



ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO
ANIMAL PROTECTION VOTERS
*respect all animals * protect all animals*

Media Contact: Jennifer Abbots, Communications Manager
Animal Protection New Mexico & Animal Protection Voters
(505) 280-4287 | jennifer@apnm.org

LIFE-SAVING FUNDS DEDICATED TO HOMELESS HORSES

APNM & APV Applaud State Lawmakers for Strengthening the Safety Net for Equines

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2022

Albuquerque, NM—Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) and Animal Protection Voters (APV) are thrilled to announce the dispersal of critical state financial support this month for homeless and abused horses, donkeys, and mules, through the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (HSRF).

Eleven equine shelters serve the entire state of New Mexico by housing hundreds of equines, animals who were surrendered when their families fell on hard times, along with stray, abandoned, and abused equines transferred from the New Mexico Livestock Board. These shelters' work saves animals' lives, keeps communities safer, and provides a service for local and state governments—all without any regular government funding, almost solely supported by donors and volunteers.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing drought, and the dramatic rise in hay prices have had a devastating impact on New Mexico's state-licensed horse shelters—this month's distribution of HSRF funds will relieve some of the pressure on the shelters that so desperately need the help. Nine non-profit equine shelters applied for and received a total of more than \$153,000.

Most of this funding came from a line item included in Senate Bill 377 (the "junior budget") during the 2021 State Legislative Session, thanks to the dedication of three state legislators—Senator Carrie Hamblen (D-Las Cruces), and Representatives Kristina Ortez (D-Taos), and Nathan Small (D-Las Cruces). Each legislator committed \$50,000 toward the HSRF, resulting in a \$150,000 total appropriation for equines. The remaining amount distributed from the HSRF came from voluntary tax return check-off donations.

"I am humbled by the work the nine horse shelters that received funding provide. They not only help these dignified creatures live a healthy and nurturing life, but also the healing they naturally provide in therapeutic environments. It's the least we could do for them given all they give in return," said **Senator Carrie Hamblen** (D-Las Cruces, Senate District 38).

“I am honored to support horse sanctuaries. This kind of funding is transformative for the organizations that are doing this critical work,” said **Representative Kristina Ortez** (D-Taos, House District 42).

Representative Ortez’s daughters also cheered the life-saving work of New Mexico’s horse shelters supported by this year’s state funding. **Vida, age 7**, said “I love horses so much, and I think they are beautiful and majestic.” **Gilly, age 10**, said “I love horses and I wanted them to be safe forever.” Both girls have enjoyed visiting one of the funding recipients, Equine Spirit Sanctuary, for riding lessons with horses who were rescued, rehabilitated, and incorporated into the organization’s riding and equine-assisted therapy programs.



In 2013, APV spearheaded the creation of the HSRF, a mechanism for horse shelters to receive state funding for their crucial work, thanks to the leadership of bill sponsor Senator George Muñoz (D-Gallup, Senate District 4). Since then, the New Mexico Livestock Board has administered the HSRF and distributed funding to provide direct assistance to the shelters that care for our state’s treasured equines.

###

About Animal Protection New Mexico

Animal Protection New Mexico’s mission is to advocate the rights of animals by effecting systemic change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals. For more than 40 years, APNM has planned, implemented, and succeeded with dynamic programs, projects, services, and collaborations that span a broad spectrum of animal protection issues.

Visit www.apnm.org and follow APNM on Facebook [@animalprotectionnm](https://www.facebook.com/animalprotectionnm), Instagram [@animalprotectionnewmexico](https://www.instagram.com/animalprotectionnewmexico), Twitter [@apnm](https://twitter.com/apnm), and YouTube [@apnm](https://www.youtube.com/apnm).

About Animal Protection Voters

Founded in 2002, Animal Protection Voters is the leading legislative and political advocacy organization for animal protection in New Mexico. Powered by grassroots supporters, its mission is to:

- Actively promote and support animal-friendly legislation at the state, federal, and local levels
- Build an effective political voice for animal advocacy in New Mexico
- Hold New Mexico’s elected officials accountable on animal issues

For more information about Animal Protection Voters’ accomplishments, current priority issues, and annual Scorecards, please visit www.apvnm.org, and be sure to follow Animal Protection Voters on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/animalprotectionvoters), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/animalprotectionvoters), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/apvnm).