

2021 IMPACT



ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO
ANIMAL PROTECTION VOTERS

ANNUAL REPORT





**ROXY'S LAW: A VICTORY
THAT MAKES OUR
PUBLIC LANDS SAFER
FOR EVERYONE**

Cover: A horse helped by our Equine Protection Fund. Photo courtesy of his guardian.

Above photo: Kim Schroeder/Shutterstock

For APNM, 2021 — the second year of a global pandemic — was distinguished by two themes: resilience and change.

Our entire suite of crucial programs and services responded to the crushing economic impact of COVID-19. APNM's Equine Protection Fund continued massive and lifesaving feed and other assistance for equines throughout the state, including in Native communities. We delivered fresh, healthy, plant-based foods to people living in food deserts, sustained crucial spay/neuter services for animals in northern New Mexico, provided grants for safe haven services for dozens of domestic violence survivors' animals, and granted funds to McKinley County organizations that transferred homeless dogs and cats to states offering better chances of adoption.

Creative and determined staff found ways to sustain and even deepen our impact in other ways, despite the pandemic's challenges.

APNM's humane education team converted *The Animal Connection's* powerful curriculum to digital format.

Our Protecting Animals in Science program staff grew, launched a renewed 'dissection choice' effort to support New Mexico students, and sued the National Institutes of Health (which refuses to retire the surviving Alamogordo Primate Facility chimps).

And despite the need to adjust to hybrid and virtual

work life, including at New Mexico's state capitol, APNM and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters (APV), worked with allied organizations to ensure the passage of Roxy's Law, banning traps, snares, and poisons on all public lands in New Mexico. Over 15 years in the making, this new law will not only protect untold numbers of wild animals from suffering and death, but it will also make our state safer for residents and visitors who simply want to enjoy our public lands without worrying about encountering these dangerous devices.

The legislative team also secured funding from the Legislature for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund, to be distributed to the hard-working, nonprofit equine rescues on whom our state depends to care for hundreds of horses every year.

Through it all, we kept our supporters informed of their impact through virtual Town Halls, earned the distinction of Nonprofit of the Year from Albuquerque Business First, launched attractive new brands, and demonstrated continued excellence in business and finance by earning an unmodified audit for the eighth year in a row.

APNM and APV embodied resilience in the midst of outsized change. And everything we achieved in 2021 was possible because of you, our dedicated and engaged supporters. Thank you for being with us on this journey of essential, systemic change for animals.

Elisabeth Jennings, *Executive Director*

Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters

Anne Coller, *Board President*

Animal Protection New Mexico

Robert Schutz, *outgoing Board President (2021)*

Animal Protection Voters

Yolanda Eisenstein, *incoming Board President (2022)*


Animal Protection Voters

BIG WINS & EFFORTS

- ❖ Passed Roxy's Law banning traps, snares, and poisons on public lands
- ❖ Secured \$150,000 for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund
- ❖ Continued a massive equine response providing hay, veterinary, and emergency services
- ❖ Continued Native Nations partnerships, providing animal and community services
- ❖ Continue building plant-based eating program resources
- ❖ Sued National Institutes of Health to get surviving Alamogordo Primate Facility chimps to sanctuary
- ❖ Promoted Dissection Choice in schools (alternatives to using animals in science classes)
- ❖ Provided life-saving services: CARE, Humane Communities projects, and Animal Cruelty Helpline
- ❖ Funded Animal Control Officer training
- ❖ Developed virtual versions of *The Animal Connection* curriculum
- ❖ Engaged in strong election-related advocacy as allowed by law for APNM and APV, respectively

SUSTAINABILITY & CAPACITY BUILDING

- ❖ Received Albuquerque Business First Award: Nonprofit of the Year
- ❖ Received an unmodified APNM/APNMF independent audit
- ❖ Launched new brands for APNM and APV
- ❖ Maintained a strong financial position for both APNM and APV
- ❖ Held virtual Town Halls for supporter engagement
- ❖ Maintained a disciplined budget and made data-driven decisions
- ❖ Continued to improve internal processes
- ❖ Enhanced systems security
- ❖ Continued strategic and annual planning



OUR NEW PROGRAM *Protecting Animals Used In Science* **HELPS STUDENTS CHOOSE NON-ANIMAL OPTIONS FOR DISSECTION CLASS**

Photo: Jay Ondreicka/Shutterstock

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS TO KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

This broad and far-reaching program provides pragmatic solutions to animal-related issues in communities and bridges gaps in service not offered by any other entity in the state. CARE program services help domestic violence survivors escape violent homes by securing safe havens for their animals at risk of harm by abusers. Humane Communities projects collaboratively address the most pressing animal-related problems identified by those in local communities.



Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE)

- ❖ Provided CARE Helpline coverage and referrals to services.
- ❖ Streamlined services through online applications, and simplified access to support.
- ❖ Continued public awareness of the dangerous connection between animal abuse and human violence (The Link) through a virtual Town Hall, building momentum for future policy changes.
- ❖ Ensured increased visibility and awareness of CARE services and The Link:
 - Participated in a New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence Advocacy Café for statewide domestic violence advocates and shelter representatives.
 - Conducted massive statewide program outreach: mailed CARE information to domestic violence shelters, advocate agencies, and law enforcement officers.

Received **79+** case calls involving **115** animals. Provided referrals for **39** people. Coordinated direct services for **39** mini-grant recipients: medical care for **37** animals, spay/neuter for **12** animals, and up to **90** days housing for **39** animals.



Transferred **953** stray/
surrendered animals for
better chances of adoption.

Provided **161** spay/neuter
surgeries and **257** vaccines.

Donated **350** bales of hay
for **33** horses.

Mama and pups dropped off for transport.
Photo courtesy of Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare.



McKinley County

- ❖ APNM Foundation provided **\$43,000+** to support Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare's transfer of 953 stray/surrendered animals out of state for a higher chance of adoption.

Mora County

- ❖ Through Las Vegas-San Miguel Veterinary Hospital, provided 161 spay/neuter surgeries for 74 dogs and 87 cats, and 257 vaccines (65 rabies, 192 other shots) for animals in 10 Mora County municipalities.

Pueblo of San Felipe

- ❖ Working with San Felipe Department of Natural Resources, APNM donated 350 bales of hay to feed 33 pueblo horses, and over **\$25,000** of flea and tick medication for dogs and cats.
- ❖ Based on top infrastructure needs, APNM secured a **\$5,000** HSUS grant for pueblo water infrastructure upgrades to support domestic and free-roaming horses and wildlife.
- ❖ With ASPCA, requested federal funding for tribal animal services and infrastructure.

Santa Rosa

- ❖ Partnered with city administration to identify and address top needs: humane education; ordinance enforcement/Animal Control Officer training; spay/neuter access (including feral cat colony population control); and shelter expansion/improvements.
- ❖ Supported successful application to NM Board of Veterinary Medicine for **\$13,000** in spay/neuter funding. Connected community with PAWS mobile unit for future Santa Rosa spay/neuter clinics.

CHALLENGING ANIMAL CRUELTY

**APNM Animal
Cruelty Helpline
877-5-HUMANE
(877-548-6263)**

Responded to **699** calls,
44% of which related to
dog abuse and neglect.

Funded training
scholarships for **34**

Animal Control Officers.

APNM's Animal Cruelty Helpline is there to respond to callers who care about animals. Whether someone has directly witnessed animal cruelty or neglect or has a question about laws addressing animal cruelty and neglect, we can help.



- ❖ The Animal Cruelty Helpline responded to 699 calls from the public. The most common calls—a full 44%—related to dog abuse and neglect. This data informs APNM/APV's work with community advocates to improve local animal-related ordinances and their enforcement (which is enhanced when officers receive professional training).
- ❖ APNM awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to National Animal Care & Control Association's online curriculum to 34 officers in 12 counties and two Pueblos.
- ❖ Added program capacity with a new Cruelty Case Manager/Tribal Liaison, and expanded community engagement and casework opportunities through a new Program Director.
- ❖ Supported the improved Valencia County Animal Ordinance that now prohibits chaining/tethering of dogs, and includes a more robust definition of "shelter" for animals.
- ❖ Provided technical expertise on animal cruelty: consulted with the Albuquerque FBI on blood sports and presented at APNM's virtual Town Hall on The Link.

Photo: Monika Chodak/Shutterstock

PROMOTING PLANT-BASED EATING

APNM's goal is to make plant-based foods more available wherever food is served or provided, to provide healthy foods to those living in food 'deserts' or facing food insecurity, and to help people explore the benefits of plant-based foods through the lenses of animal welfare, health, the environment, and social justice.



Made **33** contributions
resulting in **15,000+**
pounds of fresh produce/
plant-based foods.
Offered **9** plant-based
eating classes to **209**
participants. Produced
26 podcast episodes,
downloaded **6,421** times.

- ❖ Provided 12 food deliveries to 4 communities, and made 21 contributions to ABQ Mutual Aid, totaling over 15,000 lbs of fresh produce and other plant-based foods.
- ❖ Offered nine cooking classes to 209 total participants.
- ❖ Produced resources to support people's plant-based journey:
 - Plant-Based Eating Starter Guide
 - 26 episodes of the Teach Me How To Vegan podcast (6,421 downloads)
 - Searchable online NM Vegan Dining Guide for easier mobile access
 - Blogs, monthly email newsletters
 - Recipes relevant to New Mexicans
- ❖ Engaged in outreach to restaurants and cafeterias to encourage expansion of plant-based meals.
- ❖ Surveyed supporters and social media followers to gather valuable input about plant-based eating and inform future efforts to make plant-based eating more appealing and universal.

Photo: Mark Agnor/Shutterstock

PROTECTING HORSES, MULES, AND DONKEYS



APNM is the only entity
working toward providing
a comprehensive equine
safety net in New Mexico.

APNM's Protecting Horses, Mules, and Donkeys program aims to ensure all equines are treated humanely throughout their lives. New Mexico lacks a robust safety net for equines, resulting in horses, mules, and donkeys being vulnerable to poor treatment and care; to suffering on lands ravaged by climate change, drought, and over-grazing; and being sold to slaughter in other countries. The program delivers lifesaving services like feed assistance, veterinary care, and birth control, and creates policies, practices, and systems that transform and strengthen the equine safety net.

Ramah Navajo Horse Project

APNM's community-led collaboration with the Ramah Navajo Chapter is a powerful pilot project that protects horses and the land and honors that community's deep relationship with horses. 2021 achievements include:

- ❖ Funded training of all seven Ramah Navajo Chapter Department of Natural Resources staff in PZP immunocontraceptive vaccine delivery.
- ❖ Engaged Mt Taylor Mustangs to train community youth in how to conduct a horse population survey.
- ❖ Funded three equine veterinary clinics, provided recurring feed assistance, and PZP treatments for mares.

APNM provided crucial direct services for horses, donkeys, and mules across the state:

- ❖ Emergency Feed Assistance: \$170,800 for 2,404 equines
- ❖ Trail's End (humane euthanasia): \$5,182 for 15 equines
- ❖ Veterinary Care: \$14,735 for 116 equines
- ❖ Gelding Assistance: \$6,905 for 21 equines.



APNM worked with partners throughout the state to help equines and ensure their safety.

- ❖ Provided emergency feed assistance for 50 equines from 25 households on Taos Pueblo.
- ❖ Participated in NM Livestock Board committee that recommended distribution of \$153,740 from the Board's Horse Shelter Rescue Fund to nine licensed horse shelters.
- ❖ Participated in monthly meetings of Carson Partnership for Horse Management to increase transparency in US Forest Service horse management and to monitor PZP fertility control implementation in the Carson National Forest (Carson).
- ❖ Helped negotiate a more than 50% reduction in the number of horses to be rounded up and removed by the Carson compared to 2020.

APNM provided financial assistance to 5 of the 10 licensed equine shelters in New Mexico:

- ❖ Walkin N Circles Ranch
- ❖ Four Corners Equine Rescue
- ❖ Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary
- ❖ McKinley County Humane Society Equine Aid
- ❖ Equine Spirit Sanctuary

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and persistent drought, equine shelters have faced a reduction in donations, limitations on regular volunteer help, and rising feed costs.

Gita receives life-saving care and love at Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary.
Photo courtesy of Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary.



**PROMOTING COEXISTENCE
WITH WILDLIFE HELPS
ANIMALS AND PEOPLE**

PROMOTING COEXISTENCE WITH WILDLIFE

New Mexico now has one of the **strongest restrictions on traps, snares, and poisons** in the entire country.

APNM's Promoting Coexistence with Wildlife program provides a voice for all wildlife, while encouraging New Mexicans to explore how to humanely coexist with the rich array of wild species living among us who are simply trying to survive on a landscape increasingly impacted by drought, human encroachment, and climate change.



Traps, Snares, and Poisons Banned on New Mexico Public Lands

- ❖ After nearly two decades of relentless work, Roxy's Law passed in 2021 (see Changing Laws to Change Lives, p. 16). APNM spent many years raising public awareness and collecting and synthesizing important data to support this policy change. This change in law became necessary when New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) refused to respond to the public's demand for changes to NMDGF's trapping rules.
- ❖ As NMDGF updated its rules to implement Roxy's Law, APNM worked with the Trap Free New Mexico coalition to submit public comment on the draft rules to ensure correct, clear, and effective enforcement of the law.

Wildlife Conflict Reduction

- ❖ Worked with the offices of both the Santa Fe and Albuquerque mayors to help address wildlife conflict issues related to prairie dogs and urban coyotes.
- ❖ Studied effective ways of reducing wildlife/livestock conflicts, with the aim of providing technical support to landowners in the future.

PROTECTING ANIMALS USED IN SCIENCE

We are maintaining pressure to ensure the (currently) **31** surviving chimps still held on the Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo get to sanctuary.

A New Program Launch: Protecting Animals Used in Science

APNM's newest program aims to uncover, understand, and reduce invasive animal experiments conducted in New Mexico. Each year, millions of animals are used and intentionally harmed in laboratories in the U.S., usually with taxpayer dollars. Several labs in New Mexico have a long history of conducting painful animal experiments, including Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute and the University of New Mexico. Confronting what is happening to animals in laboratories is a challenging pursuit, and APNM is determined to help animals harmed in this way.

Dissection in K-12 Schools—Students Have a Choice

NM Public Education Department policy requires educators to provide alternatives for any K-12 student who opposes animal dissection for ethical, moral, cultural, or religious reasons. APNM promotes this policy, ensuring that students know they have a choice. All they need to do is ask.

- ❖ Reached out to teachers and administrators to confirm that humane alternatives are provided for students who request them.
- ❖ Created a fact sheet and online resources (apnm.org/dissectionchoice) to inform and support students and parents, facilitating access to humane alternatives.

Securing Sanctuary for Chimpanzees

We have not—and will not—forget the surviving chimpanzees at Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) who are still waiting for their chance at sanctuary.

- ❖ Facilitated a Congressional tour of APF with Senator Ben Ray Luján's office and the commander of Holloman Air Force Base.
- ❖ Engaged long-term partners and created new relationships in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, including Louisiana's U.S. Representative Mike Johnson and U.S. Senator John Kennedy (both of them challenged NIH's lack of oversight, transparency, and accountability and offered a pro-chimp amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, among other efforts for the chimps.)
- ❖ Maintained pressure through petitions and letter-writing through our website: ForgottenChimps.org.

TEACHING COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS

the animal connection



Online video versions of *The Animal Connection* curricula bring our humane education lessons to students and groups throughout New Mexico.

APNM's Teaching Compassion for Animals program helps foster kindness to animals, while also serving to help interrupt bullying behavior and encourage audiences of all ages to practice compassion on a daily basis.



A Year of Growth

- ❖ Continued the development of the virtual version of our humane education curriculum, *The Animal Connection*, adding three new video lessons: The Need for Spaying/Neutering, The Consequences of Dog Chaining, Careers in Animal Welfare.
- ❖ Hired a Humane Education Virtual Program Manager in order to offer a rich humane education curriculum to students anywhere in the state and beyond.
- ❖ Promoted the virtual *The Animal Connection* (grades 3-8) and *The Animal Connection Jr.* (grades K-2) to teachers across New Mexico. The curriculum was introduced by Santa Rosa Elementary and Middle Schools, and is being explored by The Unitarian Universalist National Children's Program.
- ❖ Engaged supporters through hosting a virtual Town Hall: "How *The Animal Connection* Ambassadors Help Teach Compassion."

Return to Limited In-Person Instruction

- ❖ Resumed a limited schedule of in-person lessons, providing *The Animal Connection* or *The Animal Connection Jr.* curriculum to: 1st graders at W.D. Carroll Elementary, Town of Bernalillo; 4th graders in the "Genius Program" at Lowell Elementary, Albuquerque; Vision Quest classes at John Adams and Hayes Middle Schools, Albuquerque.
- ❖ Delivered presentations for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops on "Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Emotional Support Dogs, and Imposters."

Photo still from "Life and Death in the Shelter" video lesson.

CHANGING LAWS TO CHANGE LIVES



In addition to the epic passage of Roxy's Law, APV secured **\$150,000** for horse shelters, and defeated proposed legislation harmful to animals.

APNM's legislative arm is Animal Protection Voters (APV), a separate 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. APNM funds and supports APV's lobbying and legislative work.

Roxy's Law (SB 32)

- ❖ Led the massive and successful coalition effort to ban traps, snares, and poisons on New Mexico's public lands. The Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act (aka Roxy's Law) was passed, signed into law, and went into effect on April 1, 2022. This new law ushers New Mexico into an era of not only safe public lands for people and dogs (like Roxy, who was killed by a trapper's snare while hiking with her family), but also for thousands of wild animals who can now live and thrive in trap-free habitats.

The Environmental Database Act (HB 51)

- ❖ Supported successful legislation to provide a robust new tool for monitoring and public access to data regarding wildlife, habitats, environmental public health impacts, and more.

Funding for Horse Shelters (included in SB 377)

- ❖ Enlisted the leadership of three state legislators who secured \$150,000 for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund. This significant support helps equines and the shelters that care for hundreds of horses, donkeys, and mules each year.

Anti-Animal Bills Defeated

- ❖ **"Right to Hunt" Constitutional Amendments (HJR5 & HJR 8)** Thwarted attempts to enshrine the preference for lethal wildlife management and the "right" to kill wildlife with cruel or unethical methods.
- ❖ **Horse Racing Industry Boosters (HB 101; HB 199; SB 362)** Thwarted attempts to maximize gambling and profits at racetrack casinos, despite horse racing's long history of cruelty and connection to corrupt and illegal activities.

Work to Support Future Legislation

- ❖ Presented before two interim legislative committees on cage-free hen legislation and banning animal sexual abuse.
- ❖ Joined a task force working to overhaul New Mexico's family violence law—ensuring protections for companion animals.
- ❖ Coordinated stakeholder engagement to develop new state wild horse management and protection laws.
- ❖ Supported introduction and secured congressional support for the federal Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act to facilitate public land grazing permit retirements, and federal Greyhound Protection Act to crack down on online gambling on greyhound racing.
- ❖ Helped develop proposed changes to successfully-passed Valencia County animal ordinances.

“It’s easy supporting a mission I deeply resonate with and understand that the team on the inside is dedicated to getting the job done.” -Jack P., APNM supporter



OUR APPROACH

We refer to our work as full-circle advocacy, in recognition of the value of efforts by both Animal Protection New Mexico and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters. Our powerful approach means we don’t just call for change. Rather, we do our homework, thoroughly research the impacts that policy changes will have, and create the conditions on the ground that make change possible, valuable, and sustainable. Then we continue—relentlessly—to push for changes in policies and practices that consider the animals’ point of view.

GOALS: 2022 & THE NEXT DECADE

IMPACT

- ❖ Secure recurring state funding for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund — **DONE IN EARLY 2022!**
- ❖ Prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session and beyond—issues to include:
 - Require eggs sold or produced in New Mexico to come only from cage-free hens
 - Ban sexual abuse of animals (bestiality)
 - Protect and promote humane management of wild and free-roaming horses in New Mexico
 - Add animal abuse as a trigger for protections granted by the Family Violence Protection Act
 - Allow judges to include companion animals in domestic abuse protective orders
 - Amend the Dangerous Dogs Act to better protect communities and farmed animals
 - Modernize the state agency that manages wildlife
 - Reform the state animal cruelty statute and infrastructure to strengthen animal protections and offender rehabilitation options
 - Stop all bills, resolutions, and memorials that would harm animals or undo progress
- ❖ Continue to ensure effective implementation of recently passed laws
- ❖ Continue massive equine protection efforts
- ❖ Expand partnerships with Native Nations
- ❖ Secure sanctuary for all surviving Alamogordo Primate Facility chimps
- ❖ Promote Dissection Choice
- ❖ Challenge the most egregious use of animals in painful experiments in New Mexico
- ❖ Deliver the virtual *The Animal Connection* humane education curriculum across New Mexico
- ❖ Maintain all crucial programs and services: Humane Communities projects, Plant-based eating program, CARE helpline, Animal cruelty helpline, Sheltering and spay/neuter support, Animal Control Officer scholarships
- ❖ Provide support to communities for wildlife conflict reduction and coexistence
- ❖ Continue to build crucial state infrastructure for animals

SUSTAINABILITY

- ❖ Grow the Equine Protection Fund Endowment to fund sustained equine direct services
- ❖ Grow the support base for both APNM and APV to sustain programs and services

FINANCIALS

Income Total: \$3,031,896



Expenses Total: \$2,899,339



Financials reflect the 2021 audited consolidated financial statements (available at apnm.org) for Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection New Mexico Foundation.



A Guidestar/Candid (guidestar.org) Platinum rating encourages nonprofit organizations to share their progress and results in important new ways, moving beyond simplistic financial ratios to reflect the meaningful change organizations are making in the world.

Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters are proud to share the following impact metrics:

Established **3** formal animal protection policies. Blocked **3** anti-animal policies.

73,789 individuals, groups, and animals benefited from our tools, materials, and resources (not counting website visits).

Created **21** program and organizational innovations.

BUSINESS SPONSORS





**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
NEW MEXICO**

PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192



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.

2021 APNM Board of Directors: Anne Coller, *President*; Joan David, *Vice President*; Tom Alexander, *Secretary*; Susan Diaz, *Director*;

Changes to APNM Board Since 2021: Addition of David J. Steele, *Director*

Animal Protection Voters' mission is to actively promote and support animal-friendly legislation at the local, state, and federal levels, to build an effective political voice for animal advocacy in New Mexico, and to hold New Mexico's elected and appointed officials accountable on animal issues.

2021 APV Board of Directors: Robert Schutz, *President*; Yolanda Eisenstein, *Vice President*; Danielle Wilson, *Secretary*; James Corcoran, *Director*; Dave Holland, *Director*; Tracy Burr, *Director*

Changes to APV Board Since 2021: Addition of Rebecca Álvarez, *Director*; resignation of Tracy Burr; resignation of Danielle Wilson; election of Yolanda Eisenstein, *President*; election of JC Corcoran, *Secretary*

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