MAKING TRACKS

A Quarterly Publication of Animal Protection of New Mexico Fall 2014

A SHARED VISION
FOR DOGS AND CATS IN NEW MEXICO

UPDATE: VICTORY!
NO HORSE SLAUGHTER IN NEW MEXICO
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of the Animals,

Supporters of Animal Protection of New Mexico understand this: our mission of ensuring the humane treatment of all animals through what we call “systemic change” means we focus on the root causes of animal suffering. It goes without saying that drilling down to identify and then to finally change harmful systems can take years. But changing the underlying system means that eventually we don’t have to use quick fixes to problems that manifest themselves as terrible animal suffering.

I recently found an APNM strategic planning document from 1995, now almost 20 years old. What I found was encouraging. The list verified what we all know: when you set goals and are persistent, things can and do change. In fact, many of the items we identified as needing attention 20 years ago are no longer issues today.

On the list was:
“Felony animal cruelty law”—Done
“Humane euthanasia of dogs and cats required”—Done
“Ghost Ranch Living Museum habitat improvements”—Not applicable anymore
“CARE Program implementation”—Done
“Improve animal control facilities”—In progress
“Hotline for referrals and other animal issues”—In place
“Animal services directory”—Done
“Awards ceremony for champions of animals”—Done
“Ban cockfighting”—Done
“Set up protections for horses”—In progress
“Humane educator funding”—Established
“Define ‘lay of the land’ for the state’s shelters, seek support for them”—In progress

On the other hand, other items from the list such as “stop poisoning/trapping of wildlife” and “stop horse slaughter sales” are still on our list and will remain there until we have achieved our goals. Indeed, our work is as relevant today as it was 20 years ago, and momentum for animals—while growing—always needs to grow more.

APNM will continue focusing on the long view of change, so it becomes normal for people to view and treat animals humanely and always consider things from their point of view. Thank you for your meaningful investment in this long-term change that makes our state a better place for us and the animals.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings,
Executive Director
APNM has always made it a priority to assist the dedicated people who manage New Mexico’s animal shelters, rescue groups, humane law enforcement agencies, and spay-neuter programs. Fortunately, as the recipient of two generous grants from the ASPCA over the past two years, APNM has been able to significantly expand our services to the sheltering community through our Animal Shelter Assistance Program and Shelter Animal Relocation Initiative. APNM and ASPCA staff members respond to requests for guidance on sheltering contracts, conflict resolution, and best practices in sheltering and transport, in addition to training, grant opportunities, and coalition-building.

A SHARED VISION FOR DOGS AND CATS IN NEW MEXICO
APNM’s focus is to solve problems in the here and now, but always with an eye toward a better future for dogs and cats in New Mexico. Feedback is incredibly important for delivering high-impact programs, so APNM recently asked people “in the trenches” about how these programs are making a difference for them.

Barbara Bonahoom, President of the Raton Humane Society, which operates Raton’s municipal shelter, sent the following heartfelt letter: “Our commitment to the animals has been strengthened by continued support from APNM’s Animal Shelter Assistance Program through advice, shelter recordkeeping, grant availabilities, and whatever else we might need. It is important to know that APNM is readily available to assist whenever called upon. This valuable program is a must for the animal shelters throughout the state of New Mexico.”

Pauline Dube, Founder of undermywing, an animal welfare organization that takes in animals from overcrowded shelters in New Mexico and transfers them to less crowded shelters in neighboring states, had this to say: “The employees at APNM have been invaluable in sharing information to help shelters and rescues with grants so they may provide better relief to animals in their counties. This assistance aids in helping animals so they have a better chance of being adopted. APNM provides encouragement to deal with difficulties.”

Estancia Chief of Police Jimmy Chavez wrote, “Your knowledge, insight, and concern for animals has been instrumental in organizing a professional and competent operation. Your assistance has been a boon for our community and its animals. Thank you so much for the help APNM provides to our town and, indeed, the entire state.”

APNM Program Director, Leslie King, responds, “It is very gratifying to know our work matters, but the real thanks go to individuals like these in communities all across New Mexico, who never stop looking for ways to help the staggering number of lost, abandoned, and injured animals that come into their care. They are making a difference every single day.”

APNM’s extensive research and compilation of sheltering and relocation activity in New Mexico led to the implementation of these sheltering programs. By using the data strategically, APNM can target communities with the greatest needs, engage residents, and persuade lawmakers to pursue remedies most effective against the vicious cycle animal advocates know all too well: a lack of accessible and affordable spay-neuter programs, the resulting dog and cat overpopulation crisis, followed by costly and tragic euthanasia rates. By working together, we can see the vision we all share—a better, more humane world for shelter animals—become a reality.

The Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico is marking its one-year anniversary of operating the municipal animal shelter in Las Vegas. Through a $10,000 grant from the ASPCA, they received a Weather King storage building to convert to a cattery, plus a sink. AWC staff member, Kim Shoaf, (pictured) installed the insulation, electricity, air conditioning and plumbing. Shelter Director Martina Holguin tells us: “This incredible addition allows our cats to have their own space, reduce stress, and go into their FURever homes happy and healthy. The ASPCA and APNM have also shown ongoing support for our efforts by providing a scholarship for me to attend a national animal welfare conference.”

APNM’s Shelter Savvy website and Facebook page allow animal professionals to share information and keep up with the latest news and opportunities for assistance. Visit the sites: http://apnm.org/programs/shelter_support www.facebook.com/ShelterSavvy
New Mexico’s Equine Safety Net Continues to Gain Ground

As Making Tracks readers know, APNM and several national animal protection organizations have partnered with the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife to help provide the Navajo Nation (Nation) with pragmatic, humane approaches for the management of free-roaming horses on the Nation. Humane organizations and the Nation agree that an important step to developing effective, short-and long-term approaches is to truly understand the full scope and nature of the challenge at hand. Therefore, implementing a comprehensive assessment, including an aerial survey, of the horse population and identifying specific land management goals seems essential. Once complete, the assessment will provide a clearer path for specific strategies.

To learn more about potential plans following a full assessment, go to http://www.apnm.org/programs/equine_protection/.

In the meantime, throughout the summer, the Navajo Veterinary Program has held 16 free clinics for horse owners throughout the Nation to improve general equine health, provide identification, and to employ horse population prevention control methods. The Nation has delivered PZP contraceptive vaccines to 263 mares, castrated 227 stallions, implanted 414 microchips, given 325 5-way vaccinations, and de-wormed 302 horses. This program was paid for with federal drought emergency funding.

Meanwhile, APNM continues to deliver lifesaving services to domestic horses and their long-eared cousins. The Equine Protection Fund (visit HelpOurHorses.org) has now given relief to 576 animals and is close to reaching a milestone of at least 600 equines helped before year end. In addition to helping equines through our Equine Protection Fund, we also are working to make sure the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (HSRF, part of the New Mexico Livestock Board) becomes a high-impact tool that can provide crucial support for New Mexico’s equine rescue shelters. Animal Protection Voters successfully lobbied to create a tax checkoff mechanism so taxpayers can direct their state tax refunds to the Fund, and secured a $250,000 state appropriation for the Fund. The HSRF supports the rescue and rehabilitation of abandoned, abused, and neglected equines in New Mexico.

Roswell’s Valley Meat, which fought to open a slaughterhouse in New Mexico, withdrew their application at the end of July, citing overwhelming state opposition to their plans. Thank you to everyone who spoke up for horses.

At every turn, APNM mobilized massive public outcry to prevent the slaughterhouse from opening—at Environment Department hearings, at the State Legislature, in Congress—APNM was there.

Celebrate this important news by helping a horse or other equine in need.

At the same time, we’ve been busy expanding the safety net that helps horses, donkeys, and mules. We’ve provided relief to over 576 to date. But many more need us. Can you make a difference?

Any amount helps us reach our 2014 goal of raising $100,000 to help horses through the Equine Protection Fund (www.HelpOurHorses.org).

$100,000 will:

★ Prevent over 500 hungry horses from starving
★ Geld over 500 stallions, colts, and jacks, preventing unwanted births
★ Give lifesaving veterinary care to over 300 horses rescued from abuse and neglect
★ Give humane end-of-life treatment to more than 500 suffering horses

If you’ve never contributed to the Equine Protection Fund, this is a perfect time to give—thanks to challenge grants, your dollars will be tripled. If you are a current donor to the Equine Protection Fund, we thank you for your continued support—your gift will be doubled.

Together we can put a stop to horse cruelty. Call us at 505-265-2322 for more information or go online to make a donation: HelpOurHorses.org.
Navajo Nation
In June, APNM coordinated emergency assistance for companion animals during the Asaayi Lake Fire on the Navajo Nation. Thanks to a generous donation from PetSmart Charities, dedicated volunteers from Gallup-McKinley County Humane Society and the Nation delivered dog and cat food, cat litter and supplies.

Albuquerque, Santa Fe
In May and June, APNM discussed the Equine Protection Fund assistance programs at screenings of Roaming Wild, a documentary film showcasing Westerners who are developing humane solutions to the controversy of free-roaming horses on public lands.

In July, the Equine Protection Fund held a 6-day outreach booth at the 2014 Arabian Youth Nationals Horse Show at the State Fairgrounds. The Fund distributed information about its lifesaving services, showcased a new promotional poster, and encouraged donations for three dollar-for-dollar challenge grants totaling $118,000.

In September, APNM staff speak at The Animal Law Section’s “The Law and Horses in New Mexico” legal education program. Get more information from the State Bar of New Mexico Center for Legal Education: http://www.nmbarcle.org

Isleta Pueblo
APNM was proud to take part in Isleta Pueblo’s 1st annual Environmental Fair held in July. The pueblo’s Public Environmental Services Department featured a fascinating display of their work on conservation, water, and wildfires as well as their guardianship of several historic sites within the pueblo’s lands. APNM is pleased to work with the pueblos of New Mexico.

wish list
For The Animal Connection:
- Computer paper (white, letter size, in reams)
- Small stuffed animals
- Posters of animal photos
- Animal-themed t-shirts, children’s sizes
- Dog and cat toys

For the CARE Program:
- Dog and cat toys, bowls, leashes, collars

can you help us out?
Contact Daniel Abram at daniel@apnm.org or 505-265-2322 ext. 32.
The Effort to Protect Prairie Dogs and Wildlife: Sharing Our Habitat

In New Mexico, we are blessed with some of the greatest animal species diversity in the world, populating landscapes with everything from alpine meadows to mesquite-filled desert. Unfortunately, the human development within our state has led to conflict with many native species, including raccoons, skunks, prairie dogs, rabbits, black bears, beavers, and coyotes. Unfairly considered “problem” animals, they have been historically killed with inhumane methods including poisons and lethal traps. Fortunately, there is now an increased awareness of the benefits of coexistence and a shift in favor of wildlife is already underway across the West. Increasingly, landowners are dismissing cruel extermination measures and are employing easy and effective measures to minimize conflict with wild animals.

Consider these simple steps for preventing habituation of wildlife on your personal property and business:

**Remove food attractants**
- Hold off placing trash bins outside until garbage day or lock away the bin in a secure area
- Clean outdoor grills after every use
- Remove bird feeders (bird seed and suet can attract other unwelcome animals)
- Regularly pick up fallen fruit from fruit trees
- Remove vegetation (grasses, flowers, and bushes) that may attract herbivorous animals

**Remove water attractants**
- Check hoses and irrigation systems for leaks
- Prevent rainwater collection in yard objects

**Construction and landscaping**
- Thin or remove thick brush or other vegetation that can draw animals looking to hide
- Install barrier walls
- Install spikes on walls and buildings to prevent landing and roosting by birds and squirrels

Relocation of animals, which can be traumatic and harmful to established social structure, should only be employed when all other humane options have failed to remove the unwanted animal. If relocation is necessary, live traps can be purchased from agricultural supply stores. Additionally, volunteer and professional wildlife relocators may be available to retrieve animals from property. For assistance in finding humane relocation resources, please contact APNM’s Wildlife Campaign Manager, Phil Carter, at (505)265-2322 ext. 31 or phil@apnm.org.

Despite the advances in coexistence, thousands of wild animals continue to be slaughtered in a misguided and horrific attempt to purge the landscape of native wildlife. In 2013, USDA’s Wildlife Services killed over 34,000 wild animals in New Mexico in the service of private agricultural interests.

This continued massacre of wildlife is unconscionable. Support the Trap Free New Mexico coalition and Animal Protection Voters’ efforts by contacting your state legislators to support a ban on cruel traps and poisons on New Mexico’s public lands. For more information, please contact Animal Protection Voters at 505-265-2322 or info@apvnm.org.

Why the ASPCA® Supports APNM

“The ASPCA wanted to get a big picture view of animal welfare in New Mexico—the challenges, successes, and needs—to focus our resources in the state. We reached out to APNM and their incredible staff for help. Collaborating with APNM to conduct an updated statewide shelter survey and site visits, we now have a comprehensive understanding of the needs. Working together, we provide animal cruelty investigator training, plus consultations and support to animal shelters to improve care for companion animals as well as increase adoptions, improve spay-neuter services, and increase live outcomes. New Mexico is fortunate to have an organization focused on big issues statewide advocating for the well being of animals to influence positive systemic change. Their accomplishments are impressive. APNM is a model for other states on how to effect positive change for animals.”

Karen Medicus, Senior Director, Community Initiatives, ASPCA, with Short Stack, a resident donkey at the Black Beauty Ranch in Texas
Back to School

The 2014-2015 school year will find APNM’s humane education programs, The Animal Connection and The Animal Connection Jr., serving many new schools and classes because of the generosity and hard work of APNM’s Education Ambassador Committee and grants from The Sherpa Fund, The Brindle Foundation, and The Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation.

The Animal Connection features a 12-week program for grades 3 through 8 and the 4-week Jr. program for grades K through 2. What began as a pilot program four years ago in two 5th grade classrooms in Los Lunas’ Valencia Elementary is now serving 44 classrooms throughout the Valencia, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe county areas. There is a waiting list for The Animal Connection within the Albuquerque Public Schools district.

The humane education programs are brought free of charge to schools serving economically disadvantaged neighborhoods exhibiting high rates of animal neglect and abuse. Already well established in the Los Lunas and Albuquerque schools because of the tireless work and commitment of APNM’s Education Ambassador Committee, APNM will not only be able to retain the classes served during past years, but also can bring the programs to four new 1st grade classes and four new 5th grade classes at Albuquerque’s La Mesa Elementary.

But it’s not all happening in Albuquerque. Because of the renewal of a generous gift from The Sherpa Fund, The Animal Connection will be returning to Tesuque Elementary for its second year. There, the program is growing from one to two classrooms. And the program’s growth within the Santa Fe schools is nothing short of amazing. Gifts from The Brindle and Walbridge Foundations will support The Animal Connection in multiple classrooms at Santa Fe’s Kearny, Nava, and Gonzales Elementary Schools. To deliver those programs, APNM is proud to have added Lyndi Martinez to its Humane Education teaching staff. Lyndi is a Santa Fe resident, already well known in the community for her energetic animal advocacy work.

As children bemoan the beginning of another school year and the loss of their carefree summers, their trepidation diminishes when teachers tell them their class will be taking part in The Animal Connection programs. Principals, teachers, parents, school children, and APNM staff are grateful to the dedicated sponsors who have made possible The Animal Connection and its growth. They are making life for New Mexico’s animals and children that much kinder.
Good Intentions are Not Enough. You Must Vote!

The images are gruesome and they make you want to look away. We understand.

Who can watch an animal struggling for his/her life in a leghold trap and not be sickened by it? Who can look at the piled up bodies of coyotes, prairie dogs, or other desert wildlife mowed down by people who just want to kill for killing’s sake, and not be outraged? The fact is, these unacceptable practices are currently legal in New Mexico, but Animal Protection Voters (www.apvnm.org) is part of a vibrant and growing movement in New Mexico aimed at getting these practices stopped for good.

How do we make it happen?

★ We vote. We vote for lawmakers who care about issues that matter to us, and who care about the value of wildlife in our beautiful state that is richer for its diversity.

★ We get involved.
1. Make sure you’re registered to vote so you can support animal-friendly candidates for office. Check online at http://www.sos.state.nm.us/sos-VoterReg.html. Registration deadline for the general election is October 7, 2014.
2. Vote in the general election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, or vote early or absentee. Call your county clerk for locations.
3. Become a member of Animal Protection Voters (APV) at apvnm.org/donate/ and support our high-impact work all year long but especially during legislative sessions.
4. Meet with your lawmakers now to thank them or urge them to support APV priority bills (apvnm.org/2013). See how they voted during 2013 by downloading our 2013 scorecard at apvnm.org/scorecard.
5. Plan now to participate in APV’s 2015 Animal Lobby Day on February 20, 2015.
6. Help animal-friendly candidates and their election campaigns. Contact ennio@apvnm.org for more information.

Can Your Employer Work for APNM and the Animals?

APNM’s lifesaving and high-impact programs are possible because of both large and small contributions from our members and supporters. We are inspired when our donors work hard to think of new and creative ways to direct funds our way.

We’d like to prompt you to think of how your employer might use its business to leverage support for the animals and APNM. Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

Workplace Giving

Some companies and government employers have workplace giving programs that make it easy for employees to give to the nonprofit of their choice. Please inquire with your employer about contributing to APNM through such a program. United Way is one example of such a program.

Matching Gifts

Some employers will match contributions you make to nonprofits up to 100%, essentially doubling your gifts to APNM. One member secured $5,000 for APNM last year through this device. Please ask your employer if this is a program they offer. If not, maybe they would agree to start one.

Other Creative Programs

Does your business offer the public a product or service that could be transformed into support for APNM? Maybe you work for a restaurant, beauty salon, or other business and a portion of sales for a given day could be directed to APNM’s work? Contact us at apnm@apnm.org, with email subject: “GIVING PROGRAM” if you’d like to develop an idea.

Realtor Gwen Gilligan of Santa Fe Properties chose to give her animal-loving clients a very special closing gift: a membership to APNM. We were grateful that she chose to thank her clients in such a meaningful way. Gwen values APNM as “a well-run organization that does a lot of good in many different ways for animals.”
Hotline Changes Lives—Even Little Ones—for the Better

In April, APNM member Joanie Wilson called the APNM Hotline to report that live goldfish were being given away once again as prizes on the midway at the New Mexico State Fair. Years earlier, Ms. Wilson had complained to Expo New Mexico Fair officials, in conjunction with APNM, and convinced them to stop this cruel practice at that time. An APNM Cruelty Case Manager had also contacted Fair officials in 2010 after learning the same thing was reoccurring. At that time, Expo New Mexico ordered the vendor to stop giving away live fish as prizes.

APNM’s current Cruelty Case Manager reviewed the issue and history and identified several concerns. Goldfish given away could suffer and even die from a variety of circumstances, such as being carried around the fairgrounds in plastic bags containing minimal water and oxygen and being brought home with children after dark to unsuspecting and unprepared families who may not be willing to spend money for basic care, feeding, and equipment. In addition, APNM’s Case Manager discovered a prohibition against domestic animals in the Expo New Mexico Vendor’s Manual: “Only qualified service animals and approved livestock or show animals are permitted in exhibit areas of the Fair.”

APNM’s Case Manager then contacted Bill Nordin, Expo New Mexico’s CFO, in an effort to stop the practice for good. He indicated that Murphy Brothers, a company from Oklahoma, was the vendor for the midway attractions and promised to contact them. Following a series of phone and email conversations, in July Mr. Nordin sent APNM an email that promised “Unless we can produce a plan that addresses the issues listed below we will not allow Murphy Brothers to give out live Goldfish as prizes.”

APNM will continue to monitor this situation to ensure no animals are given away as prizes at the State Fair.

Witness animal cruelty or neglect? Call the APNM
Cruelty Hotline 1-877-5-HUMANE
We can help and refer the situation to the right agency in your area. Confidently.

APNM thanks its Humane Education Ambassadors for their tireless work. In 2014, Ambassadors hosted two fundraising events, one at the Albuquerque Country Club and the other at Gertrude Zachary’s downtown Castle and Antique store. Collectively the events generated $12,000 to help bring The Animal Connection program to New Mexico students.
Green Chile Stew

Take advantage of seasonal roasted green chiles in this hearty fall dish. Serves six to eight.

- 1 32-ounce container of vegetable broth
- 2 cups water
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup baby carrots, chopped
- 3 potatoes, diced
- 1 13-ounce container of Bueno Hatch Autumn Roast Chile (or fresh roasted green chiles)
- 2 ounces protein of your choice (tofu, vegan ground beef)
- 2 cups uncooked rice
- 1 TBS olive oil
- salt, to taste
- pepper

If using tofu, drain thoroughly and pat dry with paper towels, then cut into cubes.

In a large soup pot, heat the tablespoon of oil over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, and tofu or ground “beef” until lightly browned. Next, add vegetable broth and water, bringing everything back to a simmer. Add the chile (entire contents of container), carrots, rice, and potatoes. Continue to simmer on low.

Cook for about 40 mins (check to make sure the potatoes and carrots are soft). If rice is not yet done, add additional broth or water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with a salad or tortillas (for extra carbs and energy) and enjoy!

What do Bill Gates and Paypal Co-Founder, Peter Thiel, Have in Common?

Concerned about creating a sustainable food supply, both Gates and Thiel are backing efforts to bring plant-based foods to mainstream consumers. Available now in retail stores, Hampton Creek Foods (hamptomcreek.com) offers a delicious, eggless mayonnaise called Just Mayo, and Beyond Meat (beyond-meat.com) offers a faux-chicken product that fools taste testers, offers no saturated fats, trans fats, or cholesterol, and has 18 grams of protein and just 120 calories per 3 oz. serving. These vegan foods are produced with fewer resources than their animal-based counterparts, and are completely animal-friendly.
Prior to joining APNM in 2007, Program Director Leslie King worked for 12 years in county government administration in Deming and Las Cruces, where she focused much of her time on improving funding and operations of the animal shelters serving both Luna and Doña Ana counties. Leslie also collaborated on extensive revisions of both counties’ animal ordinances. She currently leads APNM’s Animal Shelter Assistance Program and Shelter Animal Relocation Initiative, and works to promote and enhance spay-neuter programs statewide. Leslie has been APNM’s liaison to New Mexico’s Animal Sheltering Board since its 2007 inception, helping write the state regulations governing the protocols, training, and licensing requirements for euthanasia technicians, instructors, and agencies. Leslie has authored two publications for APNM, *The Public Safety and Humane Implications of Persistently Tethering Domestic Dogs, and Animal Control Ordinances in New Mexico: A Guide to Successful Improvements.*

Leslie is a native Californian, but her family roots in New Mexico date to the late 19th century. She is a graduate of the American College in Lucerne, Switzerland, and Schiller International University in Heidelberg, Germany. Following college, Leslie lived and worked in New York City, where she became active in animal rights, working for United Action for Animals and for Argus Archives, an animal welfare foundation established by the late Dallas Pratt, M.D.

Leslie and her husband, Jack, met in Deming, bonded over animals, and recently celebrated 19 years together. They share a home with their loving, comical, and incredibly smart cat, George, who appeared on their doorstep six years ago. In her spare time, Leslie enjoys music, genealogy, and antiques.