

MAKING TRAILS

A PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO 2017 ISSUE 2

"I was returning from a break after the legislative session and wasn't prepared for the impact I would feel while driving between Shiprock and Farmington. Dead dogs littered the sides and even the center of the roadway, like forgotten trash. All I could think of was how tragic and unnecessary it was that Animal Protection Voters' spay/neuter funding bill also died from intentional neglect at the recently completed 2017 legislative session." –Elisabeth Jennings

SPAY/NEUTER AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Animals,

When we get up every day and make our way through the professional and personal ups and downs inherent in life, it's sometimes hard to recognize the powerful change created by our collective, daily actions. But make no mistake, our steady and persistent advocacy adds up.

As we envision the "new normal" for New Mexico's animals in the next decade (see those goals on page 22 of our 2016 Annual Report), consider this. About ten years ago, the following were part of New Mexico's animal-related reality:

Cockfighting was still legal, and shelter euthanasia of dogs and cats was completely unregulated. There were no statewide equine protection services to provide feed assistance, gelding, or veterinary care, and there was no state-managed equine fund either. There were no organized efforts against horse slaughter. Former research chimps hadn't been declared eligible for permanent sanctuary, no fund existed to help chimps reach sanctuary, and it was inconceivable to think the U.S. government would stop funding invasive research on chimps. Coyote killings contests weren't on the political radar, and there was no momentum to ban them. Only a handful of domestic violence victims needing a safe haven for their animals could access services each year. APNM's comprehensive humane education programs in schools hadn't been created. Proactive disaster preparedness planning/systems for animals were rare.

In every case above, because of persistence and unstoppable pressure over the last decade, humane policies now rule the day. Examining the past reminds us how far we've come, and inspires us to press on. The past teaches us that achieving APNM's and APV's goals is not only possible, it is entirely feasible! Of course, the changes we seek require determination, strategy, resources, and highly engaged supporters.

I'd like to invite you to ask yourself this: "What will I do to help bring about the next decade of change for New Mexico's vulnerable animals?"

Your answers to that one question will ultimately have a strong bearing on our path ahead. Thank you for your continued and growing commitment to positive outcomes.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

MAKING TRACKS™

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AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE:

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE SPAY/NEUTER IN OUR COMMUNITIES

A light brown dog with dark eyes and ears is standing on a gravel surface, looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

NEW MEXICO, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

New Mexico doesn't have any ocean shores, but we do have tidal waves. They come in the form of homeless animals. Because of a lack of affordable and accessible spay/neuter services in our large, rural state, **over 130,000 animals** enter our state's animal shelters **every year**.

Continued next page

Photo by Kristine Gruda/McKinleyCounty Humane Society, Gallup NM

WE KNOW THE SOLUTION

(Continued from previous page)

These staggering numbers tax the resources of our shelters and communities, and often make shelter workers' lives difficult and even unbearable due to the constant flow of animals they want to help, but can't in every case. Only half of the animals admitted to our shelters are returned to their guardians or adopted to a new home. The other half—about 65,000 dogs and cats—are euthanized for lack of a good home. ***Our state's relatively small human population can't provide enough homes to adopt all the homeless animals needing homes.***

New Mexico's euthanized animals account for about 4% of all the animals euthanized in the entire U.S., yet our human population is not even close to 1% of the U.S. total. That means New Mexico's dog and cat overpopulation issues are disproportionately bad.

Of course, the homeless animals brought to shelters represent only part of the problem. New Mexicans know that many other homeless dogs and cats never reach shelters. They get hit by cars, are shot or poisoned by intolerant people, or die of starvation, thirst, illness, or exposure to the elements. We may never know how many dogs and cats meet these horrible ends, but we know these numbers are substantial as well.

While trying to survive out on the land, some animals can create problems and even dangers in the community, such as chasing and biting people, harassing and killing other animals, causing automobile accidents, and spreading diseases harmful to people and other animals.

Given the potential for serious problems caused by homeless dogs and cats, we think the overpopulation issue should be taken seriously by policymakers. But despite efforts by those who've pushed for progress on the issue in some communities, a comprehensive **statewide** approach has not yet come to fruition. We look forward to this changing in 2018.

It's long been understood that the solution to dog and cat overpopulation is quite simple. More animals need to be spayed and neutered to prevent the dramatic expansion of dog and cat populations. Given New Mexico's enormous geographic size and its relatively poor population, it is essential to make spay and neuter surgeries accessible and affordable.

It's also now clear that low-cost spaying and neutering saves a significant amount of money for communities implementing programs. Costs of animal control, sheltering, property loss and damage, and managing human health risks all decrease with increased spaying and neutering.

SOME PROGRESS IN 2017

During the 2017 legislative session, Animal Protection Voters (APV) worked with other dedicated advocates to spearhead the creation of a spay/ neuter funding mechanism. Monumental efforts, coupled with convincing testimony from experts and the public from across the state, built massive momentum. An overwhelming bipartisan majority of New Mexico's House of Representatives voted for the spay/neuter bill, House Bill 123, sponsored by Rep. Carl Trujillo (D-Santa Fe). The bill went on to gain important initial momentum in the Senate.

But it wasn't enough. Despite all these gains, the bill did not receive a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee.

If allowed to pass and become law, Senate Bill 123 would have generated about \$700,000-\$800,000 every year for spaying and neutering nearly 15,000 animals in lower-income households. For years legislators have been clamoring for just such a funding mechanism, and this year advocates delivered a viable solution. We're committed to seeing this common-sense bill reintroduced as soon as possible—if not allowed in the 2018 legislative session, then the 2019 session—for another chance to secure all the support needed for passage of this measure that will improve so many aspects of our state's communities.

NEXT STEPS

As with any important policy, continued pressure from constituents matters to legislators. APV has made it a priority to pass a bill to create a meaningful spay/neuter funding mechanism. The stakes are too high to ignore this issue that costs our communities over \$38 million to address, year in and year out.

Starting now, every animal advocate in the state should contact their legislators and urge them to support this bill in 2018 or in the next legislative session it can be introduced. **For that and other crucial actions you can take to help this measure succeed, see "Actions Everyone Can Take" on page 9 of this *Making Tracks* magazine.**

With your active involvement, New Mexico will soon be able to prove it is serious about addressing dog and cat overpopulation and limiting the terrible costs that come with it.



SPAY/NEUTER FACTS

STATE EXAMPLES

Maryland, Maine, and West Virginia have laws almost identical to what New Mexico tried to pass. These states are already generating hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for spay/neuter surgeries.

VETERINARY SUPPORT

The New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association joined APV and testified at every hearing in support of House Bill 123. Professional shelter directors and volunteers impacted by overpopulation from across New Mexico also testified in support of House Bill 123.

For facts about House Bill 123, visit:
www.apvnm.org/expand-statewide-spayneuter-funding/

COST SAVINGS

For every dollar spent on low-cost spay/neuter programs, communities **save over \$20** in reduced animal control and sheltering costs over ten years.

FOR MORE BENEFITS OF SPAY/NEUTER

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yaa2b7gn>

Why I Support APNM

"I heard about APNM through my mom. She heard about it through one of APNM's members. I am interested in helping animals because every animal should have a home. It is plainly wrong that some animals are beaten up and threatened. All animals should be treated well and taken care of, not left in the wilderness to die. I chose to ask for donations to APNM for my birthday because they help animals all around the state. I currently have three dogs. Their names are Scout, Freckles, and Snowflake. Scout is the oldest, Freckles the middle one, and Snowflake is the smallest. Thank you APNM for all the work you do for the animals around the state."

—Leo McGuire, age 9



The Priceless Value of Rewards *In Memory of Moose*

It's heartbreaking to read Moose's story. The young, friendly Great Dane was home alone when someone burglarized her house. Moose was shot and left to die. After returning home and finding their beloved dog bleeding and struggling to breathe, the family and their veterinarian took the only action they could to ease her suffering—Moose was humanely euthanized.

But the story didn't end there.

APNM's Animal Cruelty Hotline manager contacted the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and the wheels were set in motion to do all that was possible to prevent this from happening to any other dog. By offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for heinous crimes such as this, we can keep our communities safer. As Captain Andrea Taylor of BCSO noted, "Because there is a proven link between animal cruelty and crimes against people, whoever shot Moose and left her to suffer is a danger to the people and the animals of the community."

APNM offered a \$5,000 reward and a tipster came forward. Reymundo Tilo Lucero was arrested and charged

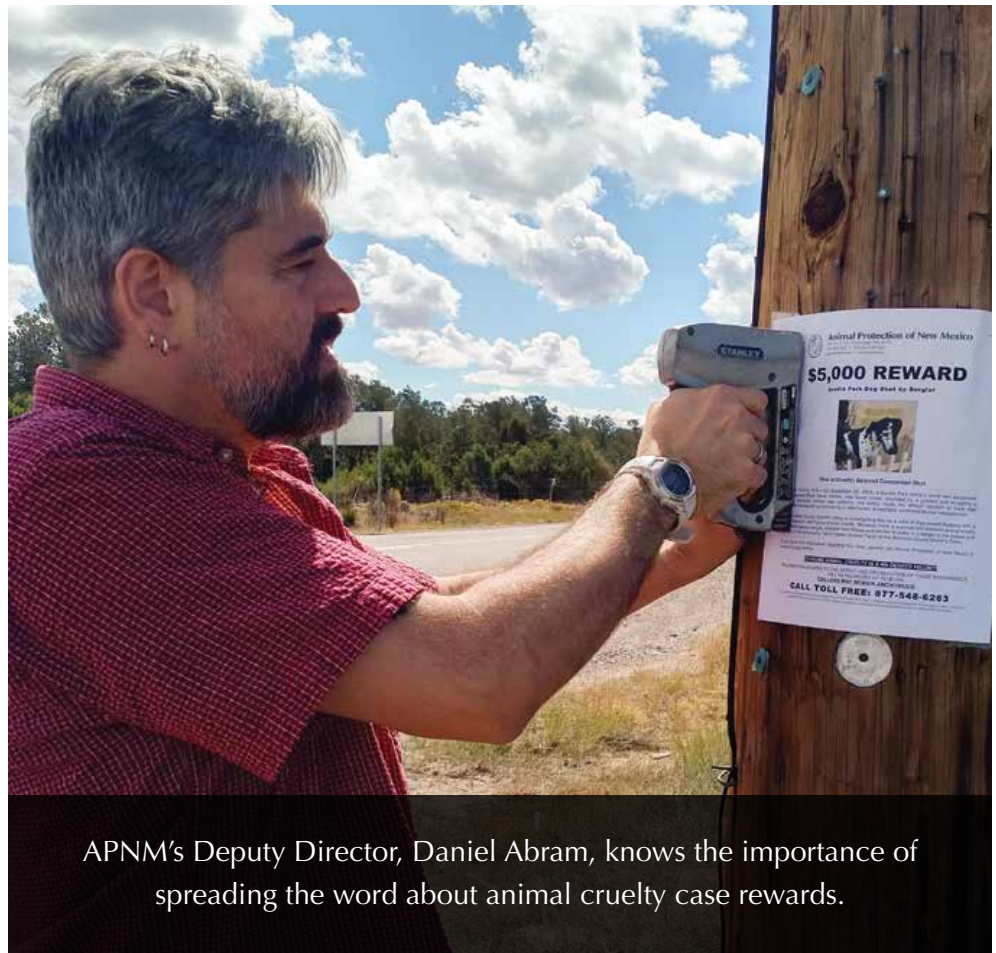
with a litany of alleged offenses, including Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Burglary with a Deadly Weapon, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, Burglary of a Vehicle, and Extreme Cruelty to Animals.

Not every offer of a reward leads to the arrest and conviction of criminals, but, as our Animal Cruelty Case Manager, Alan Edmonds, says, "Even if no arrest is made, each offer spreads the word that Extreme Animal Cruelty is a 4th Degree Felony."

Although nothing can bring Moose back to her grieving family, they can take comfort in knowing that arresting and prosecuting the criminal who took her life sends the strong message that animal cruelty is treated as a serious crime in Bernalillo County.



Moose
photo courtesy of her family



APNM's Deputy Director, Daniel Abram, knows the importance of spreading the word about animal cruelty case rewards.

Northern New Mexico

A family in charge of a small agricultural community's acequia reached out to APNM's Beavers Belong program for assistance with beavers whose dams are blocking the ditches. After viewing the site with an expert, APNM believes installing a flow device will be a successful, non-lethal solution. Please consider donating to allow APNM to cover the cost of this device—to help keep the beavers alive and coexisting peacefully with farmers (apnm.org/donate).

Jemez Valley

In June, Lynne Kito and the Jemez Valley Animal Amigos (JVAA) helped evacuate dozens of animals affected by Sandoval County's Cajete Fire. The all-volunteer group later reunited those animals with their guardians. In appreciation for their tireless efforts to keep people and animals safe from harm, APNM donated \$250 to the JVAA.



Fire evacuees are transported to safety.

San Felipe Pueblo

San Felipe Pueblo approached APNM for assistance with flea and tick protection for the community's dog and cat population (estimated at 550 animals). APNM submitted and received a Flea and Tick Medication Grant from the Banfield Foundation. The pueblo's Community Health Clinic and Department of Natural Resources will assist with distributing 30 cases of the medication.

The Animal Connection at New Mexico State Fair

At the request of the New Mexico State Fair, APNM's *Animal Connection* teachers provided "Animal Safety" lessons twice daily for school children and all state fair visitors. In partnership with Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers, attendees practiced their newly learned skills with the therapy dogs, the official "Ambassadors" for the fair. APNM teachers and "Ambassadors" also visited the Sensory Zone, a new fair addition especially created for autistic children. Those lessons and experiences were wonderful opportunities to reach new hearts at the state's biggest fair.



NM State Police Officers and therapy dogs Belle and Whittaker at the NM State Fair.



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

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



a very special summer camp

The end of a school year does not necessarily mean summer vacation for APNM's *The Animal Connection* teachers and the Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteer (SCCV) therapy dogs who assist with so many of their presentations. The community of Santo Domingo Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo's children and Elders, and the Rio Rancho School District's summer school programs all received "Loose Dog and Bite Safety" lessons. Children gathered to "Read to the Dogs" during the summer library program at Isleta Pueblo. And APNM educators met with New Mexico Department of Health staff to explain the differences between the work of service animals and therapy animals, and the specifics of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

A special part of this summer were the amazing camp experiences shared with the children from Carrie Tingley Hospital. For 70 years, the University of New Mexico's Carrie Tingley Hospital and Clinics have offered medical services for children with musculoskeletal conditions, developmental issues, and long-term physical disabilities, and have given them the opportunity to go to

summer camp. Working with Dr. Cathy Tingstrom from Carrie Tingley Hospital, *The Animal Connection* teachers formed programs suitable for both young children and teenage campers.

How effective is an "animal connection"? One little camper was frightened when dropped off at camp and begged his mother to take him home. But when his counselor explained that if he went home he would miss the **animal** lesson, his tears vanished and he agreed that it was "worth staying for."

When the lessons were completed, the children practiced their new skills with the therapy dogs and then quickly moved into playtime with these amazing canines. Dr. Tingstrom told the APNM teachers, "It was heartwarming to see the children so happy!" A therapy dog handler remarked, "This was the most rewarding outreach experience I have ever had with my dog." APNM teachers are already begging, "Can we go to camp next summer? Please?" Thank you to APNM donor, Mary Zemon, whose donation in support of *The Animal Connection* makes all these positive outcomes possible.



APNM MILAGRITOS

Counseling and The LINK: Thank You, Bob Deane, for Spreading the Word

During Bob Deane's twenty-plus years as a counselor, he has worked on many cases involving animal cruelty. Deane noticed that "especially in domestic violence cases, where the abuser uses threats of violence to a companion animal as a tool to control the victim," animal cruelty and crimes against humans were connected. What he describes is just one example of the known connection between animal abuse and violence toward humans, known as "The LINK." Deane's latest goal is to spread the word about it to new and aspiring counselors.

Bob Deane M.A., LPCC, is Clinical Director of Santa Fe-based Tierra Nueva Counseling Center (TNCC), part of Southwestern University. He is also a long-time animal advocate who recently supported New Mexico House Bill 123, which would have provided funding for statewide spay/

neuter programs if enacted. TNCC offers free counseling to northern New Mexico residents, but some cases are also court-ordered.

The 2017 New Mexico Conference on The LINK (www.thelinknm.com/conference.aspx) provided Deane the opportunity to integrate The LINK into Tierra Nueva's training. He attended the conference, completed the training, and is passing it on to the staff. "The counselors here are all Masters Program students," notes Deane, "so they can take what they learn and apply it to their work here, as well as after they earn their degrees."

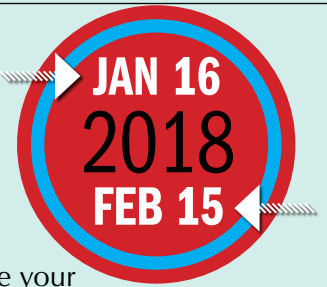
APNM applauds Bob Deane and the TNCC for taking this important step towards making the next generation of counselors understand The LINK and how it intersects with their important work.

NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION: A FOCUS ON FUNDING SPAY/NEUTER

The 2018 state legislative session begins January 16 and ends February 15. That provides just 30 days to pass legislation and enact fiscal policy measures (remember: the “short sessions” in New Mexico are limited only to money matters, bills vetoed in the prior session, and Governor-approved topics).

Animal Protection Voters is hopeful that legislation similar to 2017’s House Bill 123 can be reintroduced in the 2018 session. The bill authorizes an additional \$100 fee paid by large pet food manufacturing companies for each product they sell in New Mexico, making total fees comparable to what other states charge.

This nominal increase could easily be absorbed by these gigantic pet food companies—but even if they pass along the increased cost to consumers, it would average only about \$1.50/year per pet-owning New Mexico household. The result is an astounding \$700,000-\$800,000 generated annually to provide affordable spay/neuter services for families in need across the state—helping to save lives, save tax dollars, and better protect public health.



Here’s how you can help:

- ★ Go to nmlegis.gov and locate your State Representative and State Senator.
- ★ Contact both of your legislators and ask to set up a brief meeting with each of them. It can be in their office, in your home, a local café—whatever works!
- ★ When you meet with your legislators, share with them information about 2017’s House Bill 123, and ask them to support similar legislation in the future. For a fact sheet, visit apvnm.org/expand-statewide-spayneuter-funding/
- ★ Spread the word by signing and sharing the online petition: apnm.salsalabs.org/spayneuter, and encourage others to also contact both of their state legislators to ask for their support of this desperately-needed, life-saving measure.

APNM YOUR GIVING MATTERS

You Can Help Animals Today... and Tomorrow #GivingTuesday Planned Giving

Giving Tuesday is an international day of giving that has spread from country to country and from heart to heart. Held the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, it began in 2012 as a response to the hyper-consumerism of the holiday season. Giving Tuesday is a celebration of sharing—your values, your vision for the future, and your support for the causes you care about.

This Giving Tuesday, November 28th, a generous donor will match your donation to Animal Protection of New Mexico dollar for dollar. Your gift will go twice as far to support lifesaving programs such as APNM’s statewide Animal Cruelty Hotline, classroom lessons on kindness to animals, safe havens for animal victims of domestic violence, emergency services for neglected horses, protection for endangered wildlife, and ground-breaking policy and legislation to ensure the humane treatment of all animals.

Can’t wait until November 28th? Make your gift today with a check mailed to APNM, P.O. Box 11395, Albuquerque, NM 87192. Or give securely online at apnm.org/donate.

Your compassionate concern can help animals long into the future with **planned giving**. Including the causes you care about in your estate plans provides deep satisfaction and peace of mind. And you don’t need to be a rich person or a financial wizard to do so. All you need is to care (you’ve got that covered!) and to do a bit of planning.

Animal Protection of New Mexico is a wise steward and an effective change-maker for animal advocates like you, with a successful track record of nearly 40 years. And because APNM’s legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters (APV), is also committed to the long haul, we just launched the APV Endowment to sustain our powerful legislative work far into the future. (Did you know the average bill takes **seven years** to become law?)

For a handy guide to making charitable gifts through your estate, visit apnm.org/giving

To be notified of free Practical Legacy Planning workshops in 2018, presented by financial advisor and attorney Susan Morrison, please contact Chief Development Officer Elizabeth Wolf, elizabeth@apnm.org or 505-933-1123.

Conquer the Empty Plate

Vegan Fusion 2-Day Workshop Santa Fe

50% of the
proceeds
benefit



Get confident in the kitchen
with award-winning chef, Mark Reinfeld.

SPEND TWO IMMERSIVE DAYS LEARNING:

- how to prepare more delicious and healthy cuisine (vegan and raw)
- new ideas for presentation to turn an ordinary meal into a gourmet experience
- tips and tricks that will greatly enhance your culinary abilities

December 2nd and 3rd
11:00 to 5:00 both days

Workshop Fee: \$475

*(includes meals and
recipe handout)*

Classes held at
Animal Protection Voters
1111 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

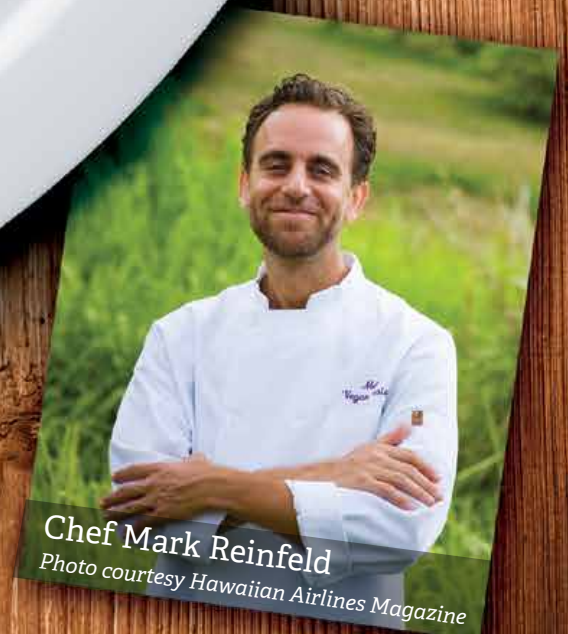
Register online:
<http://tinyurl.com/y9jtmtdm>

For more info, call:
Elizabeth@505-933-1123

Enrollment is limited!

Attention professional chefs!

Mark will also offer a 1-day Chef Training on Dec. 4, 11:00 to 5:00, at the APV Office. \$475 includes meals and recipe handout.



Chef Mark Reinfeld

Photo courtesy Hawaiian Airlines Magazine

Mark Reinfeld is the author of *Healing the Vegan Way*, named #1 Book for Vegans in 2016 by Philly.com, and is a 2017 Inductee into the Vegetarian Hall of Fame. Learn more about Mark at VeganFusion.com

Mediterranean Spinach Pasta

Ingredients

24 oz. Spinach Penne Pasta
 5 Tbs. Olive Oil
 4 Cloves of Garlic (finely diced)
 ½ Cup of Onion (diced)
 ½ Pound of Spinach
 8 oz. Mushrooms (washed, stemmed)
 1 Red Bell Pepper (Julienned)
 4 pieces of Sundried Tomato (chopped)
 3 Tbs. vegan Pesto (you can buy it ready-made, or make your own by combining the following in a Cuisinart: 2 cups fresh basil leaves, ½ cup pine nuts, 3 cloves garlic, ½ cup olive oil, ¼ cup nutritional yeast, 1 Tbs. lemon juice, 1 tsp. salt)
 Pine nuts, vegan parmesan cheese, red pepper flakes.

Directions

1. Cook penne according to instructions – drain and set aside.
2. Put olive oil in skillet on medium-hot heat, wait for oil to get hot, add garlic and onions. Sauté until translucent.
3. Add bell pepper, mushrooms, continue to sauté.
4. Add spinach, dried tomato. Cover and keep on low heat for 5-10 minutes.
5. Combine cooked ingredients with penne pasta and vegan pesto.
6. Arrange on your plate. Sprinkle with pine nuts, vegan parmesan cheese, and red pepper flakes to taste.

Photo by Deb Torza

Vegan Journey for Deb Torza, APV Contract Lobbyist

When Animal Protection Voters lobbyist, Deb Torza, switched to a vegan diet, she decided to keep a journal about her experiences. Here, she shares the profound effect it's had on her entire family.

"My family was always 'into' our health, and I was taught that you had to have meat-based protein and dairy with every meal. In fact, I grew up believing that to be healthy, meat and dairy were *essential* in my diet.

When I turned 30 I started experiencing health issues, most of which were related to my digestive system. I worked out every day, drank plenty of water, and rarely ate processed or fast food. But after my workouts, I would feel exhausted, and by mid-afternoon I could hardly function.

Recently my daughter and I watched the documentary, "What the Health,"* and we were shocked to learn about the negative effects meat and dairy have on the human body. At that moment, I decided to change my diet and become a vegan.

My daughter is a dedicated athlete who plays volleyball year-round and weight trains several times a week. She was excited for us to make the change and was a willing participant on the journey. My husband—the cook in the family—also was supportive. We cleaned out the refrigerator,

went shopping for plant-based foods, and my husband started creating some amazing meals!

From day one I noticed a difference in my energy. I found I didn't experience my "normal" mental and physical slow-down in the afternoon, and I maintained energy throughout the day. Over the course of several days I became more mentally alert, the inflammation in my muscles disappeared, my digestive issues went away, my skin cleared up, I began having incredible workouts and could quickly recover between workouts! I've lost 8 pounds in 8 weeks without even trying, and I'm not hungry!

With this new diet, my daughter is excelling in her sport, and she can't get over how good she feels when she's working out at the gym or in practice.

She feels more focused at school and is less moody (yeah!).

It makes me feel good to fill up my refrigerator with plant-based foods, knowing that no animals lost their lives in the process. It was easy to make the transition and our family has enjoyed the culinary change in our meals at home."

* To learn more, go to WhatTheHealthFilm.com





PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192
www.apnm.org

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

907

That's the number of horses who have
been helped, to date, thanks to the Equine
Protection Fund. Learn more and donate.
EquineProtectionFund.org



APNM **FACES**



Photo by Charles Fox

Eileen McCarthy Eileen joined APNM in July 2014 as the Animal Shelter Assistance Program Manager, helping targeted counties and municipalities in New Mexico improve, develop, and gain funding for their animal sheltering and spay/neuter resources. She brought nearly twenty years of experience in animal advocacy, legislation, sheltering, and lifetime sanctuary care through her work as the founder and director of a captive parrot sanctuary in Minnesota, and through her time with national and international animal sanctuary oversight associations.

In 2015, Eileen was instrumental in helping to develop and gain funding for APNM's Humane Communities initiatives, now operating in Santa Fe and Las Vegas, NM. She is currently the manager of that program and leads efforts to identify and address the unique needs and challenges facing each community, and provide support and guidance to individuals, shelters, law enforcement, businesses, local public officials, and community groups in creating and nurturing kinder, more humane places to live, work and play.

Eileen pursues casual study in the behavior of humans and other animals through trans-species psychology, psychiatry, and trauma, a field pioneered by her mentor, Dr. GA Bradshaw, Founder and Director of The Kerulos Center. She enjoys reading, travel, painting, yoga, scuba-diving, and being at home with her life partner and their two special needs dogs and two special needs parrots.