

# MAKING TRAKS

A PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO 2017 ISSUE 1



**SANCTUARY**  
A Special Photo Feature





Dear Friends of the Animals,

So many animal advocates I know are made of what I would call “sterner stuff.” Their work necessarily exposes them to the terrible suffering and harm done to animals in so many ways and on so many levels, yet they persist in pushing forward to improve animals’ lives despite unbearable details and substantial resistance to change.

The harsh reality for animals across New Mexico, the country, and indeed across the globe has meant that a lot of champions have been involved in the trauma of animals for many decades. Some of the most outstanding advocates in our state have been formally recognized with a Milagro Award, given by Animal Protection of New Mexico every four years to remarkable individuals and organizations.

In addition to recognizing and giving moral support to our fellow advocates for their selfless achievements, it is just as important to encourage them to do what it takes to keep themselves sustained in these trying advocacy efforts, taking care of their physical and emotional health all along the way. Being effective advocates means building resilience and strength within ourselves. As national animal protection policies deteriorate at an alarming pace, self-care becomes essential.

Experts familiar with the effects of exposure to trauma and harm agree that personal wellness is perhaps the best way to assure effective longevity in our efforts. Each person can and should create their own approach to remaining centered, grounded, and able to withstand years and even decades of painful knowledge of cruelty and abuse propped up by unjust systems.

A daily practice aimed at keeping us healthy and able to maintain perspective is not just a luxury—it is a necessity for ourselves and for achieving the very things that matter to us. Whether that centering comes from contemplation, walking, yoga, music, or time spent with family, that regular “distance” will mean we can sustain our passion: making a difference in the lives of vulnerable animals. Best wishes in your crucial journey to create and maintain balance!

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings  
Executive Director

# MAKING TRACKS™

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## On the Cover

Lori relaxes at Chimp Haven chimpanzee  
sanctuary in Louisiana.

*Photo by Jessi Princiotta.*



A chimpanzee with dark brown fur is perched on a thick, reddish-brown tree branch. The chimpanzee is looking off to the right with a calm expression. Its left arm is resting on the branch it is sitting on, while its right arm is wrapped around a vertical branch to its left. The background is a lush green forest with many pine trees and their needles visible.

# SANCTUARY

It's what all the retired chimps deserve. We want to get them there as soon as possible.

Tracy likes to climb high up into the trees, and can often be found looking out over the sanctuary from her favorite vantage point.



This winter, APNM visited Chimp Haven chimpanzee sanctuary in Louisiana. The immense, 200+ acre sanctuary is one of the primary recipients of our Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund. Through this fund, we've helped 44 former Coulston research facility chimps get to sanctuary, where they can enjoy a safe, relaxing, and enriching retirement. Here is a closer look at sanctuary life.



Gentle, compassionate Ladybird, one of the most senior residents at the sanctuary, enjoys a banana on the highest platform in her area .



Chimps such as Penny can choose where they want to spend time, such as in the beautiful forested areas of the sanctuary.



"Chimps suffered as a result of what people did to them. But also people have come together and used their minds creatively to establish this beautiful place where the chimps get to have something back, have something that's theirs."  
-Laura Bonar



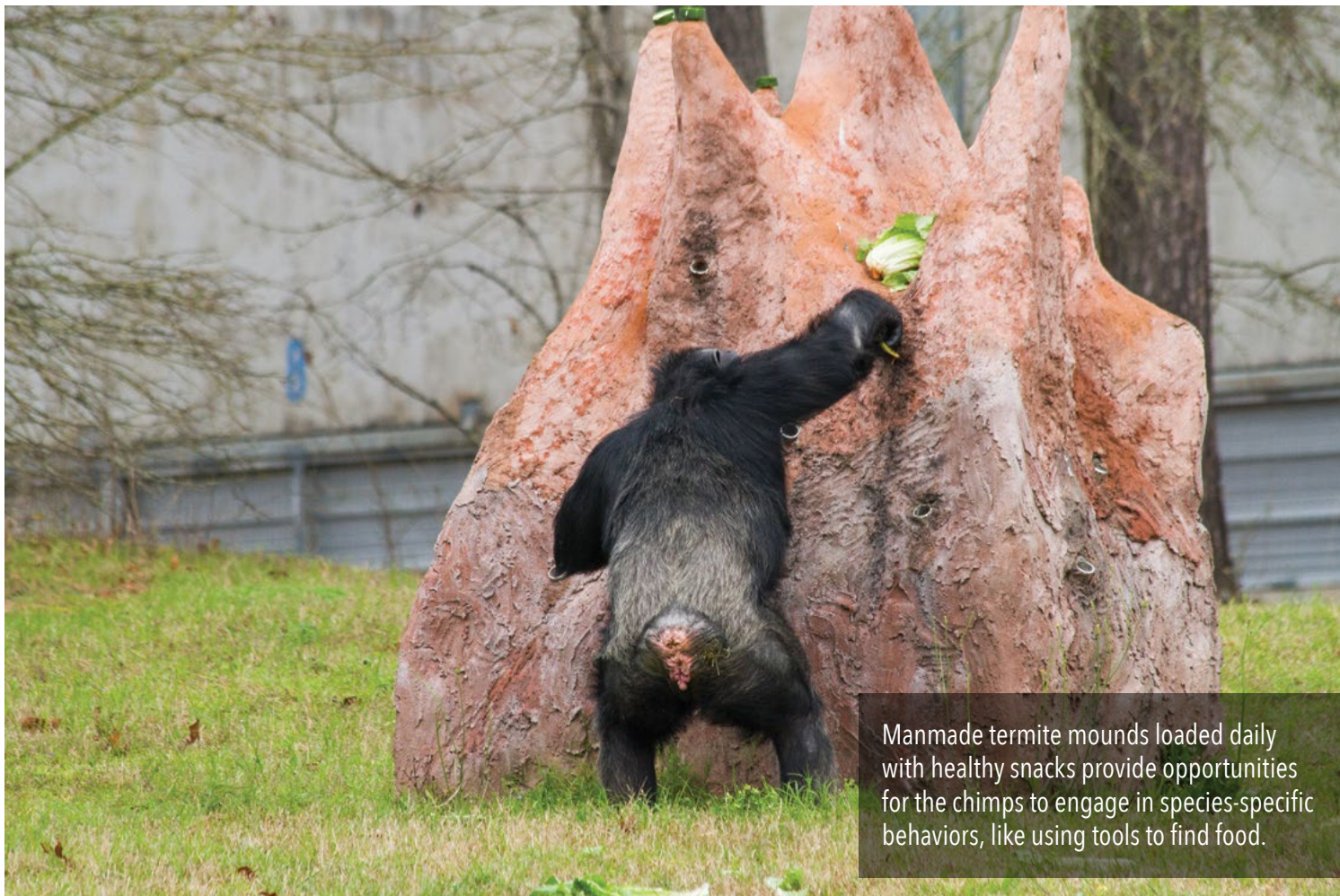
Queenie B and Barbet (l to r) are free to spend time relaxing, something very important to mature chimps.





The beautiful, expressive Queenie B.





Manmade termite mounds loaded daily with healthy snacks provide opportunities for the chimps to engage in species-specific behaviors, like using tools to find food.



The ability to socialize with their friends is a vital part of an enriching, natural sanctuary experience.

To help get the rest of our New Mexico chimps to sanctuary, please donate at [ChimpsToSanctuary.org](https://ChimpsToSanctuary.org).  
*Don't let time run out for the chimps who are still waiting.*



The 2017 New Mexico legislative session began on January 17 and concluded on March 18. Once again, Animal Protection Voters was in the capitol building *every single day during the 60-day session*, serving as the driving force behind bills to improve the lives of animals in our state.

***The big victory this year was the passage and signing into law of House Bill (HB) 219 (Rep. Jimmie Hall, R-Albuquerque, and Rep. Carl Trujillo, D-Santa Fe), which creates greater efficiency and capacity for the State of New Mexico to care for companion animals and support shelters.*** HB 219 converts the Animal Sheltering Board (which currently resides under the Regulations and Licensing Department) into a new, 5-member 'Animal Sheltering Committee' under the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine. This administrative move will result in sustained and improved ability to continue to distribute funds for vital statewide low-cost spay/neuter services. HB 219 also provides stronger infrastructure for the enforcement of humane euthanasia standards and veterinary care in shelters by transferring enforcement authority to the Board of Veterinary Medicine, acting under the guidance of the Animal Sheltering Committee. The new law also ensures local municipal shelter veterinarians must adhere to the state's veterinary practice act from which they were previously exempted.

We all have cause to rejoice in this big win for New Mexico's homeless dogs and cats.

***Two more pro-animal bills succeeded in passing the state Legislature, but unfortunately died via 'pocket veto' (a veto by default that occurs when the governor takes no action on a bill awaiting her consideration).***

**House Bill 390 (Rep. Nathan Small, D-Las Cruces)** would have greatly increased humane outcomes for stray, abandoned, and abused equines that come into custody of the New Mexico Livestock Board by giving our state's nine registered equine shelters the first right of refusal before auction. Current law mandates a process in which shelters wind up bidding at auction against others, including "kill buyers," putting horses at risk of going to slaughter. But there is a silver lining. Despite the veto of HB 390 that would have improved outcomes for equines, the Livestock Board has agreed to propose changes to its rules to achieve the same first right for equine shelters to give horses a second chance at a new home and/or career. This move will revive the hard work of equine advocates during the session.

**Senate Bill 81 (Sen. Mimi Stewart, D-Albuquerque)** would have cracked down on illegal wildlife poaching and



On Animal Lobby Day, citizen lobbyists attend a training session conducted by our Chief Legislative Officer, Jessica Johnson.

trafficking, granting state and local law enforcement the authority to arrest traffickers caught in New Mexico. As disappointing as these outcomes are, we are very excited about these bills passing the Legislature with overwhelming support and are already looking at next steps moving forward on these issues.

***Several other bills came very close to passing the state legislature.***

**Senate Bill 268 (Sen. Mark Moores, R-Albuquerque, and Sen. Jeff Steinborn, D-Las Cruces)**, to ban coyote killing contests, reached the House floor with a few days to spare, needing only a full House vote before it would make its way to the Governor's desk. But the bill became a victim of time and process, as the House chamber avoided controversial bills like SB 268 as it struggled to reach budget and tax package agreements between both parties by the session's end. We greatly look forward to pushing this issue again in the next 60-day session, when we hope the legislators' view of the issue will more closely mirror the view of the majority of voters and every major newspaper editorial board: a ban on coyote killing contests is a no-brainer.

**House Bill 123 (Rep. Carl Trujillo, D-Santa Fe)**, was enormously popular with rural and urban legislators and was supported by both Democrats and Republicans. HB 123 was considered a fiscally conservative approach to a problem that costs the state over \$38 million a year to address through local animal control and sheltering spending. The smart and effective dog/cat food registration user-fee system, with little to no impact on households with dogs and cats, would clearly have enormous impact on the companion animal overpopulation problem. The bill stalled in the Senate Finance Committee when committee chair Sen. John Arthur Smith (D-Deming) inexplicably refused to hear the bill. While these bills did not cross the finish line this year, we have a lot of momentum to use, and no shortage of energy ready to tackle these issues again.

***For more details on these bills and the many more pieces of animal-related legislation introduced during the 2017 legislative session—including efforts to restrict traps on public lands and strengthen our state anti-cruelty statutes—read the Animal Protection Voters blog: [apvnm.org/2017-session-report](http://apvnm.org/2017-session-report)***





Left to right: **Adrienne Kozacek**, VC Asst. County Manager; **Patty Mugan**, VC Shelter Supervisor; **Leslie King**, APNM Program Director; and **Jess Weston**, VC Animal Control Director

## Collaboration Turns a Shelter Around

*Photo courtesy of Valencia County News-Bulletin*

Toward the end of 2015, APNM began receiving calls from concerned community members and overwhelmed Valencia County Animal Shelter employees and volunteers asking for our help.

The shelter—an aging, county-owned and operated facility located in Los Lunas—was in turmoil.

Valencia County is an area besieged with rampant dog and cat overpopulation, backyard breeders, and cruelty cases. The shelter takes in upwards of 5,000 animals annually, a figure disproportionate for the size of the community. Although staff and volunteers were making strides in reducing euthanasia rates by increasing adoptions and relocations, the shelter had become severely overcrowded, affecting animal health and damaging public confidence. Staffing and financial challenges existed, too.

APNM Program Director Leslie King reached out to Valencia County's management and the ASPCA® to develop a plan to deliver support specific to the shelter's most immediate needs and to lay a foundation for sustainable improvements. Thanks to a generous ASPCA grant for equipment and supplies, APNM's Humane Communities: Valencia County project officially began.

In January 2016, King joined ASPCA sheltering experts Karen Medicus, Senior Director–Community Initiatives, and Kate Pullen, Senior Director–Shelter Outreach, for an in-depth shelter assessment and

meeting with County Manager Danny Monette, Assistant County Manager Adrienne Kozacek, and Shelter Supervisor Patty Mugan. Kozacek and staff members enthusiastically devoted the next few months to addressing operational priorities. The ASPCA grant funds would provide supplies, equipment, and training to implement a highly effective cleaning system, PetPoint® software, microchips, collars, an engraving machine, and ID tags.

Last summer, Valencia County hired Jess Weston as its new Director of Animal Control. Demonstrating strong leadership and a can-do attitude, Weston immediately got to work on shelter improvements. The county provided staffing support and significant funding to repair ventilation systems and resurface kennel floors. Several agencies and organizations came forward to offer assistance, host a Pet Health Fair, and complete two spay/neuter clinics at the shelter. Forty volunteers now work on animal socialization, fostering, and other tasks.



Sammee Hughes, Intake Specialist, and Patsy Tharaldsen, Kennel Technician

In just over one year, this Humane Communities collaboration resulted in dramatic improvements for Valencia County's animals and the shelter staff working to help them. We encourage you to visit the shelter and thank the staff members and volunteers whose caring commitment made it possible. APNM looks forward to continuing our supportive partnership with Valencia County in the months ahead.

MADE POSSIBLE BY  
A GRANT FROM THE **ASPCA**®



## An Unexpected Illness and a Caring Team Give Pixie a Happy Future

Pixie, a seven-month-old German Shepherd puppy, had never been outside the trailer home. She only knew the trailer and the man—but the man had never been gone this long before, and she was getting so hungry and thirsty. Suddenly, the door opened and a strange person stepped inside. Pixie shrank back into a corner, cowering...

Kathe MacLaren of the Animal Protection Association of Socorro and Marguerite Sweeney of The Grizz Project (a Socorro area rescue), alerted APNM's Cruelty Case Manager, Alan Edmonds, to the plight of a young dog in Socorro County. Her guardian, an elderly man, was in the hospital for heart surgery, but Pixie had been left behind in the trailer without food or water.



Photo courtesy of The Grizz Project

In cooperation with the guardian, a neighbor checked on the dog and provided her with food and water. The neighbor expressed concern that the trailer was filthy and had substantial urine and feces buildup. He noted that although Pixie was extremely fearful and unsocialized, he managed to coax her out of the trailer and contain her on the property.

APNM's Cruelty Case Manager acted as the go-between with the hospital. He learned that Pixie's guardian would be undergoing a lengthy rehabilitation which would cause him to be unable to care for his dog. The guardian agreed to surrender Pixie so that she could be placed in a loving home.

After being evaluated at the veterinary clinic, Pixie was offered for adoption, and within days, a family stepped forward. They renamed her "Maya" and welcomed her into their home and hearts. Maya has bonded closely with their son. She accompanies him everywhere—even golfing!

In partnership with other caring New Mexicans, APNM's Cruelty Hotline Manager can help transform a dire situation into a wonderful outcome for animals.



Photo by Victoria Rogers

## Giving Thanks for Frances J. Bentley

On her 93rd birthday, beloved and intrepid animal advocate, Frances J. Bentley, died at her Santa Fe home, leaving so many friends to mourn her passing but also to give thanks for knowing her in this life. Fran Bentley was one of only a few driving forces behind the genesis of Animal Protection of New Mexico (known previously as Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection). Fran and her late husband, Claude, served as officers on the board of directors for many years, steering the fledgling organization through early challenges, and establishing animal rights as a serious social issue in New Mexico. Their joint leadership ensured APNM (SdeCAP) was a reliable source of information and crucial services for the community.

Fran stood out in so many ways, but especially in her grace at acknowledging and cheerleading the efforts of others, all while she excelled as a well-informed and well-read advocate, serving as a highly effective newsletter editor for years. When the organization began growing and hired full-time staff, Fran became a tireless volunteer for APNM's Santa Fe Veterinary Medical program, along with her long-time friend, Geri Aron. The two are responsible for administering lifesaving veterinary program services for thousands of animals of low-income Santa Feans over the decades.

Those who knew and loved Fran also appreciated her for her sharp wit, her tendency to rabble-rouse, and her always being ahead of her time. Having spent time overseas, she was fond of having friends to her home for "teas," where issues were vigorously discussed and program actions were fervently planned. Her teas were the best in town. Fran's zest for life and love for animals live on in all who knew and loved her.

*"What a wondrous and mysterious thing the animal kingdom is."*  
—Fran Bentley





## COMPASSIONATE LESSONS REACH BEHIND BARS

To teach in these facilities, finger prints are taken, background checks are completed, cell phones, pens, and pencils must be left in cars, and sunglasses may not be worn.

Buzzers are pressed, steel doors slam, and APNM's humane education teacher and therapy dog are escorted by guards to a classroom of students wearing orange overalls. There are no windows and the room is cold with cement flooring, block walls, and plastic chairs. But the smiles on these students' faces are very warm and welcoming. *The Animal Connection* has arrived.

Across the country, prison wardens, therapists, psychologists, and guards report that inmates develop patience, compassion, and understanding when working with animals. Because they make no judgements and hold no grudges, animals are the perfect teachers for the rehabilitation lessons these students need to learn. Subjects such as "Care and Responsibility," "The Link Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence," "Blood Sports," and "The Consequences of Chaining" are presented with registered therapy dogs in attendance. The dogs chosen to assist in these presentations have been rescued from harrowing situations. Their background stories illustrate the presentations' topics.

As the stories are told, the dogs make

**As the stories are told, the dogs make their way to each of the inmates, receiving ear rubs, chin scratches, and belly rubs. Little dogs sit on inmates' laps. Big dogs lean into those petting them and the inmates' conversations turn to all they miss and have lost.**

their way to each of the inmates, receiving ear rubs, chin scratches, and belly rubs. Little dogs sit on inmates' laps. Big dogs lean into those petting them and the inmates' conversations turn to all they miss and have lost.

Typically, the lessons are designed to evolve into projects that will bring shelter dogs into the facility to be trained and socialized by inmates for adoption purposes. Such a program (Prisoners & Animals Working For Success, P.A.W.S.) is currently in place in the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility.

*The Animal Connection* has served the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility's Level One (Honor Farm) inmates and is currently undergoing a pilot program with that facility's Geriatric Unit. *The Animal Connection* is in its third year with Bernalillo County Youth Services. And inquiries have come from both Socorro County and Northeastern New Mexico Adult Detention Facilities.

No matter the life situation, *The Animal Connection* reaches all.



## The Equine Protection Fund in Action Around the State

### Farmington

The **Equine Protection Fund: Trail's End** service provides financial assistance to humanely euthanize suffering horses, donkeys, and mules. Four Corners Equine Rescue in Farmington was grateful to receive assistance.

### La Bajada

A woman in the La Bajada area fell on hard times after the loss of her father. Unable to afford feed for her beloved horse companion of 19 years, she reached out to the **Equine Protection Fund: Feed Assistance** service. The two months of feed assistance we provided for her horse enabled them to stay together.

### Silver City

The **Equine Protection Fund: Veterinary Assistance** service (designed to financially assist needy, suffering, or rehabilitating equines for shelters/rescue groups, veterinarians, and law enforcement agencies) provided veterinary care for horses at End of the Road Ranch.

### Los Lunas

A couple in Los Lunas bought a horse from the sale barn. They then discovered that his particular gelding surgery would be complicated, expensive, and beyond what they could afford. They feared they might have no choice but to return him to the sale barn (where he likely would be sold into the horse slaughter pipeline). Instead, they contacted the **Equine Protection Fund: Gelding Assistance** service for help. After their case was approved for services, they were able to have the horse gelded—and keep him.



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.





APV helps more animals because of APNM, and vice versa. Here's an example of how it works for horses and other equines:

## APNM Solutions

In 2010, 1 in 4 calls to the APNM Animal Cruelty Hotline involved cruelty or neglect of horses, so APNM created New Mexico's **Equine Protection Fund**, comprised of direct equine services such as emergency feed assistance, subsidized gelding, humane euthanasia, and a volunteer network designed to further extend services. Now, just 1 in 10 calls to the Hotline relates to equines.

In 2012, Valley Meat Company tried to open a horse slaughter plant in New Mexico. APNM organized massive, statewide opposition to the plan, including from state and federal lawmakers, the governor, the attorney general and the state lands commissioner. Plans for the horse slaughter plant were stopped in 2016 after the Attorney General secured a temporary injunction in court.

## APV Solutions

In 2013, APV pushed through state legislation creating a state-run equine fund, the **Horse Shelter Rescue Fund** within the NM Livestock Board. APV also pushed through legislation allowing the voluntary donation of tax refunds for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (on the PIT-D Form). In 2014, APV secured a \$250,000 appropriation for distribution to equine rescues.

During the 2013 Legislative Session, APV defeated a legislative memorial purported to "study the viability of a horse slaughter plant," a thinly-veiled effort to promote horse slaughter in New Mexico.

In the 2017 Legislative Session, APV tried to pass House Bill (HB) 390, to give the state's nine licensed horse shelters the first option to adopt needy equines in the custody of the NM Livestock Board. Current law requires auctioning horses to the highest bidder, leaving them vulnerable to the slaughter pipeline. Although Governor Martinez didn't sign the bill into law, there is hope: the NM Livestock Board wants to change their rules to achieve what HB 390 aimed to do.

**GOAL:**  
Address Cruelty  
to and Neglect of  
Horses

**GOAL:**  
Prevent  
Horse Slaughter  
in New Mexico

**APNM's Equine Protection Fund** has helped over **860** horses, donkeys and mules since it was founded in 2010. APNM's legislative arm, **Animal Protection Voters (APV)**, works to improve state policies and laws affecting equines, including keeping horses out of the slaughter pipeline. When you support both APNM and APV, your generosity makes an even bigger difference.

### APNM ACTIONS EVERYONE CAN TAKE

What  
Moved  
You in  
This  
Issue?

- ♥ **Do you want to see every government-owned chimpanzee go from laboratory to sanctuary?** You can help make it happen by donating to the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund at [ChimpsToSanctuary.org](http://ChimpsToSanctuary.org).
- ♥ **Did you love the outcome of Pixie's story?** If you are glad to have the statewide Cruelty Hotline to call when you need it, consider a donation to APNM in support of this vital, life-saving program.
- ♥ **Were you happy to read about the Valencia County shelter transformation?** It's just one part of our Humane Communities initiative. To learn more, visit our website at [apnm.org/programs/humane\\_communities/](http://apnm.org/programs/humane_communities/)
- ♥ **Would you like to see more horses helped throughout New Mexico?** It's easy to make that wish come true. Just make a donation to the Equine Protection Fund (at [EquineProtectionFund.org](http://EquineProtectionFund.org)).
- ♥ **Do you want to see *The Animal Connection* touch more lives?** There's a great demand for this program from schools all over New Mexico. Please consider a donation in honor of someone you love. Donate securely online at [apnm.org/donate](http://apnm.org/donate) or mail a check to APNM, PO Box 11395, Albuquerque, NM 87192.





## It's hard to face animal abuse.

But it's even harder to feel there's nothing that can be done about it. That's why APNM created the Animal Cruelty Hotline. We're here to help with information or referrals.

**If you see something happening to an animal you suspect isn't right, call 1-877-5-HUMANE.**

*Most calls returned within 24 hours. Your call is always treated confidentially. For life-threatening situations, call 911.*



Animal Protection of New Mexico [apnm.org](https://apnm.org)  
*Making sure animals matter in every New Mexican community.*





## The Vegan BLT: "B" Stands for Benevolent

**Sweet Earth Foods Benevolent Bacon** is a modern, mouth-watering, plant-based version of bacon, and it's what makes this sandwich a crowd favorite. Vary this recipe for endless delicious options, such as: mash ripe avocado into the Vegenaïse; brush the sliced bread with an olive oil/

### Ingredients (for four sandwiches)

Loaf of crusty Italian bread, sliced  
 2 beefsteak tomatoes, thickly sliced  
 1 head of green leaf lettuce, washed, leaves separated  
 Vegenaïse (vegan mayonnaise)  
 2 packages Sweet Earth Foods Benevolent Bacon  
 1 TBS olive oil

garlic mix and grill before assembling the sandwich; use a chopped mix of kale and green leaf lettuce; brush olive oil on the sliced tomatoes and grill. Serve with the side of your choice.

- In a nonstick pan, heat olive oil over medium heat.
- Cook Benevolent Bacon strips in a single layer, approximately four minutes on each side.
- Assemble sandwiches with lettuce first, then tomato slices, then two strips of B. Bacon.
- Spread Vegenaïse on top, assemble, enjoy.

## 200 Reasons to Go Vegan

Did you know that one person who adopts a vegan diet spares the lives of about 200 sentient animals each year? That's a beautiful, healthy reason to switch to a plant-based diet. The sooner you make the switch, the more animals you can spare from factory farming misery.

### Number of animals eaten by New Mexicans, annually:

54,236,000	Chickens
2,086,000	Turkeys
1,043,000	Pigs
208,000	Cows
355,000	# of dairy cows subjected to factory farm conditions in New Mexico

*Numbers listed are approximate and based on average annual consumption figures.*





PO Box 11395  
Albuquerque NM 87192  
[www.apnm.org](http://www.apnm.org)

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

#### SPECIAL GUESTS

# Party for the Chimps

Celebrate the movement  
of NM chimps to their  
beautiful sanctuary  
home and help get more  
chimps to sanctuary.

**Saturday June 17th  
11:30am to 1:00pm**

APNM Santa Fe Office  
1111 Paseo de Peralta

RSVP to [marisa@apnm.org](mailto:marisa@apnm.org)

VEGAN BANANA SPLITS

*Did you know that  
chimps love to eat  
the banana peels  
as well as the  
fruit?*



#### APNM **FACES**



*Photo by Aaron Giombolini*

**Marisa Sleeter** has recently added one more year to her nonprofit experience through her work with Animal Protection of NM, bringing her total nonprofit tenure to nine years. Six of those were spent fulfilling a variety of roles with the Center for Nonviolent Communication in Albuquerque. At the beginning of 2016, Marisa joined the APNM team as its Program Associate and hit the ground running with special event organizing for the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund, and advocacy and outreach during the 2016 legislative session. Marisa has added her considerable skills in research and systems analysis to many elements of APNM's and APV's work, including participation in the organizational strategic planning process undertaken in 2016. She has also applied her background in team development and training coordination to the creation of a comprehensive volunteer recruitment and management plan that APNM will be adopting this year. On top of all that, Marisa has been trained to work both the APNM Cruelty hotline and the CARE helpline, providing needed relief to the program managers.

Marisa's formal training in nonviolent communication comes through in her gentle and helping spirit. She finds the most happiness and renewal in nature, animals, the outdoors, music, and board games. Her greatest loves are her husband (photographer/videographer Aaron Giombolini) and her canine kids Samantha and Ellie.

One of Marisa's life missions is to "add value to communities that support empathetic connections and help to create loving changes in our world." She has certainly brought that value to the programs and campaigns of APNM and APV.