Answering the Call: The Animal Cruelty Hotline

Alan Edmonds, Animal Protection of New Mexico’s Cruelty Case Manager, recently answered a call about abandoned animals in rural Taos County. The caller was concerned since no one was caring for the animals. To make matters worse, winter weather conditions were severe and the animals were not protected from the extreme cold. Alan referred the case to the Taos County Sheriff’s Office. They responded quickly and rescued two alpacas, four ducks, and a goose from the property. A cat and dog were taken in by friends of the property owner, who was out of the country. All the animals are safe now and their guardian has been charged with animal abandonment.

Hundreds of calls like this come in to Animal Protection of New Mexico’s Animal Cruelty Hotline each year. Callers want to report specific cases of abuse or neglect or are requesting information, resources, or advice... and the Hotline is here to help.

Animal Protection of New Mexico is not a law enforcement or animal control agency and therefore can't intervene directly in cases reported. However, our Cruelty Case Manager plays a crucial role in helping callers understand how to properly report their concerns to ensure the best outcome for the animals. Callers may remain anonymous if they wish. The Cruelty Case Manager is familiar with the many laws* that govern the humane treatment of animals (which vary considerably from jurisdiction to jurisdiction). The Cruelty Case Manager has a comprehensive understanding of what agencies can enforce what laws, and has extensive enforcement agency contacts. He is prepared to answer questions and offer knowledgeable technical assistance.

The Animal Cruelty Hotline is part of Animal Protection of New Mexico’s Challenging Animal Cruelty program. The program also identifies needs for law enforcement and animal control officer training and arranges professional training for officers across the state. And in cooperation with local law enforcement, the program offers rewards for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of people responsible for animal cruelty and neglect.

The data gathered from the Animal Cruelty Hotline cases is often used to inform Animal Protection of New Mexico and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, about the need for stronger policies and laws, or even additional program services. The data can help make a strong case for changes in laws, policies, or practices.

The Animal Cruelty Hotline helps people help animals. If you have concerns about an animal’s welfare, Call 1-877-5HUMANE.

*Current New Mexico animal-related state laws and municipal and county ordinances are available on Animal Protection of New Mexico’s website: apnm.org/animal-laws.
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The Planned Giving Club of
Animal Protection of New Mexico and
Animal Protection Voters

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

We all know how crucial it is to have someone to call when you see an animal in jeopardy. We understand it’s unbearable to see an animal suffering and not know how to stop it. We especially appreciate that you and other caring New Mexicans have “eyes and ears on the ground,” and that you notice and report animals in harm’s way.

Animal Protection of New Mexico has been proud to staff an Animal Cruelty Hotline for decades, serving as that “someone” you can call to find help for an animal in need. Since we live in a country guided by “the rule of law,” it has also been important to arm ourselves and you with details about laws that govern animal treatment, and how to navigate law enforcement systems to seek justice for animals. Informed advocates can be a powerful force for animals.

Animal Protection of New Mexico’s Challenging Animal Cruelty program (www.apnm.org/cruelty) emphasizes that animal abuse and neglect have no place in our communities. Contact us at info@apnm.org if you’d like to help strengthen our work to keep animals safe from harm.

An Interview with Alan Edmonds

Animal Protection of New Mexico Animal Cruelty Case Manager

Q: Alan, you have been doing this difficult work for seven years… what keeps you going?

A: My primary motivation is helping animals, so that in turn provides me with a lot of energy. The nature of the work is that calls and new cases keep coming in, so new calls are each workday’s first priority. Then I can move on to following up on my open cases, relaying updates to complainants, and closing out cases once they have been resolved. In some cases, I also provide additional resources and support.

If it becomes apparent that local laws allow the activity a caller is complaining about (for example, dog tethering is a common complaint, but many jurisdictions allow it), I’ll encourage them to get an ordinance revision effort started in their area. Animal Protection of New Mexico provides information on how to change local laws and ordinances, which I mail to interested callers.

Q: You hear and see some very disturbing things. How do you handle that?

A: Yes, I do, and as an animal lover, that can be very challenging. I frequently see images and hear descriptions of animals who are suffering, ranging from individual animal cruelty cases to hoarding cases involving large numbers of animals. Since Animal Protection of New Mexico is not an animal control or law enforcement agency I cannot intervene directly. Being able to take the appropriate action helps, but doesn’t always produce an immediate result. Some cases can last years from the initial complaint to a resolution in court. But once they’ve been adjudicated, it provides some closure.

Working the hotline, there will always be open cases or unknown outcomes, so it’s important to stay mentally, physically, and psychologically fit. I fight the stresses connected with this work in various ways. For example, at the end of my workday, I close my office door behind me to “lock in” the neglect and cruelty. My work colleagues are a valuable resource if I need to talk about a disturbing case. To ensure separation between my work and personal life, I answer the hotline between 9 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday. Calls that come in outside those hours are addressed the following workday. This allows me to unplug for a while and rejuvenate, primarily at home with my wife and our animal companions. Activities such as music, yoga, cooking, and exercise help me manage the stresses of this job.

Q: Do you have any advice for someone who might be concerned about an animal’s welfare?

A: Please feel free to call with any complaints and/or questions regarding specific animal situations, animal laws, or to get contact information for your local animal control agency and other resources. Animals can’t speak up for themselves, but hotline callers can be their voice. If you’re concerned about a specific animal(s), I can report those concerns while keeping your identity anonymous. I’ll be happy to assist you!

Reach Alan through the Animal Cruelty Hotline at 1-877-5HUMANE or alan@apnm.org.
Magnify Your Gift: How it Works by Mark Napolin

An often-overlooked opportunity that will significantly magnify your annual giving to Animal Protection of New Mexico is the gift of a life insurance policy. There are many benefits, including:

- **It’s simple to do**
- A relatively small annual or monthly premium will be leveraged into a meaningful tax-free benefit to Animal Protection of New Mexico upon your death, perpetuating your legacy
- **The gift is not subject to the delays and expenses of probate and is less likely to be contested by your heirs**
- **The benefit to Animal Protection of New Mexico is guaranteed**
- **The gift is “tax smart”**

Here are several gift examples:

**Gift an existing life insurance policy:** Maybe the kids are grown, or your mortgage is paid off, or you have sufficient assets to protect your loved ones. Simply change the ownership and beneficiary of your life insurance policy to Animal Protection of New Mexico. You will receive a charitable tax deduction in the year of your gift (please consult with your tax advisor). If your policy is not yet paid-up, then each year when the premium comes due, you will make an annual tax-deductible gift to the organization for the amount of the premium. In addition, the policy cash values will become available to the organization as an asset, and there is much less administration necessary for the organization compared to a gift of real estate or other more complex assets. Upon your death, the face amount of the policy will be paid to Animal Protection of New Mexico tax-free.

**Name Animal Protection of New Mexico as beneficiary of your policy:** You simply name Animal Protection of New Mexico as either a full or partial beneficiary of your current life insurance policy. Unlike an outright gift described above, you control the policy ownership. Upon your death, the portion you have designated for Animal Protection of New Mexico is paid income tax-free to the organization, again with no probate or expense. However, you will not be able to tax deduct your annual premiums as in the case above. Another idea is to change the beneficiary of your company group life insurance, either as an active or retired employee. Perhaps name Animal Protection of New Mexico as beneficiary equal to one year’s salary.

**Purchase a new life insurance policy naming Animal Protection of New Mexico as the owner and beneficiary:** As in the first gift example, a relatively small annual or monthly tax-deductible gift of the premium cost will create a perpetual legacy for Animal Protection of New Mexico upon your death. For example, you could dramatically magnify your level of giving by purchasing a $250,000 life insurance policy to be paid to the Animal Protection of New Mexico Foundation’s Endowment Fund. Such a policy would generate a $10,000 gift in perpetuity, with the principal remaining intact (assuming a 4% distribution rate). The premium cost for a policy will be dependent on your age, gender, and health status.

**Wealth Replacement:** If you name Animal Protection of New Mexico as a beneficiary of certain assets in your will or trust, such as real estate or securities, you may wish to consider the purchase of life insurance to replace those gifted assets to your heirs. It’s a win-win for Animal Protection of New Mexico and your family. What a great way to be remembered!

Mark J. Napolin, CLU, ChFC
Managing Principal
6101 Moon St. NE, Suite 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87111
mnapolin@marknapolin.com  505-881-7030

*Note: This information is not intended to provide specific legal or financial advice. You are encouraged to consult an attorney or financial planner to ensure the legality of your will or trust and the soundness of your estate plan.*
Why I Give  from an Enchantment Club member

“I included Animal Protection of New Mexico in my estate planning via a Charitable Remainder Uni-Trust in 2010. I set it up at a time when a family friend could not find a place to secure her animals away from the horror of her domestic violence circumstance, staying on eventually to succumb to the ferocity. I knew there must be services to help with this egregious situation by safeguarding pets while the victim is protected. I found it at Animal Protection of New Mexico through their CARE program services. Animal Protection of New Mexico recognizes a problem and works to fix it by preserving our humanity through legislative advocacy promoting laws to make changes. Sustainable values, heaps of hard work, and incredible results—that is why I continue to support the organization.”
— M.K., Albuquerque

We’d also love to hear from you. What motivated you to include a charitable bequest in your will or trust? Why is supporting animal protection important to you? What advice would you give someone embarking on his or her own estate planning? Please share your wisdom! Contact Chief Development Officer Dorothee Hutchinson at 505-553-4703 or dorothee@apnm.org.

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Enjoy this delicious recipe from Tony Quintana, Plant-Based Eating Program Manager. Yields 10 summer rolls.

**Summer Rolls with Sweet Peanut Sauce**

**Ingredients:**
- 20 rice paper wrappers
- 1 large carrot
- 1 large cucumber
- 1 red pepper
- 1 cup chopped cabbage
- 1 large avocado
- 1 cup cooked rice noodles (optional)

**Sweet Peanut Sauce:**
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/3 cup smooth peanut butter
- 3 Tbsp soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger

**Directions:**
1. Prepare the filling: Slice the carrot, cucumber, red pepper, and avocado into short, thin strips. Chop the cabbage. If using rice noodles, cook according to the directions on the package.
2. Prepare each roll one at a time. Fill a large bowl or baking dish with about 2” of water. Dip two rice paper wrappers in the water (according to directions on the package) then place on a flat work surface (wooden chopping boards work great). Add a small amount of each filling ingredient to the center of wrapper in a straight line. Roll it up like you would a burrito, being careful to ensure a tight roll, tucking in the ends. You can adjust the amount of filling as you roll each one and get a better feel for how much the wrapper can hold (do not overstuff).
3. Prepare the dipping sauce: add all ingredients into a bowl and whisk together until smooth and creamy. If a thinner texture is desired, add 1 Tbsp of water at a time until desired consistency is reached. Adjust spices according to taste.
4. Enjoy! Have fun and experiment with the ingredients, adjusting them to your liking. Try other ingredients in your summer rolls such as tomatoes, cilantro, tofu, or mango.