enacted behavior plans quickly. Sam has spent time with the Bernalillo County Anti-Cruelty task force, participated in hoarding raids with the ASPCA's Field and Investigation unit, and helped evaluate pit bulls post dog fighting raids. In addition to his local rescue work, Sam also spent time in Cuba helping the street dog efforts in Havana. He was also a featured cast member on the A&E series, Dogs of War, which helped identify potential service dogs in the sheltering system and paired them with military veterans within the ABQ community.

Sam is now working with Santa Barbara Humane as their Shelter Manager. Overseeing the pets daily care, their behavioral needs, and supporting the adoption process. He lives in Ventura, CA and enjoys sailing, hiking, and spending time with his own rescue dogs.