



MAKING TRACKS

A Quarterly Publication of Animal Protection of New Mexico Fall 2016

**OUTDATED
UNSCIENTIFIC
BIASED
ILLEGAL
CRUEL:**
**WHY WILDLIFE
POLICIES IN
NEW MEXICO
NEED TO CHANGE**



Dear Friends of the Animals,

In our world of working to improve policies affecting animals, I'm constantly thinking about, referring to, and talking about *time*. After all, that notion—time—governs so much of what we do here at Animal Protection of New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters.

In our 2015 Annual Report, we remind our members that “to understand fundamental change, one must first understand time.” Of course what we mean by that is that it usually takes a significant amount of time to address root causes. In fact, our society as we know it seems to almost demand a certain passage of time before something can change. Some would argue that's because our deliberative system of democracy calls for and even requires lengthy discourse and inquiry.

But time alone isn't all that's involved in moving policies—and our society—forward so things are better for vulnerable animals. Change requires a vision of what is possible, a commitment to the task at hand, and a determination not to be stymied when people throw obstacles in the way. APNM and its legislative arm, APV, offer all of those things and much more.

In putting forth our vision for the future—to make humane the new normal in New Mexico—we want you to know we are both impatient for change, and committed to whatever time frame it takes to persuade the majority of policymakers in our state to choose the humane course.

Humane laws and practices are almost universally supported by New Mexicans. Our charge in the days, months, and years ahead is to hone our arguments, sharpen our skills, muster more resources, and harmonize our voices into a chorus that appeals to lawmakers and guides their decision-making sooner rather than later. The animals are waiting.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

MAKING TRACKS™

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NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE POLICIES: CHANGE NEEDED IN EVERY DIRECTION

An In-Depth Look at the Legislative Challenges We Face

New Mexico has one of the highest degrees of wildlife diversity of any state in the U.S., but our state's commitment to protecting that native wildlife leaves a lot to be desired.

New Mexico,
2015:
18 COYOTE
KILLING
CONTESTS



Killing Contests

New Mexico permits killing contests in which coyotes are gunned down in mass killing sprees, and contestants who kill "the most" or "the youngest" or "the oldest" are bestowed with prizes of cash and/or weapons. In 2015, at least 18 coyote killing contests were held across nine or more counties. This unethical practice is widely decried by New Mexicans, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, region, or political party. Yet a 2015 state bill to prohibit the practice, while it passed the State Senate, died in the Republican-controlled House Agriculture, Water & Wildlife Committee (a group dominated by ranching interests).

Traps, Poisons on Public Lands

New Mexico, unlike its neighbors to the north (Colorado) and west (Arizona), permits traps and poisons on its public lands, which comprise over 47% of the land mass of our state, the 5th largest in the country. Again, a 2015 state bill to ban traps and poisons on public lands died in the House Agriculture, Water & Wildlife Committee.

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New Mexico's Wildlife Policies: Change Needed in Every Direction

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Ignoring Best Practices with Beavers

New Mexico's practices related to keystone species, like beavers, contribute to an unhealthy status quo. Beavers who eat someone's prized trees or contribute to local flooding have little to no chance of surviving once they've been identified as "offending." Best practices, such as installing flow devices and "beaver deceivers," are more the exception than the rule, relegating to the sidelines the proof that thriving beaver populations support thriving populations of many other species, while helping improve local water tables in arid New Mexico.

New Mexico's practices related to keystone species, like beavers, contribute to an unhealthy status quo.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico's agency responsible for managing wildlife, is governed by archaic statutes that fail to acknowledge wildlife concepts as commonplace today as "biodiversity" or "ecosystem management." **Instead the agency's focus is on managing populations of species to optimize hunting revenue, rather than for biological diversity and ecological balance.** With respect to carnivores, hunting revenue is only part of the calculation. The agency often acts as if "the more you can kill, the better," either as a tip-of-the-hat to the livestock industry, a misinformed and futile attempt to guard prey species people want to hunt, or both.

While there are significant problems with the management

of hunted species (referred to as "protected" game species), things are even worse for the majority of our state's other wild species, those whose killing is not regulated whatsoever. Coyotes, for instance, are considered "varmints" and can be killed anytime, anywhere, for any reason. The coyote population is not monitored, the numbers killed are not even tracked, and the cascading effects of killing them on other wildlife and the land itself have never been comprehensively studied in New Mexico. This tragic reality is played out over and over with the many other species whose populations are considered unworthy of tracking.

Beaver Coexistence Benefits Everyone

Beavers can justifiably be considered nature's engineers. Where they hear running water, they build dams in order to create ponds. The benefits of their activities are many, including improved water quality for humans and habitat creation for wildlife and flora. When beaver activities result

in flooding of structures, roads, or fields, there are proven steps people can take to solve the problems while preserving beavers' naturally beneficial structures and activities. For more detailed information, see APNM's comprehensive beaver resources at apnm.org/campaigns/beavers/



The Public Trust Doctrine: Ignored, Forgotten, or Never Learned

The Public Trust Doctrine is a principle that a sovereign government (like New Mexico) holds certain resources in trust for the public, shared by all, regardless of the concept of private property. New Mexico's wildlife is one of those shared resources, making the protection and conservation of wildlife the business of everyone in New Mexico.

However, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) employees and even Game Commissioners, tasked respectively with recommending and passing wildlife policies, are often openly hostile to the idea that everyday New Mexicans—including the majority of people who do not buy hunting or fishing licenses or raise cattle—care about wildlife. And these everyday New Mexicans not only deserve to have a voice in how the state's wildlife is managed, but they *need* to have that voice if wildlife is to be truly held in the public trust.

Far too often, the NMDGF rarely gives credence to average citizens, treating them as outsiders to an exclusive club of ranchers and guides/outfitters who drive decision-making. In addition, unlike federal agency actions, “best available science” is neither required nor valued as a basis for the agency's decisions.

Of course, this problem is exacerbated by the fact that NMDGF receives much of its funding from the Game Protection Fund, whose dollars come from hunter and angler license revenue, supplemented by federal dollars accrued from hunting and fishing equipment sales, and ammunition. While the agency is in fact supported by *all taxpayers*—the agency occupies a state building and is supported by a variety of other state agencies—this antiquated funding scheme creates a pervasive, although erroneous, attitude that hunters' and anglers' voices are the only ones that count.

In the future, a new, powerful funding mechanism beyond hunting and fishing license revenue—one that would reflect the broad spectrum of the ways New Mexico's residents and tourists enjoy our wildlife, including wildlife watching—would help correct that attitude. Plus, it would make available desperately needed funds to help ensure both game and nongame species are adequately protected.



“Defenders of the short-sighted men who in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things sometimes seek to champion them by saying ‘the game belongs to the people.’ So it does; and not merely to the people now alive, but to the unborn people. The ‘greatest good for the greatest number’ applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.”

—President Theodore Roosevelt,
‘Bird Reserves at the Mouth of the Mississippi’
A Book-Lover's Holidays in the Open (1920)

New Mexico's Wildlife Policies: Change Needed in Every Direction

Policy-Making Problems

The seven individuals appointed to the New Mexico Game Commission—the policy-making body that oversees the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish—are widely recognized as politically connected donors to the sitting Governor. Individual commissioners seem to exercise almost no independent inquiry, and rarely, if ever, question the recommendations of NMDGF personnel. The few requirements for commission service make almost no reference to relevant education and experience, and are practically useless in ensuring a knowledgeable body capable of creating state-of-the-art, science-based policy for our state's crucial wildlife.

Outdated wildlife policies that may no longer make sense in the 21st century are not limited to NMDGF alone. **The current State Land Commissioner, Aubrey Dunn, has sanctioned and even encouraged more trapping and wildlife killing contests on nine million acres of state trust lands.**

Another recent example came to light when a marathon runner, competing at an event in the Valles Caldera National Preserve, was attacked by a mother black bear who was surprised by the runner and responded naturally by protecting her two cubs in the immediate area. Because of a state Department of Health mandate, the mother bear was euthanized to be tested for rabies—without consideration of the circumstances of the attack and despite no known incidents of rabid black bears ever in New Mexico. There is now an immediate and determined call for reconsideration of the Department of Health regulation, an effort led by the very woman who was attacked, Karen Williams. "I was in the bear's house," said Karen, a critical care nurse and newly minted wildlife advocate. "I need to take responsibility for myself, and we need to hold people responsible for themselves." Yet the Department of Health views the decision to euthanize and test an animal involved in an attack as none of the patient's business, even when they would voluntarily undergo rabies treatment to save the animal's life.

Excerpt from NM Game Commission Meeting Minutes, June 23, 2016*

Take a look at this exchange at a recent Game Commission meeting. Commissioner of Public Lands Aubrey Dunn (who requested the radical expansion of cougar trapping on state trust lands) and the Game Commission decide to post signage for traps only at main access points, **arguably putting trappers' concerns above public safety.**

COMMISSIONER DUNN: I think one of the things that came up, one of the changes we would like to include is on the trapping issue on State Trust Lands, we're getting more and more recreational permits out and so we'd like some signage whenever trappers have traps out. ...So the idea, if we had some signage at the gate or where the entrance is prior to where people go in trapping it would be nice for people because we have people with dogs and everything. Especially as you get closer to towns but even out in remote areas, they're walking dogs. So that's a concern we have...

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, thank you Commissioner Dunn and Laura for the presentation. The State Land Office folks have been working very well with us. We've spent a lot of time figuring out where those points are and how to get the signs out there. So that's gone very well. As Commissioner Dunn did point out, one of the changes, proposed changes, is the signage for trapping. I think that's something that we're still trying to work through. There are some concerns about where those signs would be required to be placed, whether it's at the entrance or next to the actual trap sites...

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Too close to the trap even though the State Trust Lands do not have public access but people are there by permit of course and signs close to the trap would cause some public people to disturb the sets. So I could certainly see why that would be a point of discussion....

COMMISSIONER DUNN: Commissioner and Chairman or Commission, I think from my standpoint if we want to not worry about signage next to the traps, we'll just say we want signage at the access point going in and call it a day and go on. So then there's no argument.

*<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/>

The Road Ahead

Clearly, improving these and many other wildlife policies and practices will require a long-term and multi-faceted approach. APNM and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters (APV), continue to develop and implement this evolving strategy. Standing in the way are a century's worth of outdated statutes, a severe lack of ethical considerations in determining wildlife management, an oversized bias against wildlife in favor of narrow livestock interests, a game commission structure that guarantees the status quo, perpetually underfunded wildlife conservation programs, and fear-based and flawed information about the role and value of various wild species in our state's ecosystems.

Tackling this tangled web and developing a sensible wildlife management approach for the decades ahead will be a monumental but crucial task for wildlife advocates in our state. APNM and APV are up to that challenge, but substantial resources and a tidal wave of advocate voices are needed to effect that change.

In the near term, APNM is challenging one of the most egregious and recent decisions impacting New Mexico's wildlife, the dramatic expansion of cougar trapping, sanctioned by the New Mexico Game Commission last year. For details on what you can do to help stop this madness, see Actions Everyone Can Take section on page 11.

Our Accomplishments in Improving NM Wildlife Practices: Some Progress Made, More Needed



Launched campaign exposing unacceptable levels of wildlife killing by the federal agency Animal Damage Control, now euphemistically called **Wildlife Services (WS)**.



Defeated efforts to increase **WS** state funding. Helped expose bird deaths in private oil and gas operations.



Sued the **U.S. Army**, stopped a planned trophy bison hunt. Got state funding of **WS** reduced. Exposed **WS's** illegal use of poisons to kill coyotes in Gila National Forest—**WS** fined \$1,000 for the first time.



Exposed **King Royal Circus'** mistreatment of circus animals—circus lost license, fined \$200,000 (largest fine ever levied by **USDA** at the time).



Convinced **Game Commission** to establish cougar quotas and zone management.



Passed law making extreme animal cruelty (including wildlife) a felony. **Ghost Ranch Living Museum** (roadside zoo with native wildlife) closed after publication of our stinging report about animal neglect, abuse. **Santa Fe Lions Club** agreed not to use animals in circuses.



Circuses not allowed on Albuquerque city property due to animal abuse.



Persuaded **NM Game & Fish** to cancel coyote killing for deer management. Launched *Beavers Belong!* advocacy campaign. **Sterling & Reid Circus** not allowed to perform at Tingley Coliseum due to cruelty record, another circus denied entry to state.



APNM chaired **Tijeras Canyon Safe Passages Coalition** (to create safe passages for wildlife where highways bisect habitat).



NM Dept. of Transportation approved safe passages recommendations in Tijeras Canyon.



Statewide poll—63% of New Mexicans support trap ban on public lands. Held *Beavers Belong!* training and flow device installation in Taos County. Started Tijeras Canyon improvements.



Alamogordo rattlesnake roundup ended, in wake of vocal opposition and event drawing unwelcome activities to Alamogordo.



Secured greater protections for female cougars; abolished decades-old preemptive cougar killing program.



Published the *Landowners' Guide to Non-Lethal Beaver Solutions*. Launched *Cougar-Smart New Mexico* program. Cougar hunter education required.



Joined other partners in launching *Trap Free New Mexico*.



Introduced bills to ban killing contests and traps/poisons on public lands.



Helped local advocates pass ordinances against trapping in Los Alamos County and Jemez Springs. Trained activists in six communities in animal advocacy.



Launched *Stop Cougar Trapping* campaign. Commissioned poll showing New Mexicans oppose trapping by stunning 3 to 1 margin. Bill to ban coyote killing contests passed New Mexico Senate (first state to pass this bill in any chamber).



Sued **NM Game & Fish** in response to unscientific and unethical "Cougar Rule," and for violating the Endangered Species Act (putting endangered wolves and jaguars at risk).

Happiness at Long Last for 19 Chimps

Retirement has come at last for Rosie, Cammy, Elijah, Theo, Opal, Levi, Cleopatra, Angel, Barney, Camillo, Casey, Huby, Jerry, Latoya, Michael, Pocus, Ruble, Tiffany, and Russell.

All of these chimps suffered long, hard years in the lab.

Rosie has always known what it means to suffer. She never got to experience the normal life of a baby chimpanzee. Born in the lab in 1981, she was taken away from her mother at six months old, shipped across the country for use in bleeding studies, infected with hepatitis C, and forced to have at least 15 liver biopsies.

New Mexicans were rightly outraged in 2010 when the National Institutes of Health callously shipped Rosie away from New Mexico, where she had been free from invasive testing for nearly a decade, to a Texas lab so she could be poked and prodded for the rest of her life. APNM and our supporters challenged the cruel plan at every turn, generating serious and thoughtful local and national criticism, building unstoppable momentum.

Our leaders responded with a cascading series of inquiries that led to monumental changes at federal agencies. Notably, U.S. Senators Tom Udall, Martin Heinrich, and Jeff Bingaman, joined by Governor Bill Richardson, effectively protected Rosie from further testing, kicked off a scientific study which led to the end of the use of chimps in government-funded research across the whole country, and pressed relentlessly for Rosie and all other New Mexico chimps held at a Texas lab to finally live in true sanctuary.

At last, 19 survivors were shipped to their forever home in Louisiana at Chimp Haven sanctuary earlier this year.

Take heart. Look at Rosie, and be thankful we were successful in helping to change her life for good. If you agree we humans owe precious individuals like Rosie a chance at love and happiness, please consider a monthly gift to help all New Mexico chimps reach sanctuary. There are still 139 chimps in Alamogordo. It's not too late to change their lives as well. Visit www.ChimpsToSanctuary.org or email marisa@apnm.org to learn more.

Why I Support APNM



Photo by Cliff Larsen

"I count my volunteering with APNM among THE MOST satisfying things I've done while living here, if not in my entire life—wonderful people, lots accomplished. Long live the chimps... in sanctuary!"

Marsha Larsen

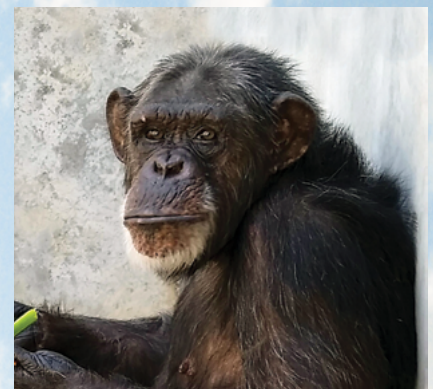
Updates from Chimp Haven



Cammy was born in 1980 on Holloman Air Force Base and taken away from her mother the same day. In sanctuary, the 35-year-old is often seen playing with her friend, Casey, or exploring.




Rosie (right), shown walking in this photo with Casey, is a very sweet, people-oriented female. The 34-year-old is bold and sometimes impatient when her groupmates get rambunctious, but she gets along with all of them, and is always kind and gentle.



Opal came to Chimp Haven with her sister, Angel. She is the younger of the two, but still quite strong and defensive. The 35-year-old is friendly with people, and is known to have a dramatic and dominant personality.

Photos courtesy of Chimp Haven.



Breaking News: Cougar Update

A spring-loaded leg-hold trap will violently clamp down on the first thing that lands between its steel jaws. It could be set for a cougar, but it can catch anyone: *an endangered species, a family dog, or a small child.*

These indiscriminately cruel devices not only pose a threat to public safety and diminish our state's tourist appeal, but they are also ticking time bombs that could decimate fragile native wildlife populations.

It's that risk to endangered species that is the basis for Animal Protection of New Mexico's federal lawsuit filed on June 27th of this year. We are arguing that the New Mexico Game Commission violated the federal Endangered Species Act by authorizing expanded cougar trapping that will harm endangered Mexican wolves and jaguars in New Mexico.

This lawsuit follows a separate but related state court action that challenges the Game Commission's decision to allow expanded cougar trapping despite the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish's admitted lack of an accurate estimate of the state's cougar population, and the unacceptable risk cougar traps pose to search and rescue dogs, companion animals, and nursing cougar mothers and their kittens.

Cougar trapping season is set to begin in November, which will result in leg-hold traps and snares being littered throughout the state, including in Mexican wolf and jaguar habitat. Due to their similarity in size and territory, these protected wolves and jaguars will inevitably be caught in traps set for cougars. There are currently only an estimated 97 Mexican wolves in the wild in the entire United States.

Because of this impending danger to these rare animals, Animal Protection of New Mexico also asked the Court to consider not allowing the November rule to go into effect until the merits of the case are heard. No decision has yet been made, and lawsuits of this nature can take years to complete. Yet a definitive decision by the Courts in our favor could provide crucial protection from deadly leg-hold traps for cougars, jaguars, wolves, and many other species.

Gelding Assistance and Rescue Go Hand in Hand

APNM OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Gelding Assistance, a key element of APNM's Equine Protection Fund (EPF), marked its fourth anniversary in 2016, while continuing to provide financial assistance for an important veterinary procedure—gelding—that prevents unwanted breeding by male horses, donkeys, and mules.

Available and affordable gelding of equines is just as important as spay/neuter services for dogs and cats, specifically preventing unwanted births but also promoting the health and well-being of animals. The EPF's Gelding Assistance has funded the gelding of over 70 horses and donkeys since its launch.

Beyond improving the lives of individual equines, Gelding Assistance also helps caring New Mexicans do the right thing for needy animals they see and want to help.



Traveller is prepped for gelding by veterinary staff.
Photo by Clea G. Hall



Clea and Sally with rescued horses. Photo ©2016 by Bradley J. Melton

Starting this past February, Placitas-area horse advocates contacted the Equine Protection Fund for assistance with gelding services for a unique group of free-roaming horses adopted from the area. Clea Hall and her mother, Sally, generously offered their properties as foster homes for several horses. The Equine Protection Fund approved the gelding of eight of the horses, whose gelding required special skills by mobile veterinarians, since the horses were formerly free-roaming and spread throughout the Placitas and Peña Blanca areas.

Three horses have already been gelded, and the remaining will be gelded in the coming months, when the procedure can be safely performed for those animals. APNM is proud to assist in this endeavor by local horse advocates who are determined to make a difference.

APNM CRUELTY HOTLINE

Rescued Roosters Escape the Horrors of Cockfighting

In April of 2016, Albuquerque Animal Welfare charged a city resident with several counts of cockfighting-related offenses and animal cruelty. Fifty-six birds, many with health issues, were relinquished by the resident and housed at the Westside Shelter.

When the Albuquerque shelter requested assistance in placing these birds, APNM's Cruelty Case Manager acted swiftly, seeking out potential sanctuaries. First, Santuario de Karuna in Tijeras, NM, adopted all the hens and a few roosters. Next, three Colorado Sanctuaries—Danzig's Roost, Peaceful Prairie, and Luvin'



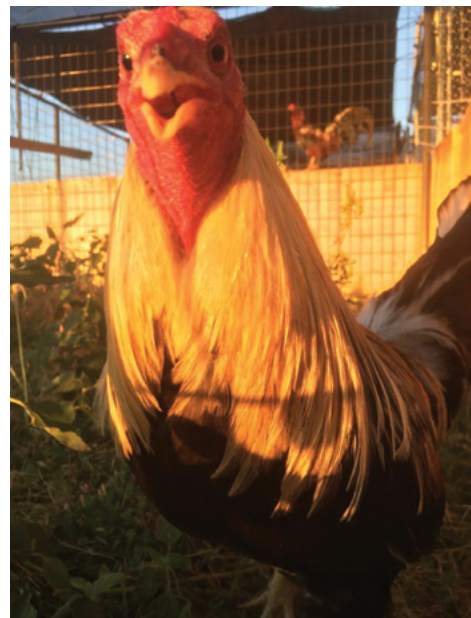
Arms—stepped up to take all but 17 birds, including many of the health-compromised birds.

The remaining birds are still at the Albuquerque Westside Shelter and are available for adoption by private citizens. Albuquerque Animal Welfare will use a comprehensive vetting process to ensure the

remaining birds do not fall into the wrong hands.

Cockfighting is a cruel practice, but for these birds, the fight is over.

Witness animal cruelty? Call the APNM Cruelty Hotline: 1-877-5-HUMANE



Photos courtesy of Jewel Johnson/Rooster Sanctuary

One Simple Step to Keep the Fight Going Strong

Making Tracks readers know that APNM is suing the New Mexico Game Commission, challenging their inexcusable expansion of cruel traps and snares to target cougars on private lands and nine million acres of state trust lands. (See article on page 8, Summer 2016 *Making Tracks*.)

Two separate lawsuits, aimed at stopping this madness, will be very costly and could take years to finalize, but they are the only thing standing between vulnerable cougar mothers with their kittens and these barbaric devices that don't just maim and kill cougars. Other wild animals, companion animals, and even people can—and do—get caught in them.

Your generous support has helped us come this far, but we need more help to win this battle. Please make a gift today by donating securely online (apnm.org/donate) or mailing a check to APNM, PO Box 11395, Albuquerque, NM 87192.



Enough is enough! Please contribute to our legal fund to halt the most cruel and dangerous assault on New Mexico's cougars in almost 50 years.



HELP US WIN THE FIGHT
apnm.org/donate



Federal Employees: Choose APNM

Federal employees, your generosity is inspiring: The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world. And now, you can help animals with your gift.

If you work for a U.S. Federal agency in New Mexico, or anywhere in the world, you can choose APNM for your tax-deductible workplace gift through a payroll deduction between September 1st and December 15th.

Look for APNM's table at CFC info events to learn more. When designating your preferred charity on the CFC forms, remember Animal Protection of New Mexico's CFC number: **75743**.

Thank you for helping us make humane the new normal.



Santa Fe/ Santa Fe County

Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales joined APNM at the **Humane Communities: Santa Fe** launch celebration, issuing a Proclamation declaring June 16, 2016 "Humane Communities Day" in the City of Santa Fe.

Las Vegas/ San Miguel County

APNM kicked off **Humane Communities: Las Vegas** at ArtBark 2016, the annual fundraiser of the Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico, with whom APNM is partnering. The fundraiser benefitted the Las Vegas animal shelter, better known as the AWC Pet Center.



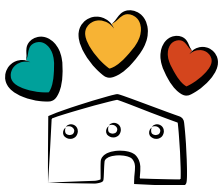
Los Lunas/Valencia County

Meaningful work continues with Valencia County's management and animal shelter personnel, all of whom are committed to making priority improvements at the county's animal shelter. Expert consultations, training, equipment, and supplies are only the beginning of the positive changes happening here for shelter animals, thanks to **Humane Communities: Valencia County**.



Statewide

Through outreach and support services, APNM's Humane Communities initiatives unite residents, local leaders, and businesses to improve the welfare of animals in neighborhoods throughout the state. Thanks to the generous support of the ASPCA, the Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation, and other kind supporters, APNM is delivering support specific to the needs of communities within Santa Fe, San Miguel and Valencia counties. From supporting shelters and funding law enforcement training in certain regions, to helping get dogs off chains in others, APNM is building lasting change for animals and *making humane the new normal* in New Mexico.



**humane
COMMUNITIES**

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

Pennies from the Heart

APNM is honored to be the recipient of Santa Fe-based Nava Elementary School's student Service Learning Project: **"Bring the Change, Be the Change: The Animal Connection for Animal Protection!"**

According to school principal, Brenda Korting, the state provides funding for five additional weeks of school for K-3rd graders in economically disadvantaged areas, to give students a boost in their education. The curriculum is planned to help them retain what they learned the previous year, and prepare them for future studies in the upcoming year. For the Kindergartners, the program prepares them for the transition from home to school and the opportunity to become comfortable with their teacher.


This summer program typically includes a "Service Learning" project. Nava Elementary decided their project would be to raise money to support APNM's *The Animal Connection* curriculum, which is providing a 12-week program for Nava 6th graders, and two 4-week programs for Nava 1st graders.

In late June, the students—many of whom had already received *The Animal Connection* curriculum—began their 5-week fundraiser. Each class created a coin jar and students began donating pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters throughout the 5-week period. Calculating their donations compared to other classes was part of the important academic exercise. On July 22nd, APNM's Lyndi Martinez, an APNM educator, was invited to Nava Elementary to accept the donation from the children. In total, the children donated \$250 to *The Animal Connection*, a program they know and love!



"We appreciate *The Animal Connection* being provided for our school. The program touches on things going on within families, and teaches empathy not only for animals but also for others. The empathy and compassion children display for animals crosses over to patience and empathy for their peers. In this way the program directly addresses bullying issues. The lessons are going home as children share what they learn with their parents. Dogs and cats are being vaccinated, taken off chains, and spayed and neutered. ***This is community learning at its best.*** Teachers love the program because it thoroughly engages their students in curriculum requirements set by the NM Department of Public Education." —Principal Brenda Korting





Supporting **APNM
without also
supporting **APV**
is like seeing only
half the picture.**

You care about animals, but without exercising your right to vote and helping us lobby for humane laws, your efforts will only have half the impact. To make lasting change for animals, get the whole picture: Support Animal Protection Voters, too.

Please donate: apvnm.org/donateF16



We change the laws to change their lives. apvnm.org

Contributions or gifts to Animal Protection Voters are not tax deductible.
Your donation supports our effective grassroots advocacy and lobbying efforts.



Roasted Fall Vegetables

Whether you're making them the star of the meal, or a rich and flavorful side dish, this deceptively simple recipe will guarantee beautifully delicious results. Serves four to six.

- 4 large garlic cloves, diced
- 1/3 cup onion, diced
- 1 sweet potato, peeled, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 1 delicata or butternut squash, seeded, cut into 3/4-inch cubes (butternut squash used in photo)
- 3 carrots, sliced into rounds
- 2 potatoes, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 15 brussels sprouts, halved
- 4 TBS high-quality oil, (i.e. sunflower oil)
- 3 TBS tamari or soy sauce
- black pepper to taste

Pre-heat oven to 400°F.

Combine all vegetables except garlic in a large mixing bowl, mix well.

Whisk oil, garlic, and soy sauce/tamari in a small bowl, then drizzle over the vegetable mix.

Add pepper, mix again.

Transfer to a large, glass-covered casserole dish.

Bake for about 40-50 minutes, to desired softness.

To crisp edges, leave in oven, uncovered, approximately 10 minutes more.

Athletes Use a Vegan Diet to Up Their Game

Former NFL star **David Carter**, "the 300-pound vegan," truly believed that he couldn't perform at the highest level without meat in his diet. But after going vegan, he noticed an almost immediate improvement in energy, recovery time, stamina, and strength. Best of all, he says on his website, is "the peace of mind that no one had to die in order for me to live." Visit the300poundvegan.com.

Matt Frazier, the founder of "No Meat Athlete," saw his endurance running reach a whole new level when he removed animal products from his diet. His followers praise his program for its weight loss, which can improve speed and shorten recovery after runs. Download a grocery list of plant-based proteins from his website: nomeataathlete.com.





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



Join us in celebrating the 19 NM chimpanzees who are finally living the life they deserve in sanctuary by liking our new Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund Facebook page. See photos, get updates, and help us spread the word.

Together we can help the 139 chimpanzees still in Alamogordo get the chance to live and thrive in sanctuary.

www.facebook.com/chimpstosanctuary



APNM **FACES**



*Debbie with Tony
(above), and protesting
fur in 1987 (left, in
blue jacket).*



Debbie Risberg's life has intersected with APNM's work in a variety of ways for many years, demonstrating her comprehensive skills, flexibility, and dedication to our mission. Debbie first became involved while a college student at UNM, volunteering for Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection (SdeCAP), APNM's predecessor. She chartered the UNM Chapter of SdeCAP and served as its President for several years. In those early days, Debbie helped out with fur and circus protests while pursuing a degree in biology. After graduating, she took a job at Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL), but still volunteered for animals at the Wildlife Center in Española.

Debbie has been in New Mexico most of her life, excepting multiple trips to Alaska, including one exciting year at the Katmai Grizzly Preserve. She continued to work at LANL, but eventually returned to Albuquerque...and APNM. Debbie served as our Wildlife Campaigns Manager for three years, working on bear and cougar protection. She later became APNM's Navajo Nation Wild Horse Program Manager, conducting research, seeking funding, and building partnerships within the Navajo Nation to address horse overpopulation. Since then, Debbie has worked on a variety of projects from chimps to CARE to legislative advocacy. Today Debbie is APNM's Accounting Manager, helping the organization maintain its high standards in bookkeeping and record-keeping.

Debbie enjoys hiking and exploring New Mexico and the West. She is also a violinist with the Albuquerque Philharmonic Orchestra, and likes to paint with pastels and read magic-realism and sci-fi. Most of all, she likes to hang out with her "partner in crime," Tony, a Norwegian Forest Cat/Siamese cross.