



MAKING TRACKS

A TWICE-YEARLY PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO 2021 ISSUE 1



VICTORY **SB 32** “ROXY’S LAW”

FOR SAFER PUBLIC LANDS • FOR WILDLIFE • FOR EVERYONE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend of the Animals,

Many of you know that because of the schedule for New Mexico's legislative sessions, the calendar year begins with an awkward mix of anxiety, hope, and overload for APNM's hard-working staff who aim to pass crucial animal protection legislation within either 30 days in even-numbered years, or 60 days in odd-numbered years. Further, because of COVID-19, the 2021 legislative session required more adaptation in the form of "distanced" lobbying practices and virtual hearings, but oddly also made it easier for many people in the state to participate as citizen lobbyists if they have decent internet access.

Remarkably, the 2021 legislative session also stands out as being highly significant for animals and those who care about them, with the monumental passage of Roxy's Law, the bill that restricts traps, snares, and poisons on New Mexico's public lands. This new law—aimed at protecting wildlife, companion animals, and public safety—will mean that New Mexicans will finally be able to enjoy their public lands without worrying that they or their animals will be harmed by dangerous devices scattered about. They also won't have to worry about finding wildlife alive and struggling in traps/snares, or dead and left in the traps that killed them.

In addition, the session's "junior budget" provided a substantial \$150,000 for the state's Horse Shelter Rescue Fund, which will distribute this financial support to the state's licensed horse rescues who take care of hundreds of homeless equines every year without a sustained stream of income from public sources.

While we all know there are still so many cruel practices affecting animals that must change in our state, at this moment, I want to honor all of you who have given of yourselves to make our state better and safer for the vast majority through passage of Roxy's Law. I want to invoke all the reasons to be optimistic for New Mexico and all its vulnerable individuals who are often mistreated and given no consideration whatsoever.

There is optimism in the air as people receive vaccines to protect against COVID-19, as people across the state receive desperately-needed federal assistance, as one of New Mexico's "daughters"—Deb Haaland—has become the first ever Native American cabinet member who will be in charge of the considerable Department of Interior, and as our state gets serious about developing an outdoor recreation industry bolstered by having no traps, snares, and poisons on broad swaths of land where residents and tourists alike will recreate.

Take a moment to celebrate, in your own way, the realized gains that have come from hard work and relentless determination over many years, and from never giving up our fight for those who need us. Thank you!

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

APNM MAKING TRACKS™

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The IMPOSSIBLE

Victory for Roxy's Law

No one can know for sure, but if the scientific polling and public outcry in the media have given any indication, it's likely New Mexico voters would have banned traps, snares, and poisons decades ago if our state had the citizen ballot initiative option.

But instead, legislation to crack down on these cruel devices has had to fight its way through the legislative process year after year—at times, it felt like an almost impossible task.

But in November 2018, a tragedy changed everything. A beloved senior dog, Roxy, was strangled to death in a neck snare on public land. The story shocked everyone across the state, and there was a renewed groundswell of support for preventing needless suffering on our public lands. In her memory, we nicknamed the bill "Roxy's Law" and we charged forward with redoubled efforts.

Roxy's Law, officially called The Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act, was reintroduced as Senate Bill 32 this year. But there was an extra challenge this time. COVID-19 safety precautions led to most legislative activity being

conducted virtually via Zoom—meaning lobbyists and advocates could not be in the Roundhouse or meet legislators face-to-face. It was unclear whether much, if any, substantive legislation would be able to make progress in this new online system. Once again faced with a seemingly impossible task, Animal Protection Voters staff, allies, and supporters nevertheless pushed forward, embracing the opportunity to push for much-needed legislative change that would have positive consequences for animals.

Just a few weeks into the legislative session, Animal Protection Voters launched the first-ever television and digital ad dedicated to Roxy's Law. The ad (which included two versions) played over 35,000 times during the legislative session, allowing our message to reach more New Mexicans than ever before. Special websites *TrapsDontBelong.org* and *RoxysLaw.org* helped interested New Mexicans learn more about Senate Bill 32 and lobby their state legislators and the Governor.

Grassroots engagement for Roxy's Law was through the roof. Countless Animal Protection Voters supporters like you made phone calls, sent emails, wrote letters, signed and circulated petitions, organized, contributed talents, and never gave up—and it worked.



Roxy's Law will officially become law and go into effect on April 1, 2022, thanks to the "yes" votes of the compassionate majority of New Mexico's state legislators and the signature of our visionary Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. This win will usher New Mexico into a new era of not only safe public lands for families and dogs like Roxy, but also trap-free habitats where thousands of wild animals will be able to live and thrive.

(Continued)

This change in the law can't come soon enough. **In the time since the bill passed the Legislature on March 18, we have received two more reports of dogs caught in the soon-to-be-banned devices: a dog named Twilight stepped into a leghold trap around Farmington, and an out-of-state tourists' dog (name unknown) survived a strangulating neck snare in the Gila National Forest.** And keep in mind, the reports submitted through the TrapFree New Mexico website or the Animal Protection New Mexico cruelty hotline are only the ones we hear about. Undoubtedly there are many more that don't ever get reported.

Animal Protection Voters did not achieve this amazing victory alone. Four outstanding state legislators led the charge as Senate Bill 32's sponsors: **Senator Bobby Gonzales (D-Ranchos de Taos), Senator Brenda McKenna (D-Corralles), Representative Matthew McQueen (D-Galisteo), and Representative Christine Chandler (D-Los Alamos).** Over the years, each of them has done monumental work, everything from shaping the bill's language to defending the bill in contentious committee and floor debates; we are immensely grateful to them for their leadership, resilience,

and compassion. We can't think of a better, stronger team to carry Roxy's Law to the finish line.

We are also deeply thankful for determined leadership in the House and Senate, including **Speaker of the House Brian Egolf (D-Santa Fe)** and **Senate Majority Floor Leader Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe)**, who both included Roxy's Law among those bills indentified as priorities on their lists of consequential and essential policies for their caucuses this year.

Of course, we had strong partners in our fellow advocates: TrapFree New Mexico coalition members played important roles in the advancement of Roxy's Law, and we extend tremendous appreciation for their support along this journey.

Finally, our work this year was made possible by your help and contributions—and our work does not stop here. Animal Protection Voters is often up against well-funded, powerful opposition, but we know animal protection has the support of people power. ***Stick with us. We can enact more desperately needed change for animals. Together, we can achieve the impossible.***

Roxy's Law: A TIMELINE

After urging the State Game Commission to restrict traps, snares, and poisons for almost...

2012	2013	2015
<p><i>Senate Memorial 75</i> was introduced by Sen. Tim Eichenberg (D-Albuquerque), requesting that the New Mexico Legislative Council direct the appropriate committee to hear testimony on animal fur trapping in New Mexico. A hearing for this measure was never held.</p>	<p>Inspired to action after two of his constituents and their dogs were injured by leghold traps, Rep. Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales (D-Ranchos de Taos) introduced the first bill to ban traps, snares, and poisons everywhere in New Mexico.</p> <p><i>House Bill 579</i> was heard by the House Energy & Natural Resources committee for three days, and it was subsequently tabled (killed) by a 6-5 vote.</p>	<p>Following passage of resolutions in support of banning traps by more than a dozen local governments in New Mexico, Rep. Bobby Gonzales reintroduced legislation to ban traps, snares, and poisons—this time, <i>House Bill 426</i> focused the prohibition on public lands.</p> <p>After the 2014 elections changed those in power in the Roundhouse, wildlife bills like HB 426 were referred to the House Agriculture, Water & Wildlife Committee, a newly minted committee designed by Republican leadership to help kill wildlife protection bills. There the bill was tabled by an 8-2 vote.</p>

New Mexico's public lands...

BEAUTIFUL & SAFE for EVERYONE

SENATE BILL 32 "Roxy's Law"



...a decade, Animal Protection Voters and fellow advocates turned to the State Legislature for a solution.

2017	2019	2021
<p>In an attempt to help the legislation gain traction, the bill was introduced in the State Senate (instead of the House) after Rep. Gonzales secured the help of Sen. Pete Campos (D-Las Vegas) to sponsor the bill.</p> <p>This move brought intensified opposition and a promise made to Sen. Campos by the NM Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) that new administrative rules would be developed to address problems with trapping on public lands.</p> <p>While <i>Senate Bill 286</i> was given a hearing, no vote was taken and it did not move forward.</p>	<p>A series of stakeholder meetings hosted by NMDGF took place throughout 2018 and into 2019, with some weak changes to the rules approved in late 2020, but in the meantime legislation went forward. <i>Animal Protection Voters and advocates nicknamed the bill "Roxy's Law" after the dog Roxy strangled to death in a neck snare in late 2018.</i></p> <p>After the 2018 elections shifted the makeup of the State House, legislation to restrict traps, snares, and poisons on public lands returned to be introduced in the House. This time, Rep. Gonzales was joined by two strong co-sponsors on <i>House Bill 366</i>: Rep. Matthew McQueen (D-Galisteo) and Rep. Christine Chandler (D-Los Alamos).</p> <p>For the first time ever, the legislation successfully passed a committee—and then it passed a second one! But with an uncertain House floor vote and time running out, the bill ultimately did not receive a vote by the full House and it died.</p>	<p>In the wake of new administrative rule changes made by NMDGF, the 2020-2021 trapping season proved to be the worst in recent years. To date, there are 16 known incidents since November 1, 2020—from dogs caught in leghold traps and snares, to live wildlife found in traps, to skinned wildlife carcasses found by outdoor recreationists. The 2020 election results made the Senate the more favorable chamber for trapping legislation; the House floor vote count was still very narrow.</p> <p>Having been elected to fill an empty seat in the Senate, now-Senator Bobby Gonzales was joined by Sen. Brenda McKenna (D-Corrales), a new legislator who had supported Roxy's Law as a grassroots advocate for many years, and was now a co-sponsor of the bill. <i>Senate Bill 32</i> was pre-filed and introduced, cleared two Senate committees, and quickly passed the Senate floor by a 23-16 bipartisan vote.</p> <p>Rep. Matthew McQueen and Rep. Christine Chandler stood ready to carry the bill on the House side. They shepherded the bill through its final House committee and expertly debated Roxy's Law on the House floor, where SB 32 passed by a 35-34 vote. On April 5, 2021, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed Senate Bill 32 into law.</p>

Spay/Neuter Funding Moves Forward *Despite Lawsuit*

The monumental passage of Senate Bill (SB) 57 in the 2020 New Mexico legislative session meant a groundbreaking new source of sustained funding would fuel statewide spay/neuter efforts like never before — giving our state the tools it needs to confront companion animal overpopulation.

The problem is grim: More than 100,000 dogs and cats enter New Mexico animal shelters each year, and 20,000 of them are euthanized. Animal control and sheltering cost our state more than \$51 million each year — \$38 million of that amount paid by taxpayers. A 2012 Senate-requested study showed the **solution** is to invest significant dollars in statewide spay/neuter.

That's what SB 57 was designed to do. By charging a modest fee to non-exempted pet food manufacturers selling products in New Mexico, SB57 is expected to fund an additional 18,000 to 26,000 new dog and cat surgeries per year. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) is the agency responsible for collecting the manufacturers' fees and passing them on to the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine (NMBVM) for distribution to spay/neuter service providers.

New Mexico became the fourth state with this type of bill. The model works: Maryland, West Virginia, and Maine have all seen dramatic decreases in their euthanasia rates since their similar bills passed.

Not surprisingly, this powerful solution to an entrenched problem has been met with pushback.

In December, the Pet Food Institute and co-plaintiffs filed suit against the state to try to upend SB 57 (see “The Lawsuit Against SB 57” on next page).

That's not stopping the NMBVM's Animal Sheltering Committee (ASC). The ASC, comprised of animal shelter, veterinary, and rescue professionals, continued working to create the robust funding application, distribution, and reporting processes needed to efficiently get the funds into the hands of spay/neuter providers.

“The goal of SB 57 is to increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries in New Mexico, not to replace existing funding,” explains Stacie Voss, ASC chair and director of the Farmington Regional Animal Shelter.

“An applicant's target area can be as small as a neighborhood or as big as a county,” says Stacie. *“Organizations can focus on spots that might be trouble spots, such as high animal shelter intake areas. And free roaming or feral dogs and cats are eligible for project funding.”*

Although the individuals receiving spay/neuter funding assistance and the animals provided surgeries must be New Mexico residents, there is no residency requirement for qualified practitioners. *“There is definitely not an overabundance of veterinarians in New Mexico,”* Stacie notes. Clinics and mobile units utilizing out-of-state veterinarians licensed to practice in New Mexico are eligible for funding. Detailed information is available at NMBVM.org, under the Animal Care and Facility Fund link.

In May and June the ASC will review all eligible applications, which were due April 30, and then send award recommendations to the NMBVM by their July meeting. The NMBVM will make the final award selections and distribute the funds in August.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) began collecting pet food manufacturer fees in January, in accordance with the law. However, the agency is holding the funds until there is clarity on the direction or outcome of the lawsuit.

Fortunately, the NMBVM's Animal Care and Facility Fund had just over \$200,000 already collected from prior years' state spay/neuter license plate fees and tax check-off donations. *“The plan is to distribute the funds that are available, then have a list of projects to award once the NMDA releases SB57 funds,”* Stacie explains.

One thing is certain: New Mexico animal advocates won't stop until we have implemented a sustainable solution to the costly, tragic problem of companion animal overpopulation.

For more information:

Watch the *Virtual Q&A on the Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund* on APNM's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/rBVNA1Y71qY>

Read the *Animal Sheltering Committee's FAQ*: NMBVM.org

Contact Elizabeth Wolf, Chief Program Services Officer, at elizabeth@apnm.org.



The Lawsuit Against SB 57

In late December, the entities that opposed Senate Bill 57 during the 2020 legislative session, and during the four years Animal Protection Voters (APV) fought for the passage of a spay/neuter funding bill, filed suit in New Mexico District Court against the state to try to stop the law from being implemented.

The current plaintiffs are the Pet Food Institute, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, NM Chamber of Commerce, NM Farm & Livestock Bureau, and Rio Grande Kennel Club. The state defendants — Governor Lujan Grisham, Attorney General Hector Balderas, and Jeff M. Witte, director of the NM Dept. of Agriculture and NM Agriculture Cabinet Secretary — are being represented by an outside law firm appointed by the State of New Mexico's Risk Management Division. The lawsuit was assigned to Judge Judith C. Herrera.

Among other actions, the plaintiffs want the judge to declare that the law is unconstitutional and therefore invalid, or alternatively declare that the fee is actually a tax, which raises other legal issues. These arguments were all asserted during four years of legislative debate. Still, the carefully crafted Senate Bill 57 passed with large bipartisan support.

"Lawsuits like this are common and understandable," explains animal law attorney Yolanda Eisenstein, Board Vice President of Animal Protection Voters.

"The plaintiffs want to present their argument in court and hope to stop this successful program before it is adopted in other states."

But just because SB 57 opponents have filed a lawsuit doesn't mean they will win it. The lawsuit is in its early stages. There is no way to predict how long it will take for a decision or what that decision will be. APV is closely following the case and will keep you informed as it works its way through the courts.

MORE GOOD NEWS
FROM OUR WORK IN THE
**2021 STATE
LEGISLATIVE SESSION**



Photo: Damien Buray/Unsplash

New Mexico Strengthened the Safety Net for Equines

Another exceptional outcome for New Mexico animals from the 2021 state legislative session was—*thanks to the leadership of three state legislators*—a jolt of financial support for equines and the people who care for them.

New Mexico's state-licensed horse shelters—which provide care, rehabilitation, and adoption services for homeless and abused horses, donkeys, and mules—are regulated by the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB). In 2013, Animal Protection Voters spearheaded the creation of the NMLB's Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (HSRF), a mechanism for horse shelters to receive state funding for their crucial work. Since then, the NMLB has administered the HSRF and distributed funding to provide direct assistance to the shelters that care for our state's treasured equines.

While the presence of the HSRF is very important, its funds have been limited in most years since its inception, with annual income coming only from a state tax check-off option and donations.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, these shelters have taken in more than one hundred equines in need, while facing a reduction in donations and limitations on regular volunteer

help. It is clear that equine shelters have needed more financial support!

Help for equine shelters came during the 2021 legislative session in the form of Senate Bill 377—often called the “junior budget” by Roundhouse insiders—which allows Senate and House members to allocate a certain amount of additional revenue to particular state agency projects or initiatives.

This year, New Mexicans have three state legislators to thank for crucial, life-saving funding for equines that was included in SB 377: **Senator Carrie Hamblen (D-Las Cruces)**, **Representative Kristina Orteza (D-Taos)**, and **Representative Nathan Small (D-Las Cruces)** each submitted \$50,000 to the HSRF, **resulting in a \$150,000 total appropriation for equines!**

Later this year, the NMLB will convene its committee (which includes representatives from the equine rescue community) to make determinations on distributing the funds to be used for feeding and caring for equines in need. After a really challenging year for so many communities, we know it is a relief to have more meaningful support for horses, donkeys, and mules in New Mexico.

CRUELTY REWARD CASE

APNM offers rewards related to especially egregious animal cruelty cases for which an offender has not been identified and prosecuted.

In March, the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) responded to gruesome reports of horses found dead in and around Cloudcroft. Five horses appear to have been shot dead and their bodies left to be scavenged. Two more horses were found in late April near the same area, also apparently shot to death, increasing the death toll to seven.

“It is extremely concerning that someone may be intentionally seeking out and shooting horses in the forest, a neighborhood, or anywhere,” said APNM Animal Cruelty

Case Manager Alan Edmonds. *“Animal cruelty is a serious crime linked to violence against other vulnerable individuals, including people.”*

“Intentionally injuring or maliciously killing an animal is felony animal cruelty,” said NMLB Officer Skylar Davis. *“We are investigating and asking for tips from the public if people know details about the deaths of these horses. We ask people to contact us right away if they find any other horses dead.”*

APNM REWARD

Information leading to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible will be rewarded up to \$10,000 If you have any information regarding this case, please call APNM's Animal Cruelty Hotline at 877-548-6263. All calls are confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous. *Extreme animal cruelty is a 4th degree felony.*

On January 14, 2021, Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) joined the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund in a lawsuit charging the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with violating federal law when it announced 44 surviving chimpanzees at the Alamogordo Primate Facility at Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) would not be sent to sanctuary.

The lawsuit argues that the NIH does not have the authority to ignore the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act. The CHIMP Act created Chimp Haven, the federal chimpanzee sanctuary on 200 forested acres in Louisiana, and mandates that all federally owned chimpanzees be retired there when they are no longer needed for research.

The Forgotten Chimps of Alamogordo have not been used in research for decades, yet they remain in a stark laboratory facility managed by Charles River Laboratories (CRL), an institution whose global business model is based on breeding and selling animals for invasive research. In 2008, CRL escaped serious charges of animal cruelty and neglect at their New Mexico facility by finding an absurd legal loophole in New Mexico's laws: they were able to argue they were exempt from New Mexico's animal cruelty statute. The charges filed against them by the 12th judicial district attorney came after two chimps died and a third chimp almost died because of specific actions taken by CRL.

At least nine chimpanzees have died—more than half of them were euthanized—since the October 2019 announcement. Meanwhile, **your tax dollars are paying for these forgotten chimps to languish** at a lab where their complex physical and psychological needs are not being met. **In 2020 alone, the NIH wasted more than 1.2 million federal dollars warehousing chimps on Holloman AFB.**

At Chimp Haven where the cost of care is three times less expensive, they can live in social groups, enjoy enrichment, receive expert veterinary care, and —best of all—choose how they spend their time.

As the lawsuit process plays out, APNM continues working urgently with bipartisan members of Congress to pressure the NIH to stand by its previous commitment to retire all federally owned chimpanzees to sanctuary.

It's more important than ever for you to contact your members of Congress right now. We need them to speak up for the chimps and fulfill the obligation our country has to these deserving chimps, once and for all!

THE FIGHT FOR CHIMPS CONTINUES—

APNM Files Lawsuit Against NIH

See page 16
("Congress
Needs to Hear
About Chimps")
to learn how
you can help



Photo: APNM



Witness animal cruelty or neglect?
CALL THE APNM Animal Cruelty Hotline
1-877-5-HUMANE
(1-877-548-6263)

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

HUMANE EDUCATION: Online Curriculum Begins Statewide Rollout

From its modest beginnings — a presentation to the Bernalillo County Community Center in 2010 and a 2011 pilot program at Valencia County Elementary School — APNM’s humane education program had spread to six school districts by 2020, along with seven pueblos, two correctional facilities, and countless community venues across the state.

Over the past decade, thousands of New Mexico school children have learned care and compassion for animals when APNM’s *The Animal Connection* team brought Rico, Whitaker, Xena, Buster, and other registered therapy dogs right into the classroom.

But when COVID-19 halted in-person instruction, APNM partnered with videographer Brent Peterson of Antigravity Films in Albuquerque to create *The Virtual Animal Connection*. The curriculum (one version for grades 3–8, another for K–2) includes video lessons — starring the therapy dogs — complemented by lesson plans and student activities. (See list of lesson topics on next page.)

Through the online education platform LearnWorlds.com, the curricula will be available to all New Mexico students, including those in remote areas we couldn’t reach in the past. (Round-trip travel with a team of therapy dogs from Albuquerque to Las Cruces, for example, is tough.)

Just as important, *The Virtual Animal Connection* will be used to train teachers across New Mexico to offer the program to their own students, virtually and/or in person.

By spring 2021, APNM’s humane education team hadn’t set foot or paw in a New Mexico classroom in over a year. Instead, they created a virtual curriculum the whole state can access.

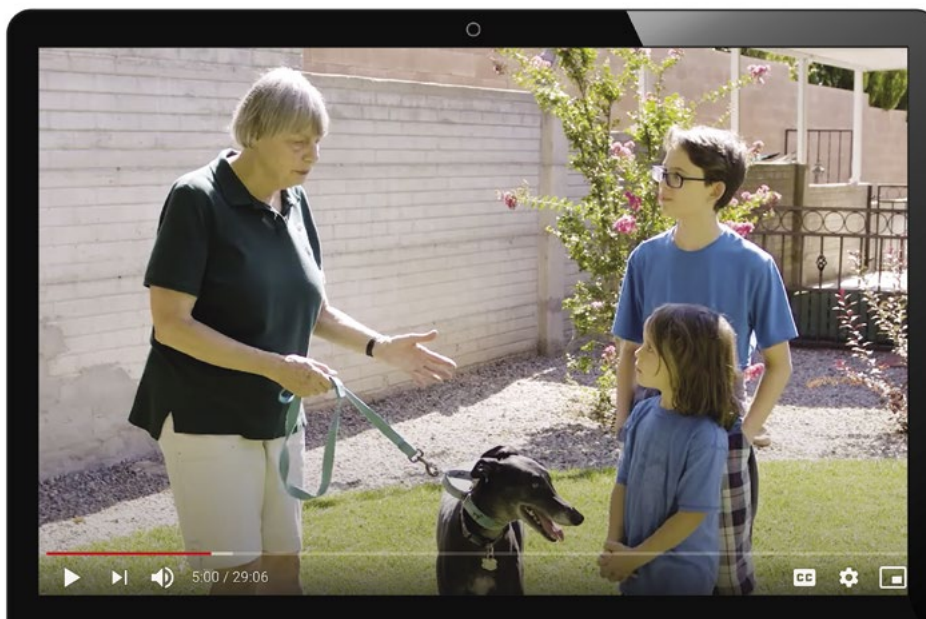
“The more teachers we can train to deliver the humane education curricula in their own classrooms, the more students we can reach in spite of pandemics and geographical distance,” notes Sherry Mangold, APNM Education Outreach Director.

By early 2021, seven of the ten planned video lessons were complete. In the newest one, “Reading to Dogs,” 3rd-grader Chad reads a story about a rescued greyhound to a class of attentive canines. APNM is grateful to the renewed support of the Bonner family, who recently awarded a grant for the remaining three videos.

Support for curriculum rollout comes from Nusenda Credit Union Foundation, Sophia’s Giving Circle (in Placitas), and generous APNM supporters. See the list of the communities APNM intends to reach, funding provided, on the next page.

Although the New Mexico Public Education Dept. announced all schools could reopen in April, individual schools and parents may continue hybrid or remote learning models if they choose.

“Cindy Wacek, Lyndi Martinez, and I, along with numerous therapy dogs, are anxious to return to the classroom,” says Sherry. All three humane educators have received the COVID vaccine. *“But with so much uncertainty around schools reopening, the virtual offering is incredibly important. It is a powerful tool to keep humane education available to schools throughout New Mexico — no matter what happens.”*



A scene from *The Animal Connection*’s “Loose Dog and Bite Safety” video.



The Virtual Animal Connection

7 of 10 video lessons completed;
Grades 3–8, adaptable for adults

- 1: Introduction
- 2: Care and Responsibility
- 3: Life and Death in the Shelter
- 4: Careers in Animal Welfare*
- 5: The Need for Spaying and Neutering
- 6: Loose Dog and Bite Safety
- 7: The Consequences of Dog Chaining*
- 8: Blood Sports*
- 9: “The Link” Between Cruelty to Animals and Human Abuse
- 10: Sherpa’s Farm Animal Sanctuary
- 11: Student Presentations (live Zoom)
- 12: Wrap-up (live Zoom)

**Funding recently received. Videos are in production.*

The Virtual Animal Connection Jr.

All video lessons completed; Grades K–2

- 1: Care and Responsibility
- 2: Loose Dog and Bite Safety
- 3: Reading to Dogs

Promoting Humane Education Across New Mexico

APNM’s humane educators are reaching out to teachers to offer *The Virtual Animal Connection* to school districts already familiar with the curriculum as well as to new ones. Funding provided, APNM’s intended focus areas in 2021 include:

Northern/Central NM Counties

Bernalillo: Albuquerque
Sandoval: Algodones + (new) Bernalillo, Cuba, Placitas
Santa Fe: Santa Fe
San Miguel: Las Vegas
Mora: Town of Mora + (new) Wagon Mound
Valencia: Los Lunas

Southern NM Counties

Doña Ana: (new) Chaparral, Las Cruces, Sunland Park
Eddy: (new) Carlsbad, Loving
Lincoln: (new) Ruidoso
Otero: (new) Alamogordo, Tularosa

Pueblos

Isleta
Jemez
San Felipe
Santa Ana
Zia (new)

Would you like to see the *Virtual Animal Connection* in your community? Contact Education Outreach Director Sherry Mangold at sherry@apnm.org for information.

2021: Rebranding Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
NEW MEXICO**



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
VOTERS**

Earlier this year, we introduced our new logos.

Why did we rebrand? Our organizations have grown in size and impact since their beginning in 1979. While the original logos served us well for many years, they were due for an upgrade since they didn't capture the relationship between the two organizations.

These new logos are an evolution of our old logos to an identity that more closely matches our brand personality today: strong, determined, fearless, compassionate, and enduring.

To read more about their development, and see a special video about our brand, visit:

apnm.org/newlogo and apvnm.org/newlogo

Check Out Our Zazzle Store If you love APNM and APV, you'll definitely want to check out our Zazzle store. There, you'll find all sorts of apparel and accessories that make it easy for you to proudly show your dedication to animals.

<https://www.zazzle.com/store/animalprotectionnm/products>

Some of our Zazzle products: baseball cap, nylon wallet, apron, sunglasses



'Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation' (SLAPP Suit) Fails to Thwart APNM's Work to Protect Horses

In March of this year, 5th Judicial District Court Judge James M. Hudson ruled in favor of Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) and other plaintiffs who were sued back in 2015 by Valley Meat Co. for doing our job to protect horses from slaughter in New Mexico. The lawsuit came about after APNM and countless allies had worked relentlessly and successfully for many years to prevent the opening of a horse slaughterhouse in Roswell.

To understand the intensity of this campaign, it's important to remember that in November 2011—for the first time in six years—Congress had failed to pass a budget provision that prohibited horse slaughter inspections, leaving the door open for resumption of slaughter operations in the U.S. Early in 2012, APNM learned of plans to open a horse slaughter facility in Roswell, and we committed to doing everything we could to prevent that slaughterhouse from opening. The Roswell plant was part of a push to return to commercial horse slaughter in the United States after the federal ban on horse slaughter inspections was lifted. At the time there was an attempt to open three horse slaughter facilities across the country, but New Mexico's was the most advanced and serious plan, and it was widely watched as an indicator of whether horse slaughter would rise in the nation.

APNM boldly built up broad opposition to horse slaughter before and especially during the fight to stop the facility from opening, working with community members including the New Mexico Equine Rescue Alliance and local, state, and federal policymakers to ensure the plant did not open. In 2013, Attorney General (AG) Gary King filed a lawsuit to stop the opening of the horse slaughterhouse. Polling showed 70% of New Mexicans are opposed to horse slaughter for human consumption, and 70% did not want a horse slaughter facility in their community. Through Animal Protection Voters, we killed a memorial (HJM 16 introduced by Rep. Paul Bandy, R-Aztec) which would have used state dollars to study the feasibility of slaughtering horses in New Mexico, essentially paving

the way for the facility to open and grow. And in January 2014 a Santa Fe District Court judge issued a preliminary injunction against Valley Meat Co., preventing the opening of the slaughterhouse until AG King's lawsuit against the company was resolved. The AG's office successfully argued that the slaughterhouse posed significant danger to consumers and the environment.

New Mexico's members of Congress led the charge to get the language restricting spending on horse slaughter inspections back in spending bills, and finally in late January 2014, President Obama signed an omnibus spending bill that once again effectively banned horse slaughter.

Finally, in February 2016, the Roswell slaughterhouse was permanently barred from opening following a state judge's ruling, and after years of hard-hitting advocacy by APNM in conjunction with local and national partners.

Valley Meat Co.'s desperate defamation lawsuit against APNM (and others) made baseless and off-kilter claims of malicious abuse of process, civil conspiracy, and prima facie tort. Clearly, APNM had simply been exercising its First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Like many lawsuits targeting effective advocacy organizations, this suit was meant to disrupt our powerful work, waste our time and resources by forcing us to defend our Constitutional rights, and try and hold us back from focusing all our energy on our mission.

New Mexicans have been inspired to fight off any backslide into resuming cruel, dangerous horse slaughter. They reject the false choices offered by slaughter boosters, and instead opt to create and help sustain humane options and safety nets for horses in New Mexico and all across the United States. The citizens of this state reject the false choices offered by slaughter proponents, and instead opt to create and help sustain humane options and safety nets for horses in New Mexico and all across the United States. With your help, APNM will continue building an even stronger safety net to benefit horses, mules, and donkeys and those who care about them across the state.

Want to be part of the conversation? See our New Mexico Horse Slaughter Talking Points document to learn more: apnm.org/HorseSlaughterFacts

APNM Milestones for Horses, Mules, and Donkeys

2011	Congress failed to include language in the federal Agriculture Appropriations bill that would prevent horse slaughter facility inspections and therefore opened the door to horse slaughter operations in the U.S. for the first time since 2006.	2015 - current	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congress continues to defund horse slaughter inspections, disallowing domestic horse slaughter• AG asks judge to expand injunction against Valley Meat Co.'s (VMC) operation of a horse slaughter facility to another company believed to be a shell corporation for VMC• Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 700 horses
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APNM learned about plans to open a horse slaughter plant in Roswell• APNM secured broad opposition to horse slaughter by top officials, including Senator Tom Udall, Governor Susana Martinez, Attorney General Gary King, and NM Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell, Jr.• In December, Valley Meat Co. sued APNM and others for its role in preventing a horse slaughter plant from opening in Roswell• Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping 300+ horses, expanded services to gelding and veterinary care	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In February, District Judge Francis Mathew issued a permanent injunction against Valley Meat Company (and other affiliated companies/individuals) from slaughtering horses for human consumption, and from manufacturing, selling, or distributing horse meat for human consumption in New Mexico• Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 800 horses
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attorney General (AG) King declared horse meat "adulterated" under state law• AG King filed lawsuit to stop opening of Roswell horse slaughterhouse• New Mexico poll shows 70% opposed to horse slaughter for human consumption• Animal Protection Voters killed a legislative memorial (HJM 16) to study the feasibility of a NM horse slaughter facility, the measure died on a 28-36 vote in the NM House of Representatives• APNM created 'Horse Shelter Rescue Fund' in NM Livestock Board (to support licensed horse rescue organizations), plus state tax check-off donation option to fund it• Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 475 horses	2017	Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 950 horses
		2018	Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 1,036 horses
		2019	Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 1,297 horses
		2020	Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 2,575 horses
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In January, Valley Meat's wastewater discharge permit is denied by NM Environment Department• In January, Congress once again stops funding horse slaughter facility inspections, therefore disallowing operation of U.S. horse slaughter plants until at least Oct.1, 2015• NM horse slaughter plant thwarted through preliminary injunction granted by judge in AG King lawsuit from 2013• \$250,000 in state funding secured for Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (sponsored by Sen. George Muñoz, D-Gallup)• Equine Protection Fund marks milestone of helping total of 600 horses	2021	\$150,000 in state funding secured for Horse Shelter Rescue Fund, sponsored by Rep. Nathan Small (D-Las Cruces), Rep. Kristina Orteiz (D-Taos), and Sen. Carrie Hamblen (D-Las Cruces)

RAMAH NAVAJO'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



Photo of Juliana Cojo by Layman Media, courtesy of Juliana

An Interview with Juliana Cojo

APNM began partnering with the Ramah Navajo community in 2019 to provide equine assistance and during the pandemic expanded to provide plant-based food assistance. On May 20, 2021, APNM's Plant-Based Eating Program Manager, Tony Quintana, spoke with Juliana Cojo, Supply Leader for the Ramah Navajo Emergency Command Center, and Office Manager for the Ramah Navajo Natural Resource Department. Her dedication and compassion inspire us.

TQ: Juliana, thank you so much for joining us. Can you share some background about your work?

JC: Thank you for having me. Ramah Navajo is a satellite reservation of the larger Navajo Nation Reservation. The other two satellite communities are To'Hajiilee and Alamo. The unique thing about Ramah Navajo is we have contracted with the BIA to provide direct services just for Ramah Navajo Chapter, which include Natural Resources, Community Planning, Law Enforcement, the Pine Hill Health Center, Social Services, and Behavioral Health. We're unique in that way, in that we provide direct services just for Ramah Navajo Chapter, which has allowed us to build partnerships with existing partners and meet new collaborators to get assistance for our community through the pandemic.

TQ: How has the Ramah Navajo Community been impacted by the pandemic? How have you been able to meet the needs of the community? This is such a huge undertaking and you've done incredible work.

JC: Our community started providing some services in February 2020. The Pine Hill Health Center clinic was keeping an eye on the pandemic as it was evolving, so we got ahead a little bit in terms of serving some of our elders and people

who were homebound. March 13 is when the Navajo Nation did the shut-down order that sent everybody home. That is when our Command Center was established. We thought we would have some time, but we started getting our first COVID cases that week of March 13. So, it was relatively quick that we had people sick in our community.

We were averaging about 1000 home deliveries [of supplies] a month for those first three to four months of the pandemic. [In addition to] the Navajo shut-down orders, Gallup actually got shut down, which is one of the main border towns that supply our community. Even when people would get to town, to Grants or Albuquerque, everything was already gone by the time we got there. It was a really dire situation.

And our department had been working with Animal Protection New Mexico, with our horse management program, trying to develop other avenues for horses through PZP and gelding clinics, rather than roundup and sales, and that's how we came into contact and then started our partnership with you, and started getting monthly deliveries [of food for people].

One of the things that we thought was important was not just providing food, but providing good food for the

community. You have to have a healthy diet in order to have a healthy immune system. And as you know, a lot of the stuff that was coming in at first was processed stuff, dried goods, stuff with a long shelf life. But we still needed to supplement our community members with fresh food, with healthy food, organic food.

Food is community and we have a lot of multigenerational homes, and they were spending a lot of time at home, and the family meals were becoming even more important in the stressful time of the stay-at-home orders.

We think with the help of partners such as [APNM] we were able to keep our pandemic numbers down in comparison. We're really pushing vaccinations and we're still doing monthly drive-through deliveries, which you guys are helping us with. At the end of June, we'll reassess where we're at. But our numbers have gone down; we currently have no positive cases. The last positive cases we've had were about three weeks ago.

TQ: Wow. I love to hear you share. We agree with you and strive to provide quality food, organic food, not just plant-based things, but take it a step further, and make it meaningful to the community. So, we've been including tamales, blue corn meal, chicos...

JC: Yeah, they really look forward to our drive-throughs at the end of the month because it has those things that we weren't normally getting through other donations.

The tamales—everybody loves the tamales! The variety of things, like you guys just got us that delivery yesterday, and we were able to get food out to over 250 families, and we advertised it as “fresh produce only,” and we were still able to have that many families come through our drive-through yesterday to get that food. It's really important.

We have been dedicated to self-sustainability and creating our own food sources here. We're a remote location—the nearest grocery stores are one to two hours away. There's a few convenience stores and trading posts in the area, but that's it. And our Navajo community is 3,500 people with 900 families, not including the non-Navajo. We're a checkerboard reservation, and so we have non-Navajo community members within our reservation that are also part of this community.

TQ: Thank you for sharing all of that. Those of us living in cities, we take for granted when we are complaining that we have to stand in line for forever, but we are the ones who wiped out the grocery stores before the people from the remote locations got there, right? There's lots of layers. I love that you're able to work on your own food sources.

JC: Yes, currently, through the Pine Hill Health Promotion program, they're actually plowing to help people plant. They've been overwhelmed with the number of requests,

plowing every day non-stop for the last three weeks, and helping people get plants. We were able to do some of that last year during the pandemic, providing donated seeds and donated plants. We noticed when we were doing our home deliveries through the summer months that a lot of people had planted them in their own little yards, which was really nice to see. And hopefully we can keep that going for our community, so that you can be able to have your own garden and be able to provide food for your family.

TQ: Yeah, that's so beautiful. I look forward to continuing our partnership, finding ways that we can support that moving forward, nourishing healthy community. Thank you so much, Juliana, for all of that and sharing your time and stories. Is there anything else you wanted to share?

JC: You know, it's been a rough year, but we're coming out of it. We've built great partnerships with your group and with other groups, and we hope to continue in the future, and help improve the situation out here in Ramah. Pre-pandemic we were already at 60% unemployment, and of course as we come out of this, we'll find out more and more what the effect was on Ramah Navajo, and the country as a whole, for at-risk communities.



Juliana Cojo and Josh Norman of Mo-Gro Mobile Grocery; Photo: APNM

Watch the whole interview, starting at 34:00:

<https://youtu.be/8uQ4wTQTQBc>

Learn more about Ramah Navajo:

www.ramahnavajo.org

See photos of APNM's support for Ramah Navajo horses in last year's Making Tracks:

<http://apnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Making-Tracks-2020-Issue-1.pdf>

CONGRESS NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT CHIMPS

APNM's work with bipartisan members of Congress is critical to securing sanctuary for the Forgotten Chimps of Alamogordo. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the federal agency responsible for the plight of the chimpanzees at the lab facility on Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) and Congress has oversight of the agency.

Senator Tom Udall led the fight for chimpanzees throughout his tenure. With his retirement, we need you to urge Congress to continue the fight.

Even if you've contacted your representatives about the chimps before, it's important they hear from you now. New and seasoned members of Congress need to know you want the chimpanzees retired to Chimp Haven.

Chimpanzees are languishing, and many have died, at the facility at Holloman AFB. Veterinarians, animal welfare scientists, and other experts agree a laboratory is no place for chimpanzees—our closest relative—to live out their lives.

Fortunately, Chimp Haven's dedicated team is well suited to meet the complex physical and psychological needs of these chimps formerly used in biomedical research.

Our lawsuit against the NIH (see page 9) will likely take many months to be resolved. In the meantime, APNM will carry on our work with members of Congress, experts, and advocates across the country to release the nearly 40 chimpanzees to sanctuary.

It's more important than ever for you to contact your representatives. We need them to speak up for the chimps now!

Visit Forgotten Chimps of Alamogordo (forgottenchimps.org) to learn more and urge your members of Congress to do what's right by the chimps. *They deserve sanctuary.*

APNM OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Getting Started with a Plant-Based Diet?

We're Here to Help

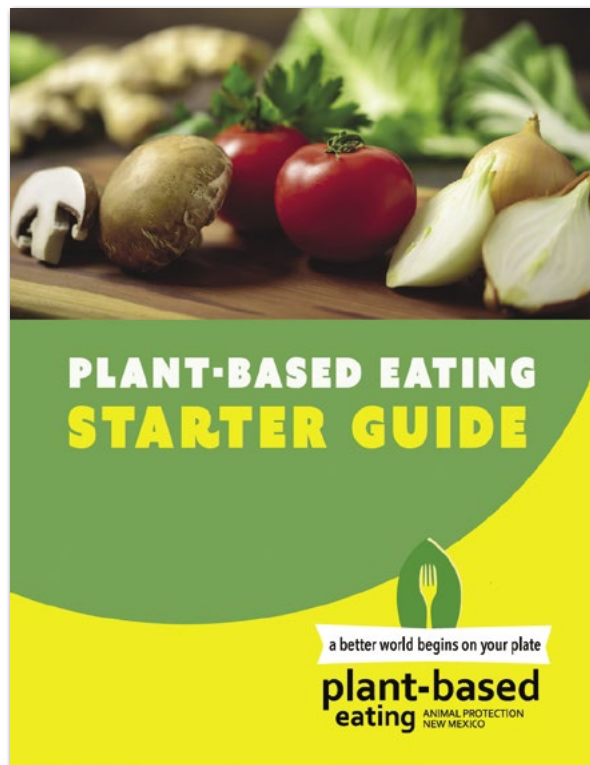
Everywhere you look, solutions keep pointing towards plants. From protecting animals, to safeguarding your own health, to preventing the next pandemic, there's no better time to adopt a plant-based diet.

We know that figuring out where to start can be one of the most difficult steps in changing your diet, which is why APNM is excited to announce the release of our new Plant-Based Eating Starter Guide.

The 12-page guide is available to download from our website for free, and includes answers to some initial questions you might have, tips and recommendations for next steps to take, and some delicious plant-based recipes to get you started.

Whether you've been contemplating a plant-based diet for some time, or are just now starting to consider it, our new Starter Guide is a great first step towards making the switch.

And don't worry, the resources to help you along your plant-based journey don't stop with our Starter Guide! Throughout the year we offer a wide variety of resources to help you continue and maintain your life-affirming diet changes, including recipes, webinars, cooking videos, podcast episodes, and blog posts. And bonus: all this information is available anytime on our website, even if you miss actual events and presentations. Download the Plant-Based Eating Starter Guide and begin your plant-based exploration today.



Visit apnm.org/plantbased to download your copy of the Plant-Based Eating Starter Guide and view links to all our resources, including the “Teach Me How to Vegan” Podcast and lots more.

Around the State: In 2020 APNM launched a popular online town hall series, giving advocates a behind-the-scenes look into our powerful work. In 2021 we covered “How The Animal Connection Teaches Compassion,” “Take Actions for Animals – A Legislative Update,” and the “Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund – Q&A”. Nearly 100 people attended each session.

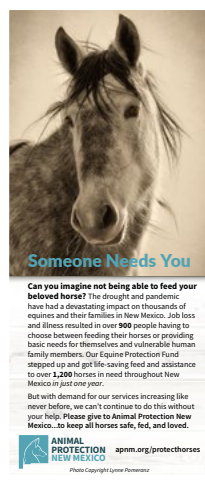
Missed a town hall? All sessions are being recorded and can be viewed on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/APNM)



San Miguel County: When a local resident contacted APNM for help with 22 feral cats in her area, we established a partnership with Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society, Homeless Animal Rescue Team, and Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico to trap, spay/neuter, and rehome the cats. This phenomenal teamwork has provided safety for the cats and peace of mind for this caring resident who was struggling to take care of the felines.



Corrales: APNM’s dedicated volunteers are collaborating to spread the word about our Equine Protection Fund by distributing a promotional flyer. This is the latest example of people stepping up to support and build new networks to help horses, donkeys, mules, and families across New Mexico.



Around the State: After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the **New Mexico Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management** took note of APNM’s massive response to the record-breaking need for emergency equine feed in 2020. As a result, the Department **recognized APNM as an Authorized Disaster Response Organization**. This designation will help APNM attract more funds, resources, and agency partnerships needed to aid animals and the people who care about them during future human-made and natural emergencies.

Aerial photo: gmeland/Shutterstock

**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! “Roxy’s Law” (Senate Bill 32, which bans traps, snares, and poisons on public lands) does not go into effect until April 1, 2022.** 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).**



Animal Protection Legacy Society

plan for a kinder future—leave a legacy gift

Remembering APNM and/or any of our affiliate organizations/funds* in your estate planning is a powerful way to leave your legacy in the fight to *make humane the new normal*.

By including APNM in your estate plan, you will become a member of the **Animal Protection Legacy Society**. The Society was established to recognize and honor those who, through their thoughtfulness and generosity, have made a legacy gift to APNM and/or any of our affiliate organizations/funds).

Have you already included us in your estate plans? Even if you wish for your gift to remain anonymous, we would be honored to know of your intentions and welcome you as a member of the Animal Protection Legacy Society. Visit apnm.org/legacy for more information or contact Isabel Slator at isabel@apnm.org or 505-264-9643.

*Animal Protection New Mexico Foundation, Animal Protection Voters (APV), APV Endowment, New Mexico Foundation–EPF Endowment, New Mexico Foundation–Chimpanzee to Sanctuary Fund



Photo courtesy of David and Ilene

Why We Made Legacy Plans

A Conversation with Animal Protection Legacy Society Members,
David and Ilene Steele

“We married in May 1969 and got our first dog as a couple that August. We have lived with dogs—usually more than one at a time—ever since. Every dog we have taken into our home has brought us priceless joy and taught us, in their own ways, to be better people.

We are drawn to dogs who are down on their luck. We wish we could save all the dogs in need, but know we can’t. This desire to help needy animals is why we believe so strongly in the mission of Animal Protection Voters.

APV believes, as we do, that all animals deserve respect and compassion. APV works tirelessly to bring about systemic change promoting the welfare of all animals—companion, domestic, and wild—through legislation and advocacy. This is why we are leaving a substantial portion of our estate to APV. Our support for the animals of New Mexico and the vital mission of APV will be our legacy even after we are gone.”

APNM BUSINESS SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

PetSmart Charities CONTINUES SUPPORTING CARE Program Services

APNM is grateful to PetSmart Charities for providing a \$25,000 grant to help keep more of New Mexico’s companion animals safe and out of harm’s way due to domestic violence. With this generous grant, APNM can preserve the bond between companion animals and their people by providing the animals temporary safe haven in local animal boarding facilities while their people seek support and safety from domestic abuse.

Over 50% of domestic violence survivors report that they did not leave or delayed leaving their abusers due to fear of what would happen to their companion animals. APNM’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) takes the anxiety about beloved animals out of the equation for survivors seeking social services and shelter from their batterers.

“Sadly, nearly half of domestic abuse survivors delay leaving their abusers out of fear of what might happen to their pet, and just a small number of shelters nationwide accept pets in facilities,” said Jenny Aho, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. “By partnering with APNM, both people and their pets can receive the resources they need to transition to a new beginning free from violence – ensuring survivors never have to choose between a safe haven and their four-legged family members.”



PetSmart Charities has been a valued funding partner since 2017. Thank you, PetSmart Charities, for your generous and ongoing support!



It's a fact that kids who learn to consider the feelings of animals become more compassionate adults.

With topics about humanely caring for animals, APNM's humane education curricula, *The Animal Connection* and *The Animal Connection Jr.*, thoroughly engage students and also provide the vehicle by which teachers can meet the required Common Core Standards of the New Mexico Public Education Department.

Our new online version, *The Virtual Animal Connection*, will be available to any community in New Mexico by September 1st.

Interested in bringing *The Virtual Animal Connection* to your community? Contact Sherry Mangold, Education Outreach Director, at sherry@apnm.org



PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192

2021 NONPROFIT WINNER



BIG THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!



APNM FACES



Lyndi and Halona. Photo by Jen Stillions

Lyndi Martinez joined APNM in April 2014 as our third humane educator in the Teaching Compassion for Animals program. As a native Santa Fean, Lyndi serves as the lead teacher throughout Northern New Mexico, including Santa Fe. And, with a background as a teaching assistant for 1st grade Special Education students, Lyndi's ability to engage students and share with them her commitment and love of animals is evident in each of her classrooms.

Humane stewardship of animals and the environment is a Martinez family tradition. Lyndi's dad served as a park ranger throughout the Southwest, so Lyndi spent her summers at Bandelier National Monument, Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Organ Pipe National Monument. Camping, hiking, and learning about animals through patient, quiet observation are the treasured lessons shared by her father. And, these are the same lessons Lyndi shares with her two animal advocate teenagers. Lyndi and her children have always rescued animals, and have brought home into the family the ones most in need. They currently share their lives with three rescued cats and Halona, a big, beautiful golden shaggy rescued dog whose name means "fortunate one." Indeed, she is.

Through the non-profit Cross-Cultural Solutions, Lyndi's love of community and passion for helping others has surfaced in past summers as a volunteer abroad teaching English, cooking meals, and serving needy communities in Guatemala, Peru, and Costa Rica. Meanwhile, back at home in New Mexico, you would likely find her searching for 60's and 70's collectibles in area flea markets and antique shops. Lyndi's commitment to family, animals, and her work with APNM? "Groovy!"