



SAFE HAVEN FOR SOPHIE

THE CARE PROGRAM PROVIDES LIFE-SAVING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The argument over credit card charges escalated between the woman and her husband to the point where she was so frightened, she locked herself in the bathroom. The enraged husband grabbed the woman's delicate and beloved Italian greyhound. He also grabbed a knife. If she didn't come out, the little

dog named Sophie would pay the price. He stabbed Sophie several times, puncturing her right lung which would later be removed. In an attempt to save her dog, the woman was stabbed in the shoulder. Both survived, with the scars to show for it. Some victims of domestic violence are not so lucky.

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IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN THAT VIOLENT BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ANIMALS, WHICH OFTEN ORIGINATES IN CHILDHOOD, PERSISTS INTO ADULT LIFE AND BECOMES A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE THAT EXTENDS INTO HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.

After his incarceration, the husband later told a prison chaplain that as a child he had removed his sister's goldfish from the aquarium and placed it on her bed to die. Also, in response to his mother's scolding, he had also flushed his own living pet hamster down the toilet after he had neglected to change the animal's bedding.

It has been long known that violent behavior toward animals, which often originates in childhood, persists into adult life and becomes a cycle of violence that extends into human relationships. People who are experiencing abuse in the home are often encouraged by their friends and other family members to 'just get out of the house.' The presence of companion animals complicates victims' ability to do so. Indeed, over 80% of American households with companion animals consider them part of the family. Batterers often use this relationship to their advantage to exercise power over their victims, threatening to harm a cherished companion animal. It is a cruel but effective strategy, as almost half of victims will delay leaving an abusive relationship out of fear for the welfare of their animals.

APNM's Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) program receives calls from the advocates of domestic violence victims and assists by placing their companion animals in temporary safe havens. CARE allows victims in crisis to take the time to find safety and security themselves, and provides them with some peace of mind related to their animals. The goal of the program is to reunite the victims with their animals when their lives have stabilized and they are able to again care for their animals.

APNM has recently developed a strategic partnership with the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV).

During New Mexico's 2014 legislative session, Animal Protection Voters (on behalf of the APNM CARE program) and NMCADV successfully lobbied for Senate Bill 187, sponsored by Senator Nancy Rodriguez, which appropriated \$50,000 to the NM Children Youth and Families Department for support of the partnership and the CARE program. The bill passed and was signed by Governor Martinez, allowing APNM the opportunity to significantly expand the CARE network of animal foster care providers, hire a dedicated CARE case manager, and cover expenses for food and other animal care necessities.

With leadership from NMCADV, domestic violence support service providers are increasingly recognizing the value of the CARE program in the community, demonstrating that animals matter in the lives of New Mexicans in good times and bad.

There is more good news. Sophie's story had a fortunate outcome. She is alive, happy and thriving today. But each year there are over 21,000 domestic violence victims reported to law enforcement in New Mexico, not counting the animal victims. This year's good news about state funding is a welcome antidote against this grim reality. With your support of this important statewide program, APNM can continue this lifesaving service. To learn more or make a donation, visit <http://www.apnm.org/programs/care/> today.



The Power of Offering Rewards

When APNM's Reward Program is activated, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, it can make a big difference in animal cruelty investigations. One such reward case began in late 2010 on the Isleta Pueblo in Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

A dog dubbed "Brownie" was found at the Pickle Heights Library on December 13, 2010. Brownie was dragging a broken chain and had a chain collar painfully embedded in his neck. Isleta Pueblo Animal Control Officers Ruben Lucero and Waylon Chavez contacted

APNM's Cruelty Case Manager to request a reward offer, and APNM offered a \$1,000 reward in addition to a local \$100 match.

Soon, two separate tipsters called to identify Brownie's person. APNM reported that information to the Pueblo's Animal Control, and on Jan 7, 2011, charges were filed against the owner for Animal Cruelty in Tribal Court. The owner pleaded guilty and surrendered Brownie. The two tipsters agreed to split the reward, each receiving \$500 from APNM.



Brownie was transferred to a local rescue and, after rehab and training, was welcomed into a forever home in another state. By continuing to offer our Reward Program, APNM shows our support for New Mexico's communities, their animals, and the law enforcement agencies that protect them.