

MAKING TRAILS

A PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO 2020 ISSUE 2

This was Roxy.

She was killed
by a trapper's
snare while
hiking on public
land with her
family.

READ ALL ABOUT
WHAT WE'RE DOING
TO STOP TRAPPING ON
PUBLIC LANDS. Page 3



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend of the Animals,

I think everyone can agree that 2020 presented more than one year's worth of challenges, testing our collective strength, resilience, and flexibility. After 10 months of personally navigating the COVID-19 global pandemic and adapting our programs to accommodate an explosion of needs, I'm proud to say our boards, our staff, and our supporters have all made sure our vision is not interrupted, even during these very difficult times.

Realizing our vision—to make humane the new normal—is even more crucial during these especially tough days. Widespread economic pain and suffering, coupled with a human health crisis, makes our already tough work tougher. We're extremely grateful for your belief in our ability to protect vulnerable animals.

We have always known our work is “essential,” but the events of this past year have made it more evident than ever that our relationship with animals has to change. We have to stop capturing wild animals from around the globe and stuffing them into cages for food, entertainment, clothing, body parts, and invasive research. We have to end the barbaric and unhealthy food systems that entail keeping cows, pigs, birds, and other animals in disgusting, germ-ridden conditions that lead to their misery and human health crises.

COVID-19 likely came from wild animals kept in deplorable conditions in Wuhan, China, but American factory farms have long been breeding grounds for all kinds of diseases like salmonella, E. coli, viruses, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria. These farms are not getting better, and their numbers continue to increase. They are disproportionately located in low-income neighborhoods and in communities of color where—because of these animal factory operations—people are exposed to polluted air, land, and water.

It's well past the time to insist that everyone—regardless of income level—have access to clean, affordable, whole plant-based food, rather than the highly processed, disease-inducing junk and fast food that is literally making our country sick and harming billions of animals in the process.

There has never been a bigger wake-up call than right now to adopt a plant-based diet. Study after study tells us that as more people make this change, the chance of dying from heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes drops dramatically. COVID-19 adds a layer of urgency to boost immune response and eliminate underlying health conditions that are largely caused by animal-based foods. APNM is doing everything it can to make this transition to a plant-based diet affordable, accessible, and enjoyable.

As always, we are fueled by the passion of our supporters who help ensure our cumulative efforts will forge more positive change across our New Mexico communities with each passing year. Thank you for being there for us, as we are there for you and the animals that matter to all of us.

Elisabeth Jennings

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

MAKING TRACKS™

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Cover Photo: Courtesy of Roxy's family

TRAPPING

ROBBING US OF OUR WILDLIFE— AND OUR PEACE OF MIND

Every November 1, another trapping season for “furbearer” species begins here in New Mexico. Traps and snares for some species, like coyotes, can be set year-round—but in late fall and winter, the number of these brutal devices on our public lands multiplies exponentially, to capture and kill thousands of wild animals: mostly bobcats and foxes in addition to coyotes, but also species like beavers, ringtails, and raccoons. Why? So trappers can sell their fur.

Trappers are pillaging our public lands, stealing the wildlife who live and belong there, for commercial gain.

They are able to take and sell limitless numbers of our wildlife. And they do this using outdated methods with a long history and evidence of undue pain, suffering, and danger to other wildlife and the general public.

In the upcoming 60-day-long New Mexico legislative session—scheduled to begin January 19 and end March 20, 2021—Animal Protection Voters will again be pushing for “**Roxy's Law**,” legislation to ban traps and snares (as well as poisons used by government agencies and individuals to eradicate wildlife) on public lands in New Mexico.

The bill is named in memory of Roxy, a sweet senior cattle dog who was strangled to death by a neck snare set by a trapper while hiking with her human on public land.

As if Roxy's death was not tragic enough, what came after was abysmal. As Roxy's owner carried her lifeless body back to his car, an emaciated bobcat caught in a leghold trap lunged at him from behind a tree. The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) arrived at the scene and euthanized the bobcat, and their investigators located the trapper who set the trap and snare.

Criminal charges were brought against the trapper—not for killing Roxy, but for minor technical infractions: setting his traps too close to a road, failing to place his ID on them, and failing to regularly check his traps. Shockingly, the trapper did not actually face consequences after NMDGF mishandled all the evidence and the case was dismissed.

But here are the important questions: In the case of Roxy and the emaciated bobcat... Would it have been any less **dangerous** if the trapper's ID was on his traps or if the snare was set in a different location on public land? Would a trap be any less **cruel** if the paw clamped between its jaws belonged to a fox instead of a dog? Does it change the fact that it is **unethical and irresponsible** that furbearing species like bobcats can be legally trapped by the thousands and sold in commercial markets?

Most New Mexicans say “no” and they have many reasons for being ready to say goodbye to traps, snares, and poisons on **our** public lands.

(Continued)

5 MOST TRAPPED FURBEARER SPECIES IN NEW MEXICO



1. COYOTE
2. SKUNK
3. GREY FOX
4. BOBCAT
5. RACCOON

In the 2019-2020 trapping season, private trappers killed more than 8,200 individual animals from among these five species alone—representing 93% of all wild trapped animals.

WARNING:
The following page contains images of trapped animals which some readers may find disturbing.

Trapping is the Only State-Sanctioned Activity Allowing Private Individuals to Take Unlimited Numbers of Wildlife and Sell Them for Private Commercial Profit

Even many hunters oppose trapping, declaring that furbearer trapping violates the “**North American Model of Wildlife Conservation**” that prohibits commercial markets for wildlife and is not conducted primarily for personal subsistence.

HOW ARE HUNTED GAME SPECIES TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM TRAPPED FURBEARER SPECIES?	
GAME SPECIES	FURBEARER SPECIES
	
All NM game species are studied to establish population estimates, annual kill limits, individual “bag” limits, and sometimes license limits.	There are no population estimates for any NM furbearers. There are no kill, “bag,” or license limits.
Commercial markets are prohibited.	Furbearers may be taken and sold for private profit.
Game species programs are largely financially self-sustaining through hunter licenses & equipment taxes.	The trapping/furbearer program is largely subsidized by hunters; trapper fees and taxes are nominal, less than the cost of one full-time Game & Fish employee.



This Grey Fox was found on public land near Placitas, NM in December 2017. In the 2019-2020 trapping season, 1,323 Grey Foxes were reported to have been killed by trappers in New Mexico. *Photo courtesy of Lauri Dodge*



This coyote was found in a trap on public land outside of Las Cruces, NM, in February 2019. New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish no longer requires trappers to report the numbers of coyotes they kill, but past reported data indicate at least 4,000-5,000 are killed every year. *Photo courtesy of Jerry Smith*

Trapping is Hampering Endangered Species Recovery

As far as can be known, the vast majority of leghold traps set in New Mexico are intended to capture Western coyotes—a native wild canine species, averaging approximately 20 to 40 lbs. in size. Unfortunately, a trap set for one canine species will inevitably be able to capture other canines—which is why these leghold traps capture not just domestic dogs, but also endangered Mexican gray wolves.



Pictured: “Mia Tuk,” a young Mexican gray wolf sedated while being fitted with a GPS collar by federal wildlife officials. Later, Mia Tuk was killed in 2015 after being caught in a leghold trap on public land and bludgeoned with a shovel by the trapper. The trapper was not charged with illegal trapping violations or animal cruelty. *Photo courtesy of USFWS*

Since 2002, at least:*

- 44** endangered Mexican wolves were trapped by private trappers in New Mexico**
- 19** wolves were injured (43.2%: injury rate for trapped wolves). Of those 19:
 - 4** required amputations but survived (21.1%: amputation rate for injured wolves)
 - 8** died (42.1%: death rate for injured wolves)

*These numbers are according to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service data; they exclude six trapped wolves in open law enforcement cases where location and details have not been disclosed.

** In Arizona during the same time period, a much smaller number of wolves (4) were trapped.



There are only an estimated 87 Mexican gray wolves living in New Mexico, and just 163 total living in the wild on the entire planet. While this iconic animal is slowly coming

back from the brink of extinction, leghold traps lead to perpetual recovery setbacks caused by injuries, amputations, and death.

Trapping is One of the Cruellest Ways to (Eventually) Kill an Animal

Anyone who has spent time in nature knows that it is not always kind. Carnivores survive by consuming prey. And various types of outdoor recreation can indirectly or directly lead to the harassment or death of wildlife. But trapping is widely regarded as especially and unacceptably cruel, beyond anything else currently allowed on New Mexico’s public lands.

If a trapper finds an animal alive in a trap, the trapper typically kills the animal by bludgeoning, choking, or stomping the animal to death. None of these are approved methods of euthanasia, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Trapped animals are commonly subject to:


- ♦ prolonged pain, stress, and trauma for up to 24 hours or more
- ♦ dehydration, starvation, overheating, freezing, or attacks by other animals
- ♦ lacerations, broken/dislocated bones, and infection
- ♦ strangulation, if caught in a neck snare
- ♦ self-mutilation or self-amputation




An out-of-state tourist enjoying NM public lands near Aztec found a raven with his bloodied leg in this leghold trap in March 2018. NM Dept. of Game & Fish investigated and found it to be a legally set trap, and there was no violation by the trapper. *Photo courtesy of Phoebe Bechtolt*

Outdoor Recreation in New Mexico Undermined While Colorado's and Arizona's Public Lands are Trap-Free

Every year, a number of New Mexico residents and tourists report a negative experience with a trap or snare—usually, they have found a wild animal languishing in a trap, or their dog has been caught in a trap. Public lands are often promoted as shared lands that can and should host multiple uses—but a use that interferes with the enjoyment of others should no longer be allowed.

**COLORADO**
1996

**ARIZONA**
1994

Bans on Traps, Snares and Poisons:

Recent Trapping Incidents in New Mexico:

November 14, 2020 – Near Lake Farmington, a Siberian husky named Ivy was caught in a leghold trap for more than an hour before her human companion, James, could get help to release her. Veterinary costs reached \$750.

November 20, 2020 – Following a putrid stench while on a walk along a path outside Santa Teresa, Jose discovered multiple piles of dead, rotting, skinned coyotes that appeared to be a trapper's dump site (he thought the almost unrecognizable carcasses were dogs at first).

November 21, 2020 – In the remote mountains of northern Santa Fe County, hikers found a lost dog languishing in a leghold trap. Rescue group NMDOG rescued the Labrador mix now named Mahlia, who needed costly veterinary treatment including amputation of several toes.

November 26, 2020 – A trained search and rescue dog, Jessie the Dutch shepherd, on a hike with her human Terry, stepped into a leghold trap in the Jemez National Recreation Area. Terry, as a search and rescuer, had been previously trained to release her dogs from leghold traps, and Jessie walked away with only swelling and a split nail on her foot from pawing at the trap.

December 2, 2020 – A hunter, Bryan, was hunting quail near Bernardo when he heard his German shorthair pointer screaming and found her in a leghold trap set in the nearby arroyo. The dog luckily escaped with only minor injuries.

December 17, 2020 – Dennis and Dixie were hiking in open country with their dog, a heeler named Cruz, in the Santa Fe National Forest, when the dog fell into a leghold trap. Cruz didn't put weight on his bruised leg for some time.

“The state of New Mexico needs to fully commit itself to implementing a science-driven, 21st century wildlife stewardship model for all non-game species.

The fatal flaw with snares, leghold, and conibear traps on public lands is that they all have the potential to indiscriminately catch, maim, or kill wildlife and domestic pets that are not intended to be caught. The potential for mis-management of wildlife populations and increased

mishaps with pet owners is simply too great to continue utilizing trapping as a legitimate method of wildlife stewardship.

The day of recreational trapping in my mind should come to an end in New Mexico. As an avid hunter and conservationist, the only purpose trapping serves is to give a black eye to sportsmen's/women's reputation.”

—Garrett Vene Klasen, former candidate for NM State Land Commissioner, and northern conservation director with New Mexico Wild

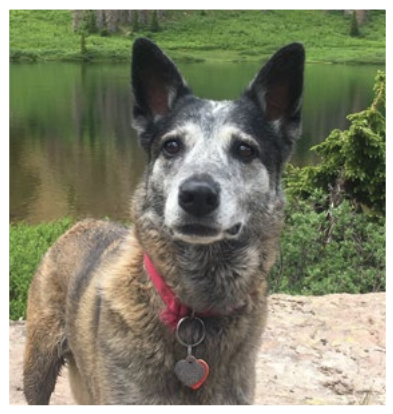


Photo courtesy of Garrett Vene Klasen

*What can YOU do to help put an end to trapping on our public lands?
See page 8 for a list of actions you can take right now.*

ROXY'S LAW AT A GLANCE*

Named after Roxy the dog, killed by a snare while hiking with her family. The bill is officially called the Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act.



Roxy. Photo courtesy of Roxy's family

1 OUTLAWS ALL LEGHOLD, BODY-GRIPPING, & CAGE TRAPS, ALL SNARES, AND WILDLIFE POISONS ON PUBLIC LANDS— BUT WITH EXPLICIT EXEMPTIONS FOR:

- ◆ All other types of hunting, fishing, archery, falconry, etc.
- ◆ The taking of birds, fish, or small rodents
- ◆ Protecting human health and safety by a government entity
- ◆ Ecosystem health management by wildlife agencies or conservancy districts
- ◆ Bona fide scientific research
- ◆ NM Dept. of Game & Fish responding to nuisance complaints using non-lethal traps or snares
- ◆ Cage traps to remove wildlife to protect property, crops, or livestock, or to recover lost or feral domestic animals
- ◆ Any trapping done by an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo for religious or ceremonial purposes

2 ESTABLISHES CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR PENALTIES FOR PERSONS WHO VIOLATE THE LAW



3 GOES INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1, 2022



“[T]rapping is indiscriminate, cruel, threatens recreationists and tourists, kills our threatened and endangered species...and, because there are no bag limits, presents a real threat to our already threatened ecosystem.”

Albuquerque Journal Editorial Board, Editorial: Nothing About Traps is New Mexico True, Dec. 7, 2020

“The recent trapping accidents in New Mexico are tragic and avoidable. As a State Representative, I supported and co-sponsored various legislation to end trapping on public land, and I'll continue to support and advocate for Roxy's Law as your Commissioner in the upcoming session. It is time for the legislature to ban trapping on public lands in New Mexico in a way that makes sure that sovereign Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos have their own oversight.”

State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard



Derrick with Robin, who has since passed away. Photo courtesy of Derrick

“I once had a beautiful black and white two year old Husky who just lived to love and loved to run. She got caught for many days in a deadly, hidden trap. My family and I found her after endless searching, more dead than alive, and I can only imagine the suffering she endured. This is why I support Roxy's Law.”

Derrick Toledo, Jemez Pueblo

*Exact bill language is subject to change throughout the legislative process.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: Fight to Ban Traps, Snares, and Poisons on Public Lands



This *Making Tracks* issue's feature story (beginning on page 3) covers why Animal Protection Voters is planning to again fight to pass legislation to crack down on traps, snares, and poisons on New Mexico's public lands (a bill known as "Roxy's Law"). But our work is more successful when it's supported by grassroots advocates. The 2021 state legislative session is looking to be extremely challenging and, due to the pandemic, normal in-person public participation in the legislative process is likely to be limited. But you can still make your voice heard and help our efforts from home.

Here's How You Can Help

Visit our action page at apvnm.org/NoTraps to get matched with the State Representative and the State Senator who will represent your legislative districts in the 2021 state legislative session. Use the form on the action page to send an email to your legislators, explaining why you support prohibiting traps, snares, and poisons on public lands and urge them to vote yes on Roxy's Law. Sample talking points are provided for you, to help you write your email.

Share our action page widely (apvnm.org/NoTraps) to get more New Mexicans to contact their legislators as well, building an even stronger force of support for Roxy's Law.

Help us monitor public lands for any traps, snares, or M-44 poison bombs you see. Take a picture, document the location, but please be aware that tampering with these devices is illegal and could be very dangerous. Call APNM's Animal Cruelty Hotline to share what you see: 1-877-5HUMANE (1-877-548-6263).

Write and submit a letter to the editor of your local paper, sharing publicly your support for Roxy's Law and urging others to join the fight. Contact us at info@apvnm.org for helpful talking points, draft letters, or information on where to submit your letter.

Volunteer your time to assist APV's Lobbying Team during the legislative session (normally from January through March, but details on the 2021 legislative session are still being finalized due to the pandemic); you could read and review bills, make phone calls to activate our supporters to take action, or more. Visit apvnm.org/GOATapp to become an Animal Protection Voters grassroots volunteer.



STANDING UP
SPEAKING OUT
SAVING LIVES



apvnm.org



Lessons in Compassion Delivered Digitally

What had begun as one more unfortunate outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic became an enormous opportunity to expand *The Animal Connection*, our Humane Education curriculum.

During the week of March 9th, 2020, *The Animal Connection* and *The Animal Connection Jr.* curricula were running smoothly at the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center, in Albuquerque at John Adams and Hayes Middle Schools and Alamosa and Saint Therese Elementary Schools, and in Santa Fe at Nina Otero Community School. Mora Elementary and Rio Gallinas Charter School in Las Vegas were already scheduled for April and May.

Special community presentations were booked for numerous youth groups, a state-wide teachers' convention, the New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico Cancer Services, and multiple community centers and assisted living facilities. The education team had begun planning for "Train the Trainer" seminars that would provide teachers throughout New Mexico instruction on providing *The Animal Connection* curricula in their own classrooms.

But by March 20th, all school programs were canceled and, as days passed, all hopes of resuming the lessons dwindled. Spring and summer events were canceled; "Train the Trainer" remained just a great idea; and ZOOM® meetings replaced in-person planning sessions and meetings. Frustration and disappointment replaced enthusiasm and excitement.

During one of our many ZOOM meetings, a plan was conceived. On March 23rd, APNM's Development team began contacting education program funders, requesting permission to use their funding—originally restricted for live presentations—instead to produce virtual lessons that would be made available to all teachers throughout New Mexico. Their answers were "Yes!"

Enthusiasm and excitement soon replaced the frustration and disappointment. Brent Peterson of *Antigravity Films*, an accomplished videographer well known to APNM, reduced his rates and enthusiastically came on board. Slide show lessons were converted to voice-overs with animation. Scripts were written for screenplays, and camera and lighting equipment was carried into back yards, parks, and the Main Albuquerque/Bernalillo Public Library. Registered therapy dog teams from Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers took on "starring" roles in many of the films, and the sons of APNM staffer Tony Quintana received the coveted "Dog's Best Friend" awards for their portrayal of students in filming "Loose Dog and Bite Safety."



Fortune (whose Dad is APNM's Plant-Based Eating program manager) cuddles with therapy dog Chance during a break from filming the "Loose Dog and Bite Safety" video. Photo APNM

By the end of September, six lessons in the curriculum were completed and two more are now in the final editing stage. The virtual lessons, instructions to teachers, handouts, and associated activities are all being placed on the LearnWorlds (learnworlds.com) teaching platform and will be available to students and teachers traditionally served, as well as teachers and students who, in the past, didn't have access to these lessons because of their geographic location or the capacity limitations of our staff.

What had begun as one more unfortunate outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic became an enormous opportunity to expand the curriculum.

Three more lessons are needed to complete The Animal Connection curriculum: "Blood Sports," "The Consequences of Chaining," and "The Work of Animal Welfare Officers/Careers in Animal Welfare." Our videographer has offered his reduced rates to complete the filming needed, and we're eager to offer the complete curriculum to students statewide.

Can you help us bring about the systemic change needed for New Mexico's animals by helping us fund these remaining video lessons? Contact Chief Development Officer Dorothee Hutchinson at dorothee@apnm.org for more information.



Equine hay assistance recipient on Taos Pueblo; photo APNM

The Right to Food *Rancho Rincón Serves Vulnerable New Mexicans During COVID*

Humans' right to food is protected under international human rights and humanitarian law. What about animals' right to food? Not having any or not having enough quality food has serious mental and physical effects.

Understanding that too many families were facing hunger and stress over what bills to pay, Rancho Rincón—located in Mora County—made an incredibly generous offer: they would donate over 1,000 bales of premium hay to help horses, donkeys, and mules in need, if we could organize distribution.

Rancho Rincón's hay donation went primarily to Ramah Navajo Chapter, Taos Pueblo, and San Felipe Pueblo, helping more than 140 horses and donkeys, even supporting some families as they sought gelding for colts and stallions. This beautiful gift stretched the impact of our statewide Equine Protection Fund services. Words from equine caretakers (at right) tell what receiving this gift means on the ground.

Thank you to everyone who made this project possible, and huge appreciation to the hard-working employees of Rancho Rincón!

"I am grateful. I don't know what I could have ever done without the help from your organization." -K.M.

"When I feed them, it helps them to be stronger and healthier and this would be difficult without help. It does not help that we have drought and no pasture, along with no job, it is a scary time." -H.G.

"Feed assistance provides a huge peace of mind for my family." -M.H.

"These horses have been given to me from my late mom, ever since she passed things have gotten in a bind. Because of COVID, I had to relocate, that relocation really took some money away. I'm slowly making things better financially. I am in dire need of assistance right now. Thank you!" -A.C.

"The feed assistance has helped me in a time I needed help the most. It has helped me keep my horses from starvation and help me get food for me, my mom, and my child." -T.H.

HOW MANY MORE CHIMPS WILL BE EUTHANIZED IN ALAMOGORDO?

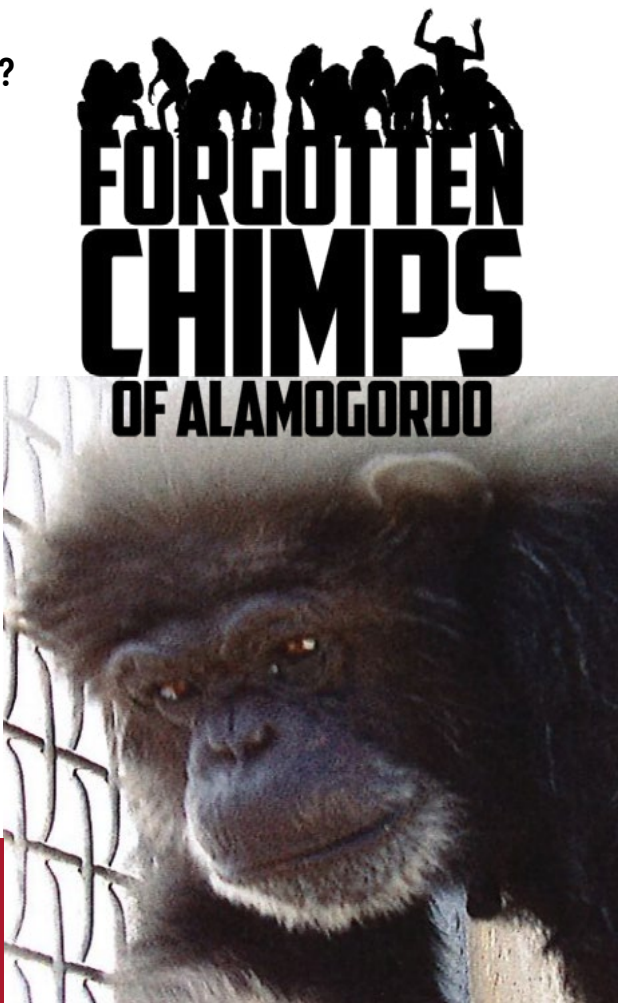
The surviving chimps at Holloman Air Force Base are in critical danger. Since October 2019, seven chimps have died—four of them were euthanized. Charles River Laboratories profits from running the outdated lab facility—using your hard-earned tax dollars—and cannot meet the complex needs of chimpanzees. The Alamogordo chimps have suffered enough and deserve better.

We are working hard to strengthen support for **Montessa, Sherril, and all the chimpanzees** the National Institutes of Health have essentially abandoned at the Alamogordo Primate Facility on Holloman Air Force Base. Steady engagement from a growing bipartisan coalition

of members of Congress; substantial *New York Times* coverage; extensive local media coverage in Louisiana and New Mexico; a powerful online event with chimp experts and U.S. Senator Tom Udall; and a new social media campaign have all drummed up attention and aid for the chimps' plight.

Those who prefer the status quo think that chimpanzees should not get out of lab facilities to enjoy their final years in sanctuary. But we believe that cynicism and despair will not win—and these remaining, abandoned chimps absolutely deserve sanctuary!

Please stand with us and raise your voice. Help us help these chimps. Your calls and emails make a difference.



Visit ForgottenChimps.org today
Take action and share widely! We need everyone across the country to speak up for them...before it's too late.

Right: announcement of first town hall; Below: still from recording of third town hall



Keeping Informed and Involved:
Virtual Town Halls

APNM launched a series of popular **online town halls** this year, giving advocates a behind-the-scenes look into our critical programs aimed at protecting animals from cruelty.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made life much harder for people and their animals, and APNM has been working diligently to strengthen safety nets for the most vulnerable. Topics already covered:

- 🐾 **Spay/Neuter in New Mexico**
- 🐾 **A Massive Response to Equines in Need**
- 🐾 **Challenging Animal Cruelty: From Taking Calls to Taking Action**

Upcoming topics include: *The Animal Connection* education curriculum, Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE), and Plant-Based Eating. Sign up for eAlerts at apnm.org to receive notifications about this popular series.

Missed a town hall? All sessions are being recorded and can be viewed on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/APNM).



Ramah Community: This summer, New Mexico artists Carl (Cat) and Harriette Tsosie combined their love for animals and their artistic talents to create beautiful and intricate ceremonial gourd rattles, donating proceeds from the sale to the community. The collaborative project with Santa Fe-based Encaustic Art Institute raised over \$2,000 for veterinary care, gelding and birth control for the Ramah community's horses, and for plant-based food for needy community members impacted by the pandemic.



Around the State: Virtual fundraising offers unusual access to events...and supporters make them successful! COVID-19 forced APNM and APV to pivot away from in-person annual events this year. APV's Laws & Paws and APNM's Animals & Architecture each spanned a month, providing extra time to celebrate successes and hear from supporters. People from across New Mexico and even other states participated. Thanks to you, APV and APNM exceeded their fundraising goals this year. Thank you!



Alamogordo: APNM's Animal Cruelty Hotline received information from individuals who witnessed a NM Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) officer respond to a nuisance complaint, take custody of a trapped bobcat, and strangle the bobcat to death with a catchpole in apparent accordance with Department practice. After APNM demanded change, NMDGF subsequently established internal protocols and training that requires officers to euthanize wildlife using only methods deemed acceptable by the American Veterinary Medicine Association, which does not approve of strangulation.

Corrales and Mora County: APNM publicized rewards we offered for information in two extreme animal cruelty cases involving the violent killing of horses, Rocky in Corrales, and Joseph in Mora County. A mare named Stormy Patty was also injured in the attack in Mora County. News and social media responses were strong, spreading the word about unsolved animal cruelty cases and the link between animal cruelty and risk to people and other animals. We received some tips and forwarded those to law enforcement. Supporting and publicizing the prosecution of animal cruelty is an important component of our Challenging Animal Cruelty Program.

STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

In these times, as individuals and families seek out COVID-safe activities, more and more New Mexicans are hiking, riding, wildlife-watching, and camping on our public lands. **Please look out for indiscriminate and dangerous traps, snares, poisons, and other threats to wildlife!** On most public land, trapping and other unjustifiable wildlife killing happens year-round. If you spot a trap, snare, poison—or wildlife suffering from cruelty—call **APNM's Cruelty Hotline at 1-877-5-HUMANE (1-877-548-6263).**



Photo of Pam with Slick; source unknown

Pamela Mary Brown

Wildlife advocates from across the country lost a true friend with the passing of Pam Brown in June of 2020. Pam lived for many years in Santa Fe, and was very active in the early days of APNM. She spent most of her life learning, writing, and speaking about the intrinsic value of wild nature and all animals. Pam used her powerful writing skills to inspire others to action, and her activism was focused on helping people all over the country understand that wolves should be protected, not feared and reviled. She is most known for her activist career that began in the 1970’s when she and other wolf activists persistently challenged the damaging wildlife practices and policies of many state game and fish departments. Pam’s activism drew her to locations all over the United States, and for years APNM sponsored her outreach on behalf of wolves, called “Wolf Teacher.” She eventually documented her lifetime of adventures and tragedies experienced along the way in her book, “The Wolf Who Howled at Carnegie Hall: A True Story.” Pam lived a life of expression and purpose, and our world has been greatly enhanced because of her engaged life.

Mira Fong

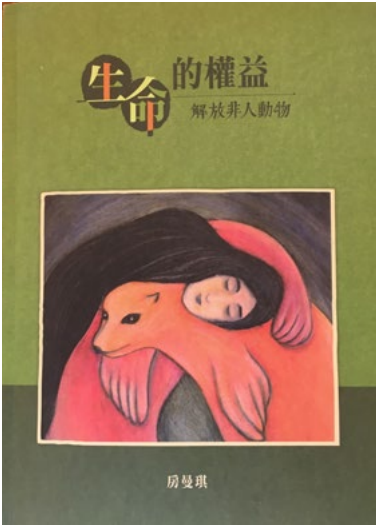
APNM staff knew her as Mira Fong, but her given name was Mahn-Chi Fong. On September 6, when Mira died, New Mexico lost a passionate, dedicated, and active animal rights advocate. Mira was a generous supporter of APNM for the nearly four decades she lived in New Mexico. A doctor of traditional Eastern medicine, she practiced for over 30 years. But Mira also studied philosophy and was an innovative thinker, a poet, a talented artist, and a writer. Mira was particularly vocal in her opposition to factory farming, and she was especially proud when her book on the philosophy of animal rights, “Right To Life-A Critical Ethics,” written in Chinese, was published in 2018. This December 2018 excerpt from one of her many letters-to-the-editor published over the years in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* is a testament to her thoughtful and determined advocacy:

“Industrial farming reflects a profound and urgent moral crisis of humanity. If we claim to be a moral agent, then our food choices must align with the ethic of fairness, empathy and compassion.”

Mira’s persuasive voice and beautiful spirit will be missed by those of us lucky enough to cross paths with her in our Land of Enchantment.



Above and left: Photos from Mira’s book
Lower right: left side of photo: Mira Fong and APNM’s Lisa Jennings (Photo APNM)



Chris “Dandelion” Morrison

People from as far north as British Columbia and as far south as New Mexico were grieving the passing of Chris Morrison in May of this year. Chris lived a full and powerful life as an activist for environmental, animal, and women’s issues. Chris’s involvement with APNM was unexpected and quite accidental, but her contributions to our organization were meaningful. In 1995, APNM’s Lisa Jennings met Chris in Tofino, British Columbia while visiting the local environmental group’s office during a summer vacation. Chris expressed interest in coming to New Mexico, and an internship was born! Chris was a hard-working intern starting in 1996, working on many APNM projects, including our work to see the King Royal Circus held accountable and fined for its cruel treatment of elephants forced to perform in the circus. Chris used her considerable talents in art and theater to enhance our impact and capture the public’s attention. Chris was soft-spoken and persuasive at the same time, and she taught us all important lessons for effective outreach, and even trained us in civil disobedience. Chris eventually moved to southwestern New Mexico, enjoying our state’s mild climate and community-oriented citizens. APNM holds wonderful memories of Chris and her time helping us make change for the animals.



Photo courtesy of Chris’ family

John Lee Thompson

The entire Animal Protection Voters (APV) lobby team was sad to learn of the passing of John Lee Thompson in December 2019. Many animal advocates probably don’t know it, but John Lee played a particularly historic role in animal protection policy in our state. Having served as a state representative from 1976 until 1982, in 1977 he introduced legislation—specifically House Bill 477—to ban both dogfighting and cockfighting, gruesome contests that were still legal in New Mexico at that time. To our knowledge, this is the first time a bill to ban both these blood sports had been introduced in New Mexico. When reading the newspaper coverage of this 1977 legislation, it is clear that even sponsoring this legislation at that time took courage, self-confidence, and empathy for vulnerable animals. While many legislators joked about the issue, John Lee was unapologetic. Alas, the legislation didn’t pass that year, but John Lee continued to cheer on APV’s work to ban cockfighting decades later. It would take exactly 30 more years for a cockfighting ban to pass in New Mexico, in 2007. After serving in the Legislature, John Lee later went on to be a highly respected and beloved lobbyist, training his two sons, John and Jason, in the art and science of lobbying. John Lee always had a supportive and kind word to offer our APV lobby team, especially when we had had a tough day at the state capitol. As someone who forged new ground for animal policy in our state, John Lee must have felt great satisfaction knowing that his efforts came full circle when Animal Protection Voters eventually banned cockfighting. The APV lobby team misses John Lee and his contagious sense of humor in the Roundhouse halls. But we hold many fond memories of all the kindness he extended to us along the way.



Left: photo courtesy of John Lee’s family; Below: clipping from the Albuquerque Journal March 8, 1977



In Memory of Bindy "A wise old soul in a little donkey body"



A still from Bindy's Milagro Award video shows Ruth Bourgeois cuddling the sweet little donkey.

New Mexico animal advocates and equine friends lost a gentle little healer in the August passing of Bindy, the beloved mascot of Equine Spirit Sanctuary in Taos. A resident of the horse rescue shelter since 2005, the miniature donkey was 20 years old when he succumbed to a severe colic.

As a therapy donkey and companion to his herd, Bindy's natural kindness and caring nature helped rehabilitate not only the rescued residents of the Sanctuary but also the many human visitors fortunate to meet him, among them developmentally disabled children. For his courage, service, and sensitivity, APNM awarded Bindy the Animal Milagro Award in 2011. "He always reminded me of a wise old soul in a little donkey body," says Ruth Bourgeois, Sanctuary executive director, in the Milagro video about Bindy (view it at apnm.org/2011milagro).

On Bindy's final day, the other program donkeys—Grace, Joy, Marley, Penelope, and Jazzy—silently gathered around him, Ruth recalls in an online tribute to Bindy. When he did not return to the herd, they grieved. "Somewhere out there," Ruth writes, "I know that Bindy was welcomed home by those who he had loved and lost also." In his 20 short years, Bindy made a tremendous difference in the lives of his equine and human families. He will be missed.

PROVIDING PLANT-BASED FOOD RELIEF DURING THE PANDEMIC

As the pandemic continues to exacerbate the food insecurities experienced by so many New Mexicans, our **Promoting Plant-Based Eating** program has been doing our part to help where we can. We have formed partnerships with several local organizations in order to provide healthy and locally sourced plant-based foods to individuals and families in need.

In addition to one-time contributions, we provide steady assistance, including a weekly offering of fresh produce to ABQ Mutual Aid, plant-based milks to Albuquerque Public School resource fairs, and monthly deliveries of food packages for the Ramah Navajo Community.

Since the onset of the pandemic, our program (in collaboration with our community partners) has provided over 10,000 pounds of fresh produce in addition to other grocery staples and comfort foods requested by the communities we serve, including *beans, red chile pods, roasted blue corn meal, tamales, tortillas, canned soups, and plant-based milks.*



MONTHLY DELIVERIES
10,000+ LBS FRESH PRODUCE
300+ FAMILIES HELPED

Listen to Our Plant-Based Eating Podcast: *Teach Me How to Vegan*



APNM's Promoting Plant-Based Eating program recently launched a podcast called "Teach Me How To Vegan." If you are interested in switching to a more plant-based diet but are not sure where to start, this podcast is for you!

Hosts Tony (APNM's Plant-Based Eating Program Manger) and his wife Mickey Quintana take a lighthearted, fun, and inclusive approach while covering a variety of topics to help you begin and progress on your vegan journey. Episode topics include meal ideas, shopping tips, product recommendations, talking to your family, raising vegan kids, and so much more.

The show notes of each episode link to all of the recipes, products, and resources mentioned, so no need to take notes. Just relax and enjoy the episodes.

Tune in at apnm.org/podcast or wherever you listen to podcasts.

A few recent episodes of Teach Me How To Vegan.



Give Someone You Love Something They'll Love

When you donate to Animal Protection of New Mexico or Animal Protection Voters **in honor of** a special friend or family member, you're helping make life better for all New Mexico's dogs, cats, equines, wildlife, indeed all animals who are vulnerable in our state.

apnm.org/donate
apvnm.org/donate

Why We Support APNM Every Month from Colorado



Photo courtesy of Ashley and Christi

“We live in Colorado, but the Land of Enchantment is our special place. We were married in Santa Fe in 2013. Everyone—from the registrar's office, to the people who sold us flowers, to the judge who married us—was so kind that the experience left us with a love and respect for New Mexico and the people who live there.

We're both lifelong animal lovers. Over time, we evolved into animal advocates and vegans. We've volunteered for many animal organizations and causes over the years—animal rescues and open-admission shelters, a ballot initiative in California to improve life for “farmed” animals, trying to help wildlife in the U.S. and Africa (we're big fans of the mighty prairie dog)—you name it. We both work at nonprofit animal organizations now.

Somehow, we learned about APNM's successes in changing attitudes about animals.

We're not sure which of us discovered you first, but we're so thankful our ears were turned in that direction, like a coyote scanning for really important information. We saw your commitment to making cockfighting illegal, banning coyote killing contests, and teaching compassion for animals, and recognized that APNM is one of the smartest voices for animals, one of the most effective agents for change anywhere, not just in New Mexico. We've been excited to see APNM working to get animals off the dinner plate, too, through your plant-based eating initiative. Your leadership knows that campaigns are marathons, not sprints, and that lasting change takes time.

Our personal commitment to animals led very naturally, and very proudly, to becoming APNM supporters.”

—Ashley Waddell and Christi Brockway



BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Root 66 Cafe

The little cafe with a lot of heart

If you're lucky enough to have sampled the delicious vegan offerings from Root 66 Café Santa Fe, you probably don't need any additional incentive to return. Currently, during COVID-19, Root 66 is switching to bulk and family style menus. Order in advance and pick up on Friday or Saturday through the menu portal at Root66.com. By supporting Root 66 Café, you're also supporting Animal Protection Voters (APV): Root 66 Café donates 5% of their gross profit to APV every month.

Chef and manager Katlyn Badeaux says the partnership between Root

66 and APV just makes sense. “APV promotes the humane treatment of animals through legislation. We promote the same goal by providing a convenient and delicious option for plant-based comfort food. Everyone here at Root 66 Café loves animals, and we are very supportive of APV's effort to change the widespread abuse of animals.”

We are so grateful to the entire team at Root 66 Café for their meaningful commitment to the humane treatment of all animals. Thank you for your support!



Help keep an animal warm...please
give to The Straw Fund today.

It may not look like much.

But a single bale of hay can keep up to three companion animals warm during these cold winter months.

We wish every companion animal was kept indoors, but for those who aren't so lucky, we created **The Straw Fund**.

Animal Protection of New Mexico's Straw Fund ensures the availability of insulating straw as needed or requested for any backyard doghouse or outdoor shelter for companion animals within Bernalillo County, Santa Fe/Santa Fe County, and Gallup/McKinley County.

At under \$10 per bale, even small contributions to APNM's Straw Fund go a long way toward providing cold weather protection for companion animals living outdoors.

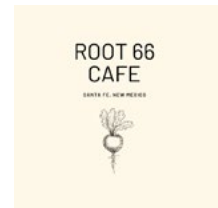
apnm.org/strawfund



PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192
www.apnm.org

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

BIG THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!



APNM FACES



Cindy with her beloved dogs Photo courtesy of Cindy

Cindy Wacek has been one of APNM's motivating Humane Educators for about 11 years. Cindy met Sherry Mangold, APNM's Education Director, through the Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers, a local therapy dog group. At the time, Sherry was APNM's Animal Cruelty Case Manager and was taking calls about neglect and abuse from across the state. With their mutual concern for animals' wellbeing, together Sherry and Cindy decided to do something more comprehensive about the far-reaching problems of cruelty. From that decision, *The Animal Connection* program was born, created with seven presentations that were first delivered in one classroom at Valencia Elementary School in Los Lunas. Over the years, the program has grown to reach schools as far north as Mora and as far south as Magdalena. APNM's education team has expanded as well, now comprised of three humane educators, Sherry, Cindy, and Lyndi Martinez.

Cindy considers it an honor to help children become compassionate members of their community, improve the quality of life for all animals, and help create systemic change by teaching children how to humanely treat and care for animals. Over the years the education team has seen the results of their efforts. When they go into classrooms, students with older siblings that have participated in *The Animal Connection* share details about how the program has affected their lives in a positive way.

When not working for APNM, Cindy enjoys gardening, spending time with her husband, and (in a non-COVID-19 world) she loves creating smiles in nursing homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and at other community events by visiting people with her registered therapy dogs.