

# MAKING TRA<sup>PAW</sup>KS

A PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO 2019 ISSUE 2



**LET'S  
SAVE  
LIVES.**

LET'S END UNNECESSARY  
EUTHANASIA DUE TO  
DOG & CAT OVERPOPULATION.

LET'S MAKE AFFORDABLE  
SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES  
AVAILABLE FOR ALL DOGS  
AND CATS IN NEW MEXICO.

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN.

**NOW.**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend of the Animals,

For decades, Animal Protection of New Mexico has operated a statewide Animal Cruelty Hotline, where anyone with a concern for animals in jeopardy can request our help. People can report abuse or neglect to us, ask how to directly report these things to authorities, or ask for help navigating often complicated and time-consuming legal systems.

A typical year sees us handling about 400 such calls.

The lion's share of hotline calls involve abuse and neglect of dogs, and a good many of those concern dog hoarding. In 2018, our hotline manager helped to resolve seven hoarding cases that involved 390 animals. In just one case, 80 dogs were living in squalor.

The trend in 2019 is the same. Several hoarding cases have been on our radar in places all over New Mexico. These cases are complicated and require massive amounts of resources to resolve, mostly because of the number of animals involved. Law enforcement time and money, animal shelter physical capacity and funds, and months of coordination among partners—including our cruelty hotline manager—add up to costly and tragic cruelty.

We know that animal hoarding is a mental illness, and hoarding behavior is enabled by the sheer number of homeless animals in our state. Hoarders often are driven by a misguided attempt to rescue these animals, despite their inability to provide long-term care. One important way to curtail animal hoarding is to reduce the number of homeless animals in our state.

When unwanted animals are not being born by the thousands in every corner of our state each year, our state's animal shelters could more easily and more humanely help homeless animals that come their way. Hoarders could mostly be "put out of business," so to speak.

New Mexico needs to pass a law that creates a significant and sustainable funding mechanism so that spay/neuter surgeries are accessible and affordable. We know from the experience in other states that this one move would dramatically decrease the number of homeless dogs and cats in our state.

In the 2020 legislative session starting in January, Animal Protection Voters—the lobbying arm of Animal Protection of New Mexico—will have one priority bill: to create sustained funding for spay/neuter services.

Anyone and everyone who cares about the wellbeing of animals in our state should be backing this bill and asking their legislators to support it. This entire issue of Making Tracks is devoted to this urgent topic.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings  
Executive Director

# MAKING TRACKS™

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# THE ANSWER TO STOP THE SUFFERING

Smarter Investment in Low-Cost  
Spay/Neuter Means Big Cost Savings  
and Humane Outcomes—But  
Lawmakers Must Pass the Bill to  
Make It Happen

Make no mistake: New Mexicans are paying the steep cost of dog and cat overpopulation. ***We've been paying it for years.***

What is the cost? It's the ever-increasing tax dollars spent by cities and counties to capture, receive, house, and eventually euthanize tens of thousands of animals every year. It's the risk to public safety due to animal bite injuries, fatalities, disease, and traffic collisions due to stray animals. It's the damage to New Mexico's economy, as roaming packs of dogs injure ranchers' livestock, and sickly or dead animals greet tourists that drive our highways. It's the emotional toll on compassionate animal control and sheltering professionals faced with euthanizing otherwise happy, healthy animals.

And, of course, the animals pay the price as well. Every homeless dog or cat is a living, feeling being who suffers without adequate food, water, or shelter, and whose life is all-too-often cut short.

All the expertise and evidence point to one solution as the best: ***New Mexico needs a consistent, concentrated, and adequately funded statewide spay/neuter program.***

Nationwide experts also agree on the biggest barriers to families utilizing spay/neuter services: (1) affordability, and (2) accessibility.

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It is clear that most New Mexicans want to prevent their companion animals from producing unwanted offspring. Companion animal professionals in New Mexico report that low-cost spay/neuter clinics' sign-up lists fill to capacity quickly, often leading to long waiting lists. Many local veterinarians generously donate spay/neuter services to low-income families to the extent that they can as part of their practice. But ultimately, there is not enough funding to meet the enormous need—especially in rural New Mexico, where shelter euthanasia numbers are extremely high, veterinary services are sparse or nonexistent, and many families cannot afford the cost of the procedures.

In 2011, the New Mexico Senate passed a memorial to study companion animal overpopulation in the state and identify funding solutions for low-cost spay/neuter services.

This study considered a variety of funding mechanisms utilized in other states, including specialty license plates, income tax donations, animal breeder permit fees, and surcharges on animal ownership licenses—**but only one funding mechanism stood out as the best, most feasible, equitable, reliable, and adequate source of spay/neuter program funds: a fee charged to pet food manufacturers selling in the state.**

### How does it work?

Already, all manufacturers of dog and cat food and treats that want to sell their products in New Mexico must register each product with the state Department of Agriculture annually (regardless of whether they're selling in a retail storefront or via online). For each product, they pay a meager \$2 registration fee, and they pay an inspection fee amount that depends on the package size or volume of the product sold. In general, the largest and wealthiest pet food corporations produce the largest number of products registered in New Mexico, so they pay more in fees but enjoy healthy profits.

Every state in the U.S. enforces its own different registration requirements and fees on companies selling pet food, and in some cases, companies pay more to sell products in states with smaller markets than New Mexico. Our research shows that the retail cost and variety of dog and cat food products sold in various states appears completely unrelated to the cost or conditions of product registration.

Three states have passed laws to increase pet food manufacturer fees in order to fund spay/neuter: Maine, Maryland, and West Virginia—**and they report no negative impacts, but they do report dramatic, positive results.**

Championed by Animal Protection Voters—the lobbying arm of Animal Protection of New Mexico—legislation was introduced in 2017, 2018, and 2019 to increase dog and cat

food manufacturer fees as suggested by the Senate-requested study and successfully utilized in those other states.

This legislation has enjoyed bipartisan cosponsors and **“yes” votes** in both the New Mexico Senate and House of Representatives.

Previous and current support has come from many counties, cities, animal control officers and shelters, law enforcement, chambers of commerce, feedstores, NM Veterinary Medical Association, NM Association of Counties, NM Municipal League, NM Association of Social Workers, the Editorial Boards of the Albuquerque Journal, Las Cruces Sun-News, the Rio Grande Sun, and more.

In 2018, House Bill 64 passed (House 48-19, Senate 30-4)—but was vetoed by then-Governor Martinez.

But as New Mexico taxpayers continue to pay the costs of companion animal overpopulation, Animal Protection Voters is steadfastly committed to seeing this common-sense legislation passed and signed into law.

The bill will be introduced again in 2020, and we will continue to press for its passage as long as it takes, to finally stop the suffering. We hope you'll join us in fighting for this solution.



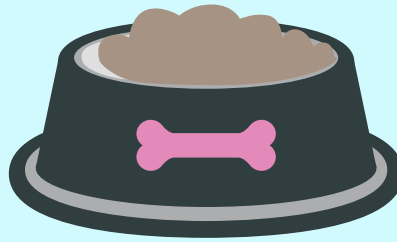
Photo: Guilherme Stecanella/Unsplash



# THE SPAY/NEUTER LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

## Pet food manufacturers

will pay **\$100/year** after **3-year phase-in** for each product of dog and cat food and treats **registered** to be sold in New Mexico.



## Phases in over 3 years:



The bill includes a **6-year sunset clause** so the Legislature can assess the impacts of the fee increase.

## It does NOT apply to:

N/A

- Livestock feed or any other animal feed
- Small manufacturers with annual gross revenue of \$3 million or less
- Prescription diets

Fee is collected by the **NM Department of Agriculture**, and most funds are transferred to the **NM Board of Veterinary Medicine** for use and distribution to spay/neuter service providers.



## Recipients of the Funds



**91%** Spay/Neuter surgeries for animals of income-qualified families

**4%** NM Dept of Agriculture for fee registration enforcement

**5%** NM Board of Veterinary Medicine for enforcement of Animal Sheltering Act

## PROJECTED IMPACT

**There is no evidence that the fee increase will affect what customers pay for dog and cat food.**

But if manufacturers did pass down the fee to customers with a proportional increase in retail prices, pet-owning households would see an average increase of only about \$1.13 to \$2.26 per year (as the fee phases in) to feed their dogs and cats.

**\$1.26 Million per year:** Total funds the fee is expected to generate annually at the completion of the phase-in.

**Over \$1.1 Million per year:** Amount of annual funds that would go directly to spay/neuter services.

**16,000-22,000 per year:** Number of dog and cat spay/neuter surgeries projected to be funded by annual revenue generated.

**\$500,000 per year:** Conservative estimated cost savings to local government animal control and shelters, once the fee is fully implemented.

# Testimonials from States Who Have Passed This Legislation



"I was not worried that pet food prices would increase when [Maine] passed a law that would place a fee on pet food to fund a spay/neuter program...It was apparent that the cost to the companies would be minimal...My pet food sales business continues to thrive! I know that

part of the reason my business is successful is because of our position on animal welfare issues."

**Don H., Co-Owner  
Pet Food Retail Store and Dog Daycare/Boarding  
Bangor, Maine**

"Most people love their pets but many cannot afford to have them spayed or neutered. When Maine started its low-cost spay/neuter program, I finally had a solution for them. The program has caused a decrease in the number of animals that I have to transport to

the local shelter, not an increase as some in the pet food industry predicted. As a pet owner myself, I did not see an increase in the cost of pet food due to this program"

**Garth R., Animal Control Officer, Maine**



"This funding for [the state spay/neuter program] takes not a dime from West Virginia taxpayers. Nor does it pull state funding from other worthy projects...Pet food registration in our state has not decreased and

people are still buying pet food with no issues of rising cost."

**Theresa B.  
Federation of Humane Organizations of WV**

"I have not raised our wholesale or retail prices since the implementation of fees. The fees are minimal and not even pennies on the cost of selling pet foods in WV."

**Jenn D., Dog Food and Treat Manufacturer  
Morgantown, WV**

"Farmers and rural property owners are faced with packs of roaming dogs worrying their livestock and cats often being dropped off in the country to fend for themselves, where they multiply and become a nuisance. As local budgets tighten, this problem will worsen if we do not address it now...There is a way to fund [spay/neuter] without taking money from

our overburdened [state] budget...Each pet food company must register its products with the WV Dept. of Agriculture and pay a [fee that] is ONLY on dog and cat food licenses at the state level and not at the consumer or retail level...It is a public problem and it needs public funding to solve it."

**West Virginia Farm Bureau News, March 2017**



"I sat on the Maryland Governor's Spay/Neuter Task Force to study the need for a Spay/Neuter Fund and was involved in all the discussions of how to fund it. The pet food manufacturers lobbied many objections to the funding plan, but it did become law and we've not heard of any blowback or

negative effects. In fact, the spay/neuter fund has been a tremendous success."

**Tamela Terry, President, SPCA/Humane Society of  
Prince George's County  
Bowie, Maryland**

"The Maryland Dept. of Agriculture [spay/neuter] program has been a great boon to us, and I'm sure if [New Mexico] is successful in implementing a similar program, [it] will see tremendous positive impact. There have been no pet food shortages or increases in price that I know of that are attributed to the program. The small levy is insubstantial for the

companies, but with the amount of pet food bought, the program is very well funded for shelters and rescue groups like ours."

**Jean Salvatore, President  
Best Friends in Harford County, Inc.  
Bowie, Maryland**

"We have seen no noticeable cost change or availability issues for food in Maryland. Simply put, [pet food manufacturers] will move on the cost to consumers if needed, but there have not been any spikes over the past 6 years. I think this is an excellent model for other states."

**Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director  
Talbot Humane  
Chief Animal Control Officer Talbot County  
President Professional Animal Workers of  
Maryland, Inc**



## In Memory of Our Leslie King

A Stalwart Advocate for Animals

*"One can find no greater recognition  
of the value of a person's life than a  
gathering of those left behind to recall  
with adulation and tears days that were  
golden because he, or she, was there."*

*-Jack McDevitt*

It is with profound sadness and grief that Animal Protection of New Mexico announces the passing of our long-time employee and friend, Leslie King, on Sunday, November 18 at her home in Albuquerque. She is survived by her husband, Jack King, her brother, Robert Martin of Redding, CA, first cousin Alice Harrison and second cousins, Diane Harrison and Terry Harrison, all of Fallon, NV, and her beloved cat, Benjie.

The staff and Boards of Animal Protection of New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters are struggling to understand this deep and unexpected loss to our organizations, the animals, and our New Mexico community. Leslie will be terribly missed by all who worked closely with her, and by those across the state who interacted with her professionally. Our love and condolences go out to her family, friends, and colleagues. Leslie leaves behind a powerful legacy of alleviating animal suffering, caring for the vulnerable, and saving animals' lives.

Leslie was APNM's Chief Program Services Officer, overseeing vital projects and program services that have directly benefited animals statewide. Her leadership advanced our Humane Communities initiatives, Animal Cruelty Hotline, Equine Protection Fund and CARE Helplines, and statewide Animal Sheltering projects.

Since 2007, Animal Protection of New Mexico and our state's animals have benefited from Leslie's determined professionalism, tireless dedication, effective, steady leadership, and her kind and gentle spirit. With a background in marketing and government service, Leslie was known for her collaborative style that guided and led to meaningful outcomes with community partners, public officials, and advocates of all stripes. Leslie's patience and authenticity attracted people to our organization and its work, making her many contributions powerful and enduring.

Leslie lived for many years in Deming, New Mexico, and when she entered the work force, she worked for the county managers of both Luna County and Doña Ana County. In those roles she acquired many of the skills and experience that made her contributions to APNM's program services so valuable. Leslie offered reliable and practical assistance to agency representatives and citizens throughout the state who were working to improve their animal control ordinances, their animal shelter operations, spay/neuter programs, and so much more. When Leslie was hired 12 years ago, we were all so grateful to have her unique experience put to work full time for the animals.

Since her passing, so many people from throughout New Mexico have told us what a strong and positive influence she was for them, and how much she will be missed.

We thank you, our supporters and constituents, for helping us honor the remarkable life that was well lived by Leslie King in service to the humane ideals she held so dearly. She will always be remembered as a true champion for animals. Leslie, we miss you so much.



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*Leslie King, pictured above, with Stormy the dog. Leslie oversaw APNM's Humane Communities-Santa Fe dog fencing initiative, and was instrumental in securing funds to launch and sustain it. For years, she championed local efforts to ban the chaining and fixed-point tethering of dogs, and most recently helped create program services that delivered dog fencing options to families who could not afford them. Stormy and her family were APNM's first recipient of this important pilot project. Photo: Lyndi Martinez/APNM.*



## 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: A Focus on Funding Spay/Neuter

The 2020 state legislative session begins January 21 and ends February 20. 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.

This Making Tracks issue’s feature story (starting on p. 3) goes into depth on why Animal Protection Voters is planning to again fight for legislation 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 and safety.

But our work is more successful when it’s supported by people like you. **And the best time to take action is now—before the legislative session even begins.**

Here’s how you can help:

- ★ **Locate your legislators.** Go to [nmlegis.gov](http://nmlegis.gov) and locate your State Representative and State Senator.
- ★ **Contact them.** 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!
- ★ **Share information.** When you meet with your legislators, share with them information about 2019’s **Senate Bill 367 and House Bill 53, and ask them to support similar legislation in 2020.** For a fact sheet on the 2019 bill, visit [apvnm.org/spayneuterbill2019](http://apvnm.org/spayneuterbill2019). It would be very helpful to us if you could send us a detailed debrief of your meeting with your legislators. How did they respond, what questions did they ask, did they agree to support the bill? The more details, the better.
- ★ **Sign the petition.** Spread the word by signing and sharing the online petition: [apnm.salsalabs.org/spayneuter](http://apnm.salsalabs.org/spayneuter). Encourage others to also contact both of their state legislators to ask for their support of this desperately-needed, life-saving measure.
- ★ **Volunteer.** Volunteer your time to spread information about the bill and gather petition signatures in key legislative districts. Visit [apvnm.org/GOATapp](http://apvnm.org/GOATapp) to become an Animal Protection Voters grassroots volunteer.
- ★ **Connect.** Animal Protection Voters might be coming to a town near you soon. If you’re interested in attending a gathering with other like-minded animal advocates, or you’d like to host a presentation in your community where we can talk about important animal protection legislation, contact us at [info@apvnm.org](mailto:info@apvnm.org).



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Animal Protection Day**  
at the Roundhouse

**FEB 13, 2020**

Details at [apvnm.org/apd2020](http://apvnm.org/apd2020)





# A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

## Our Newly Released and Updated STATEWIDE ANIMAL SHELTER SURVEY

Animal Protection of New Mexico recently released our new, statewide survey of animal shelters. It is the result of more than a year of inquiry and research and provides comprehensive, updated data reflecting the current state of animal sheltering in New Mexico.

The new Animal Shelter Survey reveals New Mexico's continuing dog and cat overpopulation crisis, shows great progress by shelters in the face of enormous numbers of animals coming through their doors annually, and points to the urgent need for expanded, sustainable spay/neuter efforts statewide.

### The top takeaways comparing 2017 with 2011 survey results:

- The number of **shelter intakes** decreased by **27.4%**.
- The number of **live exits** (animals adopted, returned-to-owners, or transferred-out) **increased by 16.5%**.
- The number of animals **euthanized** decreased by **68%**.
- APNM has conducted statewide shelter surveys covering data from 2017, 2011, and 2007.
- New Mexico needs a robust safety net across the state for the still outsized number of animals entering New Mexico's shelters.
- New Mexico needs to reduce the senseless, preventable cycle of unwanted litters and subsequent euthanasia of cats and dogs across New Mexico.




# APNM STATEWIDE ANIMAL SHELTER SURVEY

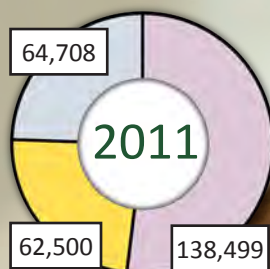
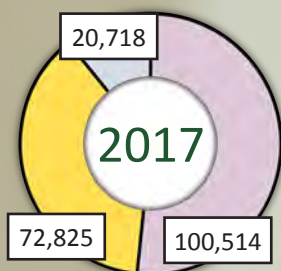
These data indicate steady progress, thanks to ceaseless dedication and hard work on the frontlines of animal care and control in New Mexico. We are making progress. But comparative data from 2011 and 2017 demonstrate that New Mexico needs robust statewide funding for affordable and accessible spay/neuter services.

## NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE TOTALS

	INTAKE	LIVE EXIT	EUTHANASIA	OTHER DISPOSITION*	EUTHANASIA AS % OF INTAKE	EUTHANASIA PER 1,000 PEOPLE
2017	100,514	72,825	20,718	6,971	21%	9.92
2011	138,499	62,500	64,708	11,291	48%	31.08

*\*Not all shelters track/report animal disposition consistently.*

Animal Intake   
Live Exit   
Euthanasia 



## Escalating Costs to Communities

We know that the more homeless animals there are, the higher the cost to communities to provide animal care and control services sufficient not only to protect animals, but also to protect the public from related risks such as bite injuries and fatalities, disease transmission, traffic

accidents, and property damage. Associated costs for basics such as personnel, facilities, equipment, training, sheltering, and euthanasia increase proportionally. The grand total of over \$51 million spent in 2017 is up 34% from 2011.

THE FISCAL REALITY	TOTAL COST to entities addressing homeless animals in NM	COST OF SHELTERING AND ANIMAL CONTROL by government and non-profit facilities in NM—reported	COST OF SHELTERING AND ANIMAL CONTROL by government and non-profit facilities in NM—estimated, not reported	SPENDING BY OTHER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS providing spay/neuter programs and rescue/adoption services
2017	\$51,737,413	\$43,782,321	\$3,657,999	\$4,297,093
2011	\$38,537,712	\$34,917,060	\$343,500	\$3,277,152

*Photo: DepositPhotos*

To view the full survey online, visit [apnm.org/NMAnimalShelterSurvey/](http://apnm.org/NMAnimalShelterSurvey/)



## Saving Lives, but is Transfer the Answer?

Although New Mexico's shelter intake and euthanasia rates have declined since 2011, the problem of dog and cat overpopulation is still **extreme** in New Mexico. A significant part of the overall improvement in New Mexico's euthanasia rate can be attributed to the huge increase in the number of animals transferred out of shelters.



Almost all New Mexico animal shelters transfer dogs and cats to other shelters and rescue organizations. In 2017, shelters transferred 23,400 animals, which is more than double the approximately 10,000 animals reported as transferred in 2011.

Those 23,400 animals transferred out of state accounted for more than 1/3 of New Mexico's total *reported* live exits (68,723). (A small portion of the total live exits had to be estimated for lack of response from shelters.)

But ultimately, transporting our state's excess animals to other states is not a long-term, sustainable approach to dog and cat overpopulation. New Mexico must be able to provide its own strong safety net for animals.

The highest numbers of animals being transferred out of shelters originated in 12 New Mexico counties: Bernalillo, Chaves, Cibola, Curry, Doña Ana, Eddy, Lea, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, San Miguel, and Valencia.

## The Urgent Need for More Spay/Neuter

**Based on data collected from over half of NM's shelters, more than 80% of the stray, abandoned, lost, and surrendered dogs and cats that enter those shelters\* are not spayed and neutered.**

*\*23 of 40 shelters that reported data also track whether animals taken in are spayed/neutered*

Animal Protection of New Mexico's new, statewide Animal Shelter Survey clearly demonstrates a wide diversity of facilities, budgets, personnel, and animal intake across New Mexico. Only through transparency, collaboration, and **a sustainable investment in low-cost spaying and neutering** can we hope to overcome the costly and tragic problem of companion animal overpopulation in our communities.


*Photo: DepositPhotos*

**New Mexico's Approach To Cat And Dog Overpopulation Must Evolve**



## NEW MEXICO'S HIGHEST INTAKES AT-A-GLANCE

The following survey statistics paint a grim picture of New Mexico's tragic cycle of admitting over 100,000 dogs and cats to its shelters annually.



# ANIMALS	COMMUNITY
13,560	City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department
11,231	Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (Las Cruces)
6,875	Farmington Regional Animal Shelter
5,719	Valencia County Animal Shelter (Los Lunas)
4,773	McKinley County Humane Society of New Mexico (Gallup)
4,690	City of Hobbs Animal Adoption Center
4,390	Grants Animal Care Center
4,014	Noah's Ark Animal Shelter (Carlsbad)
2,995	Española Humane
2,880	Aztec Animal Shelter

## HIGHEST INTAKES PER 1,000 PEOPLE IN A COMMUNITY

While actual intake numbers are higher in New Mexico's larger communities, the following ranking reveals how cat and dog overpopulation is much more concentrated in some other, less populated places.

# ANIMALS PER 1,000 PEOPLE	COMMUNITY
163.48	Grants/Cibola County
89.05	Carlsbad/Eddy County
76.48	Española/Rio Arriba County
75.21	Los Lunas/Valencia County
68.21	Hobbs/Lea County
65.78	Gallup/McKinley County
61.51	Farmington/San Juan County
52.11	Las Cruces/Doña Ana County
35.35	Aztec/San Juan County
24.28	Albuquerque/Bernalillo County

Photo: Jessica Johnson/APNM

## Why Collect This Data?

Collecting and sharing data and statistics from New Mexico's public and private animal shelters is necessary in order to:

- ★ **Track trends** for dogs and cats in key categories, such as intake (stray, owner-surrendered, transferred-in), live exits (adopted, returned-to-owners, transferred-out), and euthanasia;
- ★ **Evaluate efficacy** of local programs for dogs and cats;
- ★ **Provide comparisons** of facility size and staffing within similar geographic populations;
- ★ **Identify challenges** within shelters and communities;
- ★ **Assess the need** for more affordable and accessible spay/neuter funding.

The scope of this survey and the lack of a universal statewide shelter data tracking system make this a complicated, time-consuming, but illuminating project. We've made every effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate, and we appreciate and support the efforts of all the respondents.

APNM Statewide Animal Shelter Survey  
©2019 Animal Protection of New Mexico  
All portions of this survey may be shared and reproduced freely.

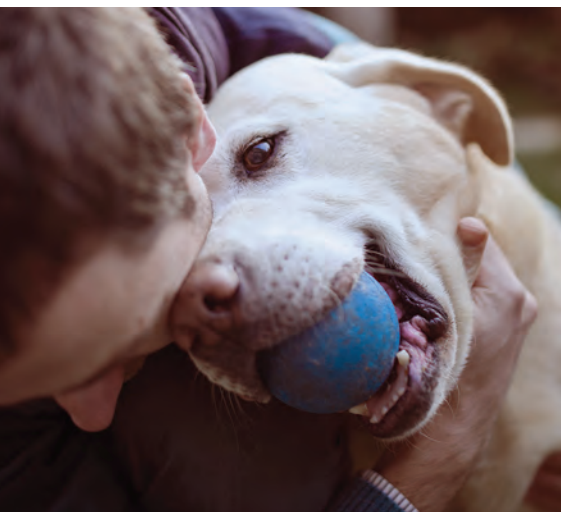


Photo: DepositPhotos

## UPDATE: 2019 STATE SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

Until the New Mexico legislature passes legislation that establishes a truly robust and sustainable funding source for spay/neuter services, New Mexico's spay/neuter programs must rely on the relatively small revenue streams already in place from the sale of spay/neuter license plates, and donations of state tax refunds.

Earlier this year, 20 spay/neuter programs in nine counties received a portion of over \$85,000 from New Mexico's Animal Care and Facility Fund to pay for low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. Revenues from the sale of New Mexico's spay/neuter license plate and optional state income-tax refund contributions provide desperately needed spay/neuter surgeries to curb dog and cat overpopulation. The former New Mexico Animal Sheltering Board—now the Animal Sheltering Committee under the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine (NMBVM)—approved this latest round of funding distributions in mid-2018. These state funds are required to be used only for spay/neuter surgeries, and they must be spent in full and reported back to NMBVM within one year of receipt.

### Torrance County

Torrance County Animal Shelter: \$2,123.41 (McIntosh)  
Friends of Estancia Valley Animals: \$2,123.41 (Edgewood)

### Otero County

City of Alamogordo Animal Control Center: \$5,396.99 (Alamogordo)  
Otero County Animal Shelter: \$5,396.99 (Alamogordo)  
PAW/Animal Village NM: \$5,396.99 (Alamogordo)  
Animal Rescue Mission: \$5,396.99 (Alamogordo)

### San Miguel County

Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern NM: \$4,202.58 (Las Vegas)  
People for Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) NM: \$4,202.58 (Pecos)

### Lea County

City of Hobbs Animal Adoption Center: \$9,820.75 (Hobbs)  
City of Lovington Animal Control: \$9,820.75 (Lovington)  
Lea County Humane Society: \$9,820.75 (Lea County)

### Socorro County

Animal Protective Association of Socorro: \$6,016.32 (Socorro)

### Sandoval County

Rio Rancho Animal Control Shelter: \$2,809.09 (Rio Rancho)  
Watermelon Mountain Ranch: \$2,809.09 (Rio Rancho)  
Jemez Valley Animal Amigos: \$2,809.09 (Jemez Springs)

### Lincoln County

Lincoln County Humane Society Animal Shelter: \$3,273.58 (Ruidoso)

### Eddy County

Paws & Claws Animal Shelter: \$3,273.58 (Artesia)

### Taos County

Stray Hearts Animal Shelter: \$324.41 (Taos)  
Four Corners Animal League: \$324.41 (Taos)  
Taos Feral Feline Friends: \$324.41 (Rancho de Taos)

## In Memory of Judy Babcock

A Passionate Animal Advocate



*Judy and her beloved  
dog, Champagne*

APNM staff and the entire New Mexico animal advocacy community lost a dear friend with the passing of Judy Babcock earlier this year. As a resident of Valencia County for decades, Judy worked to make her county, and indeed the state, a better place for vulnerable animals. She cared deeply about the humane treatment of animals and worked to create meaningful change around her. Judy had high expectations and standards she wanted implemented for animals, and she devoted years of energy and focus to that vision.

Judy was willing to try different things to achieve change, including collaborative efforts among groups, her own individual efforts, and everything in between. Judy served on New Mexico's Animal Sheltering Board for many years, helping guide shelter oversight in the state. She also served on the Valencia County Animal Control Advisory Board for several years, and her involvement contributed greatly to changes in attitudes and practices involving animals there. Determined to push for change, even if it took many years, she

made a point of getting the media and other caring citizens involved. Eventually things got done for the animals because of her tenacity. She influenced county and community level animal control ordinance changes, and in the process brought disparate groups together.

Judy and her husband Rick contributed generously to HART (Homeless Animal Rescue Team, based in Los Lunas), allowing the organization to provide free spays and neuters over many years. HART and other advocates are installing a plaque in her honor at Valencia County Animal Control to recognize her efforts. In addition, Judy ran her own nonprofit, Quixote Animal Humane, for many years and rescued many hundreds of animals in Valencia County. The remains of Judy's 75 "foster failures" (dogs and cats she fostered who spent their lives lovingly cared for by Judy and her husband) will be mixed with hers.

Judy, we miss you so much, and honor your legacy of always caring for—and speaking up on behalf of—New Mexico's needy animals.

### APNM OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

## A Fence for Luna and Sunny



Animal Protection of New Mexico's Humane Communities: Santa Fe fencing project continues to identify tethered dogs in need of help. Humane Communities Program Manager, Victoria Murphy, recently collaborated with the Española Humane Society's Pet Amigos outreach team, local businesses, and a Santa Fe County resident to improve the welfare of two dogs in unexpected ways.

Nancy and her dogs, Luna and Sunny, live in northern Santa Fe County. Luna, a red Heeler mix, and Sunny, a blue Heeler, were originally adopted from an animal shelter. Nancy's husband recently passed away, leaving her to care for the two dogs alone. Four-year-old Luna found herself routinely tied with a fixed-point cable during the day while Nancy was at work. One day Luna managed to escape her confinement and left her yard. She harassed a neighbor's small dog, causing minor injuries after a territorial squabble. Building a fence was beyond Nancy's means. Not wanting to have problems with her neighbor, Nancy felt her only option was to surrender Luna to the nearest animal shelter.

The Española Valley Humane Society shelter staff greeted Nancy on the day she arrived to surrender Luna. Luna snuggled up in the lap of a Pet Amigo's outreach staff member while Nancy tearfully explained why she was surrendering her companion. Upon learning the reason for Luna's surrender, Pet Amigos called Animal Protection of New Mexico while Nancy was still at the shelter. Humane Communities stepped in to provide a fence so that Nancy could keep Luna...and Sunny wouldn't lose his companion.

### BIG THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!





## A Legacy for Animals

"I love animals. I have ever since I was a kid. I am an advocate for all animals, domestic and wild. I spearheaded the successful effort to ban circuses in Santa Fe, and I volunteer with a wide variety of animal protection organizations, including Animal Protection Voters.

Since I'm retired and don't have a large amount of disposable income, I can't donate as much as I'd like to animal organizations. But I can bequeath part of my estate to help support the causes that mean so much to me. That is why I plan to give a large part of my estate to Animal Protection Voters after I die.

I like the idea that APV reduces animal abuse and suffering by passing laws to protect animals. After I'm gone, my money will be helping Animal Protection Voters pass strong laws for animals and help elect animal-friendly candidates in New Mexico.

It's a satisfying feeling to know that I can have a lasting, positive impact on animal protection in New Mexico, even after I'm gone."  
—Debbie E.



Debbie and one of her feline family members. Photo: Charles Fox

### BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Animal Protection of New Mexico prides itself on producing powerful and informative print materials, much like the one you're reading now. If you're wondering how a not-so-big organization has an outsized impact through the mail, we'll let you in on our secret: Paper Tiger of Santa Fe.

Paper Tiger, a small and local printing company based in Santa Fe, is a Platinum-Level Business Sponsor with Animal Protection of New Mexico. Paper Tiger's Robert Rodriguez believes strongly that healthy businesses should find a way to give back. He says, "As a small local business, we are always looking for ways to support causes that improve the community. We could not be happier to sponsor Animal Protection of New Mexico and their critical advocacy work."

Animal Protection of New Mexico is thrilled to have the support of a local business that makes our impact so wonderfully visible. Thank you, Paper Tiger, for sharing our vision of making humane the new normal in New Mexico!



Robert Rodriguez and his son, Nathan. Photo: Tracy Burr



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

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# 2020: The Year Ahead

Animal Protection of New Mexico  
Animal Protection Voters  
**ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING**

Join us online: watch your email for the link.

**FRIDAY JANUARY 17**

**APNM: 5:00-6:00pm**

**APV: 6:00-7:00pm**

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APNM **FACES**



*Alex with her beloved dogs, Zoey (left) and Kaia (right).  
Photo: Dorothee Hutchinson/APNM*

**Alexandria “Alex” Tarantino** joined Animal Protection of New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters in 2018 as our Legislative Campaign Associate, and she hit the ground running, armed with her lifelong compassion for animals and tenacious work ethic. As a critical part of Animal Protection Voters’ legislative team, Alex assisted in passing the statewide ban on egregious coyote killing contests earlier this year. For that bill and others, Alex was responsible for tracking bills, ensuring supporters were kept aware of legislative hearings and votes, testifying before committees, and activating and energizing volunteers.

Before she joined our staff, Alex volunteered for Animal Protection Voters for several years, conducting important research and outreach to support numerous animal protection programs. She earned a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of New Mexico (UNM), and gained valuable experience working at a veterinary hospital and interning with UNM’s Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

Alex has been around animals her entire life, growing up with horses, dogs, and cows. She and her husband currently share their home with a menagerie of companion animals, including dogs, chickens, goats, a cat, and a fish. In her free time, she loves hiking with her pups, exploring New Mexico, and enjoying peaceful nights on her patio surrounded by her animal and human family.