

MAKING TRAKS

A Quarterly Publication of Animal Protection of New Mexico Spring 2015

The Animal Connection

BRINGS HUMANE EDUCATION TO
NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS





Dear Friend of the Animals,

As a member and financial supporter of Animal Protection of New Mexico, no doubt you understand how important your financial contributions are to our continued success at making sure all animals matter in all areas of our Land of Enchantment. Indeed, it is no small undertaking to improve policies and practices that have been in place for decades and sometimes centuries. Having the tools and resources to wage smart, strategic, and effective campaigns means we can alter the way animals are treated and viewed in perpetuity. That adds up to helping a lot of animals!

But beyond helping to ensure we have adequately financed programs and campaigns, it is just as important that you take additional, personal steps that greatly influence long-term change for the better for animals.

On page 9 of this issue of Making Tracks we have amassed a list of simple things that you and every other animal advocate could do that would immediately make a lasting difference for New Mexico's animals. I encourage you to commit to follow through on these suggestions and contribute in that way as well.

For instance, our list will remind you of meaningful ways to help animals when you buy license plates for your vehicles, fill out your tax return, choose gifts, and shop for clothes, shoes, and food. These are steps that your family, co-workers, and friends might also take, with your encouragement.

Minor shifts in everyday actions and purchases matter more than you might imagine, adding up to tremendous change when we all work together. And if you have a busy schedule or tight budget, your personal choices will amplify your overall contribution to change. Thank you for making your actions count even more for New Mexico's animals!

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings,
Executive Director

MAKING TRACKS™

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 **PHILANTHROPEDIA**
TOGETHER WE CAN DO BETTER

A Division of  **GUIDESTAR**

On the Cover

The Animal Connection in progress at
a New Mexico elementary school.

Photo by Charles Fox

The Animal Connection

APNM's Humane Education Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report dog bites are the fifth most common reason children are admitted to emergency rooms. In the spring of 2009, Bernalillo County Animal Services requested a partnership with APNM to address the rising number of dog bites in the county. The job of creating such a presentation fell to APNM staff member and retired teacher, Sherry Mangold.



What began as a Loose Dog and Bite Safety presentation for the Bernalillo County Community Centers grew to both a 12-week and 4-week program of humane education now known as *The Animal Connection*. In 2011, the pilot program was introduced to 5th grade classes at Valencia Elementary School in Los Lunas. From there it expanded to eight elementary and middle schools in Albuquerque. Through generous grants from the Brindle Foundation, the Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation, and The Sherpa Fund, the Santa Fe District elementary schools of Kearny, Gonzales, Nava, and Tesuque were able to be added as program recipients. The programs rely on donations and grant monies to operate.

In 2014, 804 New Mexico children participated in *The Animal Connection* programs. In order to fulfill the teacher requests, Cindy Wacek and Lyndi Martinez joined APNM's teaching staff.

The 12-week *Animal Connection* program can be adapted for grades 3 through 8. It consists of classroom presentations

covering Loose Dog and Bite Safety, and other topics such as Animal Care and Responsibility, Life and Death in the Shelter, The Need for Spay and Neuter, The Importance of Micro-Chipping, Blood Sports, and The Link Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence. Students also experience a virtual tour of a farm animal sanctuary and receive classroom visits from veterinarians and animal welfare officers.

The visit from local animal welfare officers is of significant importance. The officers discuss their training, demonstrate the use of their equipment, and explain what an animal experiences when taken to the shelter. Students tour the trucks and vans used to transport animals. After having the opportunity to speak with the officers, students invariably come to the conclusion that the officers are animal heroes—their work is to protect animals from neglectful and abusive people and to protect people from dangerous animals.

Another key presentation covers the Consequences of Chaining. Here again, the safety of the animal as well as



Sherry, Buster, and a student

(continued from previous page)

people is explored. Animals left chained 24/7 can suffer from embedded collars and become entangled in their chains. They often cannot reach shelter, shade, food, or water and are unable to get away from attacks by loose animals. Chained dogs often become territorial and aggressive if anyone enters their space. Because of this, they are much more likely to bite. This is a crucial lesson for children to learn. The pros and cons of alternate methods of containing an animal are also explored.

During the 12-week period, the students conduct research on an adoptable animal of their choice. They learn the costs involved with caring for the animal, including veterinary needs, the space and exercise needed for the animal to thrive, and the permits, licenses, and ordinances related to having this companion animal. Their research culminates in a formal essay in which the students decide, based on their findings, if this is an appropriate animal for their family at this time. In order to share the information they have discovered, the paper becomes the basis for a creative presentation to their class, parents, and invited guests.

The students' work fulfills the Common Core Standards required by the New Mexico Department of Public Education. But, most importantly, the students engage their families. Parents relate that dinner table conversations revolve around the proper care of animals: "Is Rex neutered?" "Did we have Sadie micro-chipped?" Because of educated, empathetic students and their convinced parents, companion animals have been spayed, neutered, licensed, vaccinated, taken off chains, and brought into homes.

Pre-K through 2nd graders are treated to the 4-week *Animal Connection Jr.* program. The students learn about the daily needs of animals and their responsibilities to them. They, too, work with registered therapy dogs to learn how to safely behave around animals. In other sessions students read to

non-judgmental therapy dogs and learn about farm animals through interactive activities.

APNM's humane education programs are also available to adult groups. Topics include adult versions of *The Animal Connection* presentations, Local Ordinances and State Statutes, Adoption Options, The Terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Choosing the Right Companion Animal, and the Red Flags of Animal Sales. Senior citizens learn the Rewards and Responsibilities of Having a Companion Animal.

Caring for New Mexico's animals is APNM's labor of love. Teaching children that animals are sentient beings who, in order to be happy, healthy, and safe, need the same things in life as do people carries over to the understanding of the needs of family, friends, and communities. This is the systemic change that will improve the lives of all living beings.

For more information on *The Animal Connection* and to view a short video of the program in action please visit: apnm.org/programs/education/



The Animal Connection team

Why I Support APNM

"I donate because you help pass laws that protect animals, and you are on the watch for things that harm animals."



Rebecca Fox Loring, quarterly APNM donor

"I am amazed by APNM's professionalism, its follow-up and ability to provide help when we don't know what to do about an animal-related problem! The organization gives people a lot of hope. It helps us sleep at night."



Eileen Beaulieu, member of the APNM Compassion Circle (monthly giving program)

Humane Education Field Trip:

A Visit to Sherpa's Farm

The newest presentation within *The Animal Connection* program is a virtual tour of Sherpa's Farm, a farm animal sanctuary in northern New Mexico. Within the film, the students meet the owner and ranch manager, learn the history of the sanctuary, the background stories of each of the featured rescued animals, and see the daily chores and responsibilities involved with caring for these wonderful, loving animals.

But what could be better than meeting Ruthie, Dutchess, Spring, Knight, Helena, and the other animals in person? This past November that wish came true for the kindergarten and 5th grade classes from Tesuque Elementary. By actually meeting the animal stars of the film, the students quickly came to realize that, in spite of their size, cows, horses, llamas, sheep, mules, donkeys, and goats thrive on the humane care and attention they receive at Sherpa's Farm. Watching the delight on the children's faces as the animals readily trotted over to be greeted, petted, and adored by their admirers provided the best lesson of all. Mutual trust and love between people and animals is a crucial element to a better world.



Photo by Cindy Wacek

ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO: CRUELTY HOTLINE

Persistence Leads to Prosecution of Charlie's Killer

It was a quiet night in late November of 2012, just before Thanksgiving. As the girl stood in the dark outside the home she shared with her parents, the night's silence was broken abruptly by a gunshot. She heard a dog cry out in pain and immediately thought of Charlie,* the gentle, shy, goofy Great Dane/Heeler mix puppy her family had recently rescued. She began to run toward the sound as a second gunshot rang out.

The shadow of the male neighbor loomed at the property line fence, holding a rifle and a flashlight, his 12-year-old son at his side. The light's beam revealed the still, crumpled form

of Charlie. As she got closer, she knew he was dead. Only then did she realize how lucky she was—the man had shot in her direction as she stood outside, unprotected. She slumped to her knees next to her lifeless companion and began sobbing. The second shot had killed Charlie as he tried to crawl to safety. Before long, blue and red flashing lights illuminated the scene.

The neighbor would later tell a Sheriff's Deputy that the dog had been threatening his sheep, that he did not know his 16-year-old neighbor was outside, and that he had shot Charlie a second time as the dog dragged himself toward his home. While being

questioned, the man plainly stated, "I shot the son-of-a-bitch, hoping it would run off and die."

Those words would come back to haunt him; in January of 2015, a jury found him guilty of Extreme Animal Cruelty, a 4th degree felony. Although the prosecutor requested jail time, the District Court Judge sentenced the shooter to 18 months of probation, a mental health evaluation, and attendance and completion of an animal cruelty class. Even though the shooter will not spend any time in jail, the felony conviction sends the perpetrator a strong message about his unacceptable and dangerous conduct.

APNM's Cruelty Case Manager assisted Charlie's owner and other local citizens with voicing their concerns about this case to the District Attorney's Office and prosecuting attorney throughout the two-year-long judicial process.

*Charlie's name and other details have been changed to protect anonymity of those involved.

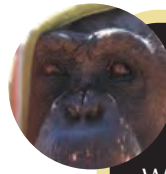
**Witness animal cruelty or neglect? Call the APNM
Cruelty Hotline 1-877-5-HUMANE**

We can help and refer the situation to the right agency in your area. *Confidentially.*



A Statewide Snapshot of 2014

Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM): *Making sure animals matter in every New Mexican community* for nearly four decades. APNM is challenging historic and widespread animal cruelty through its ambitious initiatives.



Chimpanzees to Sanctuary Program

Work for permanent sanctuary for chimpanzees currently held at Alamogordo Primate Facility



Keeping New Mexicans Involved, Informed

- Email alerts/program updates
- Website resources (apnm.org)
- **Making Tracks®** magazine (apnm.org/makingtracks/)
- Outreach booths
- Volunteer/Internship programs (apnm.org/get_involved/volunteer1.php)



Equine Protection Program

- **Equine Protection Fund**, including feed assistance, veterinary care, humane euthanasia
- Equine safety net development
- Preventing horse slaughter
- 600 horses helped as of December 2014



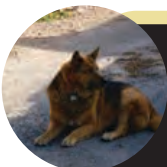
Coexisting with Wildlife Program

- Work to ban killing contests and wildlife trapping/poisoning on public lands
- Humane solutions to beaver "challenges"
- **Cougar Smart New Mexico** coexistence, education, awareness program



Humane Education Program

- *The Animal Connection* program
- Community presentations to audiences of all ages
- Reached more than 800 students in 2014



Challenging Animal Cruelty Program

- Animal cruelty hotline managed 938 calls, promoted rewards in four cruelty cases
- Comprehensive, statewide *Animal Resources Guide*
- Law enforcement, agency training



Humane Communities & Animal Sheltering Program

- Animal shelter, community, and **Animal Sheltering Board** support
- Spay-neuter support, promotion
- Alternatives to dog chaining
- Local ordinance enhancements
- Disaster preparedness with animals in mind
- **Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE)** network for animals of domestic violence victims, expanded the CARE network to 35 providers, provided 20 client referrals and direct assistance to 9 clients involving 47 animals

Drive Home the Message

Every year, New Mexico's public and private animal shelters take in more than 135,000 dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens. Of those, over 65,000 are euthanized. Every year. Can we ever turn this tragedy into a success story for New Mexico? Yes, we can, because this vast overpopulation is so preventable. Spaying and neutering dogs and cats is, of course, the best way to save lives and achieve lasting change.

The challenge, however, is finding enough funding to vastly increase public access to affordable spay/neuter services statewide. In the current economy, this can only become a reality by identifying and maximizing multiple funding sources, one of APNM's priorities for 2015 and beyond.

Fortunately, there is one steady, statewide source for spay/neuter funds already in place: New Mexico's "Pet-Care Spay/Neuter" license plate. \$25 of each purchase price goes directly to a state-level spay/neuter account administered by the Animal Sheltering Board, a Governor-appointed state regulatory board whose members have expertise in animal welfare issues. Last year, the board received permission to distribute the license plate revenues, which had built up to a meaningful level in the years since the New Mexico Legislature created the plate. The board made available approximately \$30,000 to 44 low-cost spay/neuter programs in 28 counties.

APNM is calling on all animal advocates to help replenish this life-saving spay/neuter account. The number of plates sold directly relates to the dollars available for spay/neuter surgeries. That's why a spay/neuter license plate for your car is a must-have for 2015. It's one simple thing you can do that will make a huge difference for animals in New Mexico. You can feel good about promoting the spay-neuter message every time you drive your car. Plus, you'll set a great example for other drivers to do the same.



New Mexico's spay/neuter license plate is easy to purchase.

Plates must be ordered from the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department (not through APNM). Order forms may be obtained at any MVD field office, MVD Express, or downloaded from the MVD website at: mvd.newmexico.gov/organizations-and-causes.aspx.

You can order your spay/neuter plate at any time, by mail, telephone, online, or in person. Some MVD offices have a small supply of specialty plates in stock, otherwise your plate will arrive by mail. If you already have a current license plate on your vehicle, you will receive the new plate at the time when your regular motor vehicle registration renewal is due.

If you already have a spay/neuter license plate, your renewal option notice comes to you automatically with each regular registration renewal.

Plates are only \$37 each year, paid in addition to your regular motor vehicle registration fee. (\$25 from each plate initially sold or renewed will go to New Mexico's statewide dog and cat spay/neuter fund.)

If you'd like to help promote New Mexico's spay/neuter license plate in your community or business, color posters are available free of charge from APNM. You can also download a copy at: apnm.org/campaigns/spay_neuter/



Saturday, October 3, 2015
Hyatt Regency Tamaya
Resort & Spa, Bernalillo

★ Become a sponsor
 ★ Nominate a hero
 ★ Order tickets

apnm.org/milagro
 505-265-2322 ext.21

THE ALPHA MISTAKE:



In February of 2008, Dr. David Mech, a wildlife scientist who has been studying wolves since 1958, recorded a video of himself explaining how the term “alpha” as he first introduced it (relating to the study of wolf behavior), was wrong. He admitted that he had made a mistake in categorizing wolf behavior in this way.

“I’m very much to blame,” Dr. Mech states, explaining in the video that since he published a book in 1970 based on his observations of captive wolves in artificially assembled groups, science has made big strides in gaining a better understanding of wolf behavior. “In the 35 years since that time, we’ve learned a lot,” Dr. Mech states. For example, in natural settings, **wolves do not compete and fight for a dominant status**, as was observed in the stressful, captive, and artificial settings in which they had been studied. Instead, in their natural environments, they simply behave like the mother wolf and the father wolf (sometimes called the “breeding male” and the “breeding female” by scientists). Just as in human families, the parents are in charge of raising the litter, and as subsequent litters are born, the older children help in rearing the young. There are no fights for dominance or establishing of alpha roles. It’s more like a common family unit, with the elders assuming more responsibility and giving guidance to the young as they grow.

Why would a scientist go to such great and public lengths to admit that he was wrong? As a renowned expert in his field, Dr. Mech felt it was important to set the record straight—for wolves *and* for dogs. He has even tried to remove his original 1970 book from publication, but copies still exist. For wolf behavior, science has moved on. But when this erroneous assumption of “alpha” and “dominance” was mistakenly applied to dogs (first through the Monks of New Skete, then through Cesar Milan), the damage grew exponentially.

As untrained dog trainers pop up, yielding “energy-based,” “whispered” solutions to dog behavior problems through becoming alpha or asserting

How a Scientist’s Error Became a Lucrative Buzzword and Why DOGS ARE PAYING THE PRICE

dominance, our dogs are paying the price. *Although the science of dog behavior has advanced in leaps and bounds beyond this false assumption about canine behavior and motivations, popular television shows and uninformed trainers continue to advise dog owners to use forceful methods that, at best, will result in a temporary suppression of behavior. At worst, they can cause a dangerous escalation of fear-based aggression.*

The scientific truth is that dogs don’t relate to us as alpha or beta or dominant or submissive. They have a fluid relationship with us that can best be described as “parent-child,” wherein we provide food and shelter and companionship. When they behave in a way that can be labeled aggressive, the cause of this is most often fear, not an attempt to “assert dominance over us.” Becoming the “pack leader” has led many well-intentioned dog owners to yank on leashes, pin their dogs down, or worse. This can result in a dog shutting down...or lashing out. What it will not do is teach the dog how to behave better. We know this from modern studies of animal behavior—learning doesn’t happen under these conditions. It will not foster trust, but it will exacerbate fear and most likely worsen the very behavior you are trying to change.

For a more effective and current approach to changing (and understanding) your dog’s behavior, look to certified trainers and behaviorists who use science-based, positive reinforcement methods of training. Through these methods, learning will be fun for both you and your dog. And when serious reactivity is the case (in other words, if your dog is behaving in an aggressive manner towards you or towards others), consult a professional, certified trainer. Don’t let a TV show tell you what to do—for your own sake, and for your dog’s. While the “alpha” myth has been a big entertainment success, it has unfortunately been a terrible failure for helping us understand and relate to our dogs.

To watch Dr. Mech’s video online, visit:
tinyurl.com/kaok35w

To find a qualified, certified trainer, consult a professional organization such as:

Association of Professional Dog Trainers: apdt.com

Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers: ccpdt.org

Karen Pryor Academy: karenpryoracademy.com

American College of Veterinary Behaviorists: dacvb.org

Animals Need You

Take action and take pride in making a difference for them. Here are 10 simple suggestions:

- 1 Buy a spay/neuter license plate for your car and get your friends to do the same.
apnm.org/snplate
- 2 Spread the word about spay/neuter programs in your area. Volunteer your time for local clinics.
apnm.org/snprograms
- 3 Donate your used vehicle to APNM. Free pick up and tax-deductible.
apnm.org/vehicle
- 4 Help APNM's Straw Fund reach more animals in need during winter months.
apnm.org/strawfund
- 5 Go vegan.
apnm.org/vegan
- 6 Report animal cruelty to APNM's hotline: 1-877-5-HUMANE.
apnm.org/hotline
- 7 Donate all or part of your tax refund to the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund.
apnm.org/pitd
- 8 Volunteer with APNM or APV.
apnm.org/volunteer
apvnm.org/volunteer
- 9 Include companion animals in your family's disaster planning.
apnm.org/safety
- 10 Make a contribution to APNM or APV in honor of a loved family member or friend.
apnm.org/honor
apvnm.org/honor

Thank you for taking action to help animals in New Mexico.

ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO: YOUR GIVING MATTERS

Can the Price of *Two Cups of Coffee* Make a Difference?

It can when you join APNM's Compassion Circle. For a monthly donation of as little as the cost of two cups of coffee, you can join us in making humane changes for animals in our state. The programs you'll be helping us to continue include:

- ♥ Challenging Animal Cruelty: receiving and coordinating responses to cruelty hotline calls, providing crucial assistance in law enforcement's cruelty investigations, and more
- ♥ Equine Protection: expanding the Equine Protection Fund to provide humane equine services, law enforcement training, and more
- ♥ Humane Communities and Animal Sheltering: providing shelter support including spay-neuter resources, "Train.Don't Chain™" campaign, and more
- ♥ Humane Education: through *The Animal Connection*, providing humane education in schools across the state, and more
- ♥ Chimpanzees to Sanctuary: building support for the permanent retirement of the chimps currently housed at the Alamogordo Primate Facility
- ♥ Coexisting with Wildlife: promoting humane coexistence with cougars, beavers, and other wildlife throughout the state, and more



To join APNM's Compassion Circle, sign up for a recurring donation at apnm.org or give us a call at 505-265-2322. **Together, we can accomplish great things for animals.**

The Loss of a Loved One Inspires the Creation of a Compassionate Rescue Group

It started with a cat named "Ninety-Nine" and a long drive from California. Janet Philippsen's mom, June, had just passed away and left behind her senior cat. No one had offered to take in Ninety-Nine, and Janet could not bear the idea of her mom's beloved cat being euthanized at their local shelter due to her age.

She drove to California to bring Ninety-Nine back to New Mexico. On that long drive, she committed herself to help other senior cats as well. That was back in 2005. Ninety-Nine was with Janet for nine months before she passed away. Looking back, she's grateful that she could care for Ninety-Nine in her last months.

Janet started on a mission, and established **June's Senior Cat Rescue** as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in March of 2013. Named in honor of her mother, the rescue has several foster networks that try to take in as many senior cats as possible when guardians pass away. Some are also accepted as hospice cases when the guardian can no longer care for them.

A long term goal for the group is to have a sanctuary to increase their capacity. She realizes the challenges ahead, but is determined to help this underserved, needy population in any way she can.

If you would like to volunteer, foster, donate, or receive more information about June's Senior Cat Rescue, please contact Janet at (505) 220-3528 or by email: junescats@q.com.



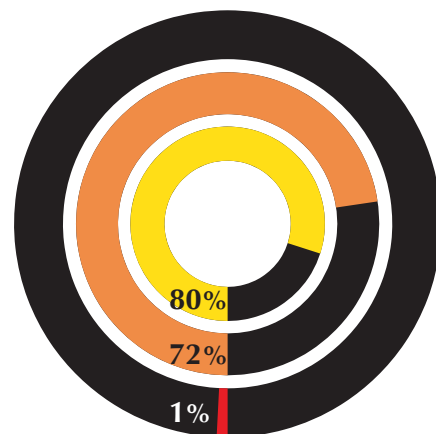
Sadie, adopted at age 14 from June's Senior Cat Rescue. Photo courtesy of her new family.

CHALLENGE GRANTS: Doubling Your Dollars

Will you help us help more horses and other equines? There's still time before the June 30, 2015 deadline to have your dollars matched through our equine challenge grants. Please donate today and your impact will be doubled. You can earmark your donation for Horses in the Future, Horses Now, or for the special Pond Grant (a grant that will double donations given by new donors through June 30, 2015).

Visit apnm.org/donate

PERCENTAGE TOWARD MEETING GOALS



- Horses Future
- Pond Grant
- Horses Now





Kick Off Spring with the Ultimate Superfood: Zesty Kale Salad

Eating kale and other foods rich in antioxidants is a great way to give your system a “spring cleaning,” eliminating excess free radicals that can damage healthy cells. Just a cup of kale has the recommended daily intake of vitamin C. Although kale is a winter green, it is usually available in early spring and often year round. Several varieties can be used including curly kale, Tuscan kale, and dinosaur kale, which has large, dark blue flat leaves, an interesting bumpy texture, and a nuttier flavor. Super food, super simple!

Salad

- 8 oz. shredded kale
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- 1 ½ cups diced avocado
- 1 ½ cups diced tomato
- ¼ cup chopped cilantro

Dressing

- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 2 cloves minced fresh garlic
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper powder (more to taste)
- pinch of red pepper flakes

Toss dry salad ingredients together in a large salad bowl. Mix salad dressing separately and toss in with salt and pepper to taste. Mix thoroughly for at least five minutes to allow the avocado and dressing to fully coat the kale. Let salad marinate for thirty minutes before serving.

Add salt sparingly as kale has a naturally, slightly salty flavor. Top with toasted bread cubes or croutons (optional).



Choosing *Humane*—One Meal at a Time

By now you know your food choices affect animals, and not just a little. If you are searching for five-star, fine cuisine that is animal-friendly, *The Conscious Cook* by Tal Ronnen is your cookbook. These delicious, healthy, and plant-based recipes will surprise and please the palate of the most ardent meat-eater. Tal Ronnen helps you create mouth-watering, gourmet meals without harming any animals. These recipes will soon become your all-time favorites.

Or if you're on a tight budget, you can find hundreds of free and fabulous meat-free recipes online from the Humane Society of the United States at humanesociety.org/recipes/.



PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192
www.apnm.org

*Making sure animals matter in
every New Mexican community.*



Congratulations to Joan McMahon!

Joan won the Equine Protection Fund's drawing for a behind-the-scenes tour of the magnificent Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary in Northern New Mexico. Joan and three lucky guests will have an exclusive opportunity to meet the Sky Mountain Mustang Band and learn how the sanctuary and its

partners are using humane approaches and science to keep more wild horses free in sustainable numbers here in New Mexico. Many thanks to Karen Herman, Co-Founder and President of the Sanctuary, for providing this amazing experience to an Equine Protection Fund donor.

Photo by Tony Bonnano



Photo by Charles Fox

Sherry Mangold

ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO: **FACES OF APNM**

Sherry started working at APNM in 2006 as Senior Cruelty Case Manager, answering the APNM Animal Cruelty Hotline and managing animal abuse cases. Because of her background as an educator, she knew mistreatment of animals in our communities would only end through preventative efforts, namely instilling in children a sense of compassion for animals.

Sherry developed a humane education program that uses therapy dogs in the classroom to teach academic concepts through topics in animal welfare. She piloted the program in an elementary school in Valencia County. Within the next several years the program developed into *The Animal Connection*, APNM's premiere humane education initiative.

Sherry is a career educator and the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Golden Apple Foundation. She taught English and Theater at Eldorado High School in Albuquerque for 30 years. Sherry has six dogs, four of whom are registered therapy dogs who accompany her to APNM classroom programs in over a dozen schools in three New Mexico counties.

Sherry's work with dogs extends beyond her duties at APNM. She is a Rescue and Adoption Coordinator for Greyhound Companions of New Mexico, and the Board Treasurer of the international group, Grey2K USA Worldwide. She is also a therapy dog evaluator and trainer for the Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers.