



# MAKING TRACKS

A TWICE-YEARLY PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO 2022 *ISSUE 2*

**THE FIGHT TO BRING SPAY/NEUTER  
FUNDING TO NEW MEXICO**

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Animals,

If 2022 has taught us anything, it's that we need to do much more to be ready to respond to the chaos that natural and human-caused disasters unleash on our New Mexico communities.

This year, thousands of New Mexicans have had to navigate natural and human-caused disasters that have turned their lives upside down. Wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat have placed families and entire communities in harm's way. Of course, in the midst of these climate change-fueled crises, domestic and wild animals are also impacted.

Hurricane Katrina's destruction caused a sea change in how our government looks at the impact of natural disasters, and some of the policies that came from that enormous 2005 tragedy moved our society forward in terms of understanding the human-animal bond. When people had to choose between their own safety and that of their beloved animals, some chose to stay behind and risk their lives to protect their animals. The federal PETS Act of 2006 stipulated that cities and states now must have plans in place for safeguarding family "pets," reducing the likelihood of people having to make impossible choices, to receive FEMA funding. But that law is not nearly good enough.

For many years, APNM has recognized that human-caused and natural disasters extend far beyond impacts on just household companion animals, leaving equines, other livestock, wildlife, and animals confined to institutions like labs vulnerable to all kinds of dangers. On top of that, human-caused "disasters" for animals, such as hoarding and animal fighting, require an approach, systems, infrastructure, and funding for bringing relief to large numbers of animals across our very large and mostly rural state.

In 2022, APNM is beginning to amplify the need for this kind of planning and widespread disaster response so that our state begins treating animals caught up in these tragedies like they matter. Because of course you and we believe they do. Thank you for fueling our determination to keep making humane the new normal in New Mexico!

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings  
Executive Director

# **MAKING TRACKS™**

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## EVERY KENNEL IS FULL. EVERY SINGLE ONE.

That is the reality for many of New Mexico's animal shelters, which have seen a sharp uptick in the number of homeless dogs and cats coming through their doors during the past couple of years.

What has caused this crisis? One key factor is that at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020—when all operations deemed “non-essential” closed to stop community spread, and the need to conserve PPE (personal protective equipment) for medical professionals serving humans was prioritized—one important public service was paused for several months: spay/neuter. Unfortunately, the timing of this spay/neuter services pause was during the usual springtime “puppy and kitten season”—leading to a catastrophic deluge of new animals that even the increased adoption rates couldn't keep up with.

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Eventually, spay/neuter services returned, with veterinarians working with their patients and spay/neuter clinics resuming their work. But the damage had already been done, and monumental resources would be needed to stem the tide of homeless animals.

## **SB 57 spay/neuter funding: the tool stuck inside the toolbox**

Thankfully, a substantial amount of spay/neuter funding was coming to the rescue.

In 2020, after many years of efforts, the New Mexico State Legislature passed and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law Senate Bill 57 (SB 57). Often referred to as the affordable spay/neuter bill, this legislation established a new statewide spay/neuter funding mechanism identified as the best option in a State Senate-requested study: a pet food manufacturer fee upon product registration. This source of spay/neuter funding has proven to dramatically reduce shelter animal euthanasia in other states, with no ill side-effects.

On January 1, 2021, the State of New Mexico began implementing SB 57. However, around this same time, a lawsuit was filed against the State by several groups—the Pet Food Institute, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, NM Chamber of Commerce, NM Farm & Livestock Bureau, and Rio Grande Kennel Club—seeking to overturn SB 57. Although similar laws to SB 57 have passed in four other states, New Mexico is the only state where any entity has sued to invalidate the spay/neuter funding law.

That pet industry lawsuit against New Mexico is still pending in federal court—the judge has yet to rule on the State’s motion to dismiss the suit and is considering whether the case actually belongs in state court instead. In the meantime, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA), the agency that regulates pet food in New Mexico and is charged with collecting the fees for the spay/neuter funds, proceeded with collecting those fees—but it did not transfer the funds to the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine (NMBVM) to distribute to spay/neuter providers, as SB 57 requires. Instead, the NMDA held the funds, frozen in place, out of concern over the litigation.

Regardless, in 2021, the NMBVM was able to make a distribution of spay/neuter funds from other sources (a spay/neuter specialty license plate and annual tax check-off donations) in the amount of about \$218,000 (see article on page 5), but even more help was and is needed.

## **Unlocking the spay/neuter funds**

Animal Protection New Mexico and our legislative arm Animal Protection Voters never stopped our work to see SB 57 through. Once it became clear that the litigation would not

quickly resolve, we reached out to key individuals for help, asking them to take a close look at the situation and the law and to take any action they could to help get spay/neuter funds into communities as soon as possible.

Several policymakers answered the call for help, including New Mexico’s Speaker of the House Brian Egolf, state Representative Joanne Ferrary, New Mexico’s State Auditor Brian Colón, and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. It was heartening to work with officials who recognize and care deeply about the benefits of spay/neuter programs for our state’s animals, their families, and communities.

All of this hard work culminated in a May 2022 letter from the NMDA Secretary, officially announcing that they were releasing approximately \$900,000 in spay/neuter funds!

This is great cause for celebration, and we know that many spay/neuter programs and clinics are eager to use those funds to provide massive support to New Mexico’s families and their animals—although some details are still in the works.

### **Some frequently asked questions:**

#### ***When will the funds be distributed to spay/neuter service providers?***

The NMBVM is currently working to improve administration and processes around the spay/neuter grants, and they must complete that work before the next distribution of spay/neuter funds to ensure this program is successful and effective. That may take until spring next year or possibly longer. In the meantime, spay/neuter programs/providers can ready their prospective projects, like identifying service locations and veterinary staff.

#### ***Will spay/neuter providers need to refund the SB 57 funds if the pet industry lawsuit succeeds?***

According to the legal experts and best available information we’ve consulted, we’re told the answer is no: Once the funds are distributed from the state to the providers, the “cat is already out of the spay/neuter clinic,” and providers will not need to return the funds.

#### ***What about future SB 57 funding? Will we have to fight for their release again?***

At this time, NMDA has reported that they plan to release future SB 57-derived spay/neuter funds once a year (after the end of each calendar year) to the NMBVM for distribution. This plan is subject to change as circumstances change.

**Watch our emails (from APNM and APV) for more breaking news on this topic.**



“People want to do the right thing for their animals, they just have no expendable funds for spay/neuter.”

– Leslie Fernandez,  
Raton Humane Society

In 2021, the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine (NMBVM) Animal Care and Facility Fund awarded \$218,500 to 17 providers of spay/neuter services across New Mexico. APNM caught up with two of them—Raton Humane Society and the City of Santa Rosa—to learn how the funds are being used in those communities.

### **RATON HUMANE SOCIETY**

The northernmost grantee, about six miles from the Colorado border, Raton Humane Society (RHS) received \$25,000, the second-highest award. The grant enabled the shelter, directed by Barb Bonahoom since 1984, to supplement its longtime spay/neuter certificate program, in place for over 20 years. One day a year, Colfax County residents can purchase certificates for low-cost spay/neuter services, but if they miss sale day, they have to wait a whole year. “We knew we were missing people who could benefit from the \$40-\$50 certificates,” says Leslie Fernandez, retired manager of the Colfax County District Attorney’s Office. She has volunteered with RHS since 2012.

The NMBVM grant changed that. Between January and May, when APNM spoke with Fernandez, RHS had approved over 125 applications for free spay/neuter services (about 60% dogs and 40% cats, including 10 or so cared-for community cats) from residents in Raton and surrounding towns like Ute Park, Maxwell, Cimarron, and Springer. The two local veterinary hospitals fully participate in the program.

“I don’t think I’ve ever had so many people so appreciative of anything,” says Fernandez, who screens the applications and administers the program. Initially concerned that people would balk at the required income verification, Fernandez discovered “exactly the opposite is true. People want to do the right thing for their animals, they just have no expendable funds for spay/neuter.”

Given future funding, Raton Humane Society hopes to get other northern New Mexico communities involved in the effort, including Angel Fire, 70 miles away, and Union County.

For now, the current funding “is making a dent” in Colfax County, says Fernandez, “and it’s making people aware of this unbelievable program.”

### **CITY OF SANTA ROSA**

In east-central New Mexico, the City of Santa Rosa received \$13,000 for spay/neuter assistance in 2021. The Guadalupe County seat, this city of about 2,500 lies between Albuquerque and Tucumcari.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw a spike in the area’s high numbers of puppy and kitten litters and community cats—“sometimes it seems like there are more animals here than people,” says Heather Dostie. Community Development Supervisor with the City of Santa Rosa, Dostie applied for the funding and leads the community’s spay/neuter effort.

In March of this year, Santa Rosa held its first spay/neuter clinic in over two years. Contracting with Jane Carson’s PAWS New Mexico, one of the few mobile providers in the state, the clinic performed surgeries on a total of 61 animals—in just two days preventing the future births of thousands of puppies and kittens.

“We have an astounding number of people here who support animal welfare,” says Dostie, “including our wonderful city councilwoman Roberta Blea, who is a huge advocate for animals.” Community partners are currently discussing animal shelter improvements and the possible purchase of a mobile spay/neuter unit.

The City of Santa Rosa recently received a private grant, which—combined with the NMBVM grant—allowed Santa Rosa to schedule two more two-day clinics. Animal Balance, an international spay/neuter provider, conducted pop-up clinics in July and September 2022. The fall clinic included feral cats, often disallowed from spay/neuter efforts focused on “owned” animals.

With a future NMBVM grant and/or other funding on the horizon, Santa Rosa, like Raton, hopes to include surrounding rural communities. Anton Chico, Fort Sumner, and Tucumcari, all with limited veterinary services, will be invited to Santa Rosa’s upcoming clinics. Whether it’s improving spay/neuter services, the local animal shelter, or other animal welfare efforts in her community, says Dostie, “I will never stop.”

the animal connection



ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO

# The Animal Connection Goes Digital

## Our Humane Education Courses Can Now Reach the Entire State

Initially created as an in-class model in 2010, taught by APNM's education team assisted by registered therapy dogs, *The Animal Connection* expanded over the years to reach six school districts, seven pueblos, two correctional facilities, and countless community venues across New Mexico. The program's growth led Sherry Mangold, Education Outreach Director, to develop a "Train the Trainer" seminar that instructs teachers on using the curriculum in their classrooms. But the COVID-19 pandemic and the shutdown of in-person classes moved Sherry and the education team to reconsider further how school children across the state learn about care and compassion for animals. The result became an ambitious project: a self-paced virtual curriculum with videos and activities that make humane education free and accessible throughout New Mexico.

*The Animal Connection* is designed in two versions: a 10-lesson course for grades 3-8 and a three-lesson program for K-2 called *The Animal Connection Jr.* (see sidebar). Each topic includes an instructional video, lesson plans, and suggested activities with demonstrations, simulation games, and vocabulary lists that engage students to

understand the humane stewardship of animals and its connection to developing empathy and concern for peers, families, and communities.

*The Animal Connection* and *The Animal Connection Jr.* are designed to satisfy New Mexico's Public Education Department's Core Standards and supplement a teacher's classroom instruction. They can be offered as stand-alone courses, available to any educator, homeschooler, or community organization with an internet connection. Via an online educational platform called LearnWorlds, both programs can reach the entire state of New Mexico, including remote areas that APNM's humane educators couldn't get to in the past.

## The Lessons

### *The Animal Connection*

1. Introduction
2. Care and Responsibility
3. Life and Death in the Shelter
4. The Need for Spaying and Neutering
5. The Consequences of Dog Chaining
6. Loose Dog and Bite Safety
7. Blood Sports
8. The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence
9. Careers in Animal Welfare
10. Sherpa's Farm: A Northern New Mexico Sanctuary

### *The Animal Connection Jr.*

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

César Díaz, Humane Education Virtual Program Manager, with Renzo  
Photo courtesy of César



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Creating a virtual curriculum necessitated more growth. In January 2022, APNM welcomed César Díaz as Humane Education Virtual Program Manager to develop the LearnWorlds course website and administer the program. Educators across New Mexico can now learn more about the virtual program by visiting *The Animal Connection* website at [theanimalconnection.learnworlds.com](https://theanimalconnection.learnworlds.com). Teachers may also request to sample the curricula through the website or sign up directly with a work email to begin using the online lessons.

As Virtual Program Manager, César contacts teachers directly to discuss ways of using the curriculum. He also provides educators with specialized training on using LearnWorlds in their classrooms. Teachers who need more specific instruction may request a 1-on-1 virtual lesson for help.

“*The Animal Connection* can be adapted for all ages,” says César. “In having the flexibility to adapt the program, New Mexico teachers can address local animal-welfare topics important to their communities.”

*The Animal Connection* highlights the link between kindness to animals and creating nurturing relationships with others. Educators are encouraged to work with César on a plan that achieves a positive community outcome based on compassionate action.

“The program is already designed with this in mind,” says César. “My goal is to inspire teachers to use the curriculum to guide students to think of ways they can share compassion with others. This can be through service-learning projects, school-wide activities, and volunteering that opens students to think deeply, creatively, and with resiliency about issues that face their community.”

APNM hopes that *The Animal Connection* online curricula and hybrid model (see below) encourage schools across the state to implement humane education as part of their academics.

### **Interested in testing out *The Animal Connection*?**

Contact César Díaz, Humane Education Virtual Program Manager, at (505) 420-7304 or [cesar@apnm.org](mailto:cesar@apnm.org).

## ***The Animal Connection* Hybrid Model**

*The Animal Connection* was born right in New Mexico classrooms, teaching compassion and responsibility for animals to school children. Its hallmark was the instant bond between students and visiting therapy dogs. For the last 12 years, Sherry Mangold has witnessed how registered therapy dogs change the lives of children, from students taking responsibility for feeding the family dog to declaring they want to be a veterinarian when they grow up. A dog in a classroom can expand a child's perspective.

That's why APNM offers a “hybrid” version of the virtual *The Animal Connection* that combines the online curriculum along with selected in-person lessons taught by Sherry and registered therapy dogs from the Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers (SCCV). Popular live lessons include “Care and Responsibility for Companion Animals,” “Loose Dog and Bite Safety,” and “Reading to Dogs,” but all of the lessons are available as in-person presentations. APNM's humane education team will work with educators to create a program tailored to community issues and needs.

Due to the expense and difficulty of traveling with dogs, the hybrid program is only available within about a 100-mile radius of Albuquerque. That's still a wide swath of the state, including Santa Rosa, Santa Fe, San Felipe Pueblo, Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Albuquerque, Isleta Pueblo, Los Lunas, Socorro, and many other communities. Educators in other parts of the state are encouraged to contact César Díaz, Humane

Education Virtual Program Manager, to discuss ways to incorporate the virtual curriculum at their schools.

For more information about *The Animal Connection* hybrid program, contact Sherry Mangold, Education Outreach Director, at (505) 205-5740 or [sherry@apnm.org](mailto:sherry@apnm.org).



Sherry with Therapy Dog Perkins and an eager 1st grade class in Bernalillo. Photo: Elizabeth Wolf/APNM



## PROTECTING ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

Hundreds of millions of animals are used in painful experiments each year in the United States in biomedical, military, agricultural, behavioral and cognitive research, and chemical and product testing. Animal experiments are not only cruel but also are unnecessary, since the results are not predictive of the results in humans.

*Photo: Egoreichenkov Evgenii/Shutterstock*

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APNM's newest program, Protecting Animals in Science, was launched to uncover, understand, and reduce invasive animal experiments conducted in New Mexico and beyond. Building on APNM's decades of advocating for animals harmed in laboratories, this program will reveal what is happening in laboratories using our tax dollars, and challenge painful experiments conducted behind closed doors, out of the public's view.

Several facilities in New Mexico have a long history of conducting painful animal experiments, including Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute (LBRI) and the University of New Mexico (UNM). In 2021 alone, LBRI conducted painful experiments on approximately 1,300 animals, including dogs, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, monkeys, pigs, and rabbits. UNM conducted painful experiments on hamsters, rabbits, and large numbers of mice.

In addition to exposing gruesome animal experiments, APNM is promoting a student's right to opt out of dissection exercises that sometimes start as early as grade school. Many of us have had the traumatic experience of being required to dissect an animal in science class. Fortunately, New Mexico is one of twenty-two states with a student dissection choice law or policy. New Mexico's policy requires educators to provide alternatives to dissection for any student K-12th grade who opposes animal dissection for ethical, moral, cultural, or religious reasons. Dissection alternatives include cruelty-free computer simulations, anatomical models, and videos, and are less expensive for school systems. Our goal is to educate New Mexicans about the student's right to choose a dissection alternative.

APNM is also pursuing opportunities to dissuade the use of, and protect, animals used in experiments. APNM recently submitted public comments to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine after learning that a committee tasked with deciding the fate of nonhuman primates in labs is "stacked" with primate researchers who will undoubtedly want to push for the continued use of primates in experiments. APNM also submitted comments to the United States Department of Agriculture to include protections for all captive birds under the Animal Welfare Act.

## Working at the Federal Level

APNM continues to work on federal legislation to protect animals in laboratories and reduce the number of animal experiments. Specifically, we worked with a bipartisan group of Senators (including Senators Heinrich and Luján) to introduce the **Chimp Sanctuary Act (S 3613)** to require the transfer of the Alamogordo chimpanzees living in a laboratory at Holloman Air Force Base to Chimp Haven, a lush 200-acre sanctuary.

**APNM publicly endorsed the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 that passed unanimously in the US Senate in late September!** We are now working to increase support for the bill in the US House of Representatives. The FDA Modernization Act 2.0 allows drug developers to use animal-free methods to develop drugs, potentially saving millions of animals from cruel and painful experiments.

## A Relentless Battle

Unfortunately, our work to protect animals in experiments involves having to fight—often relentlessly—to even know what animal experimenters are doing with our tax dollars. The lack of transparency and accountability by animal experimenters are both pervasive and outrageous. Animal experimenters do not want you to know what happens to animals in laboratories.

We gather information through public records requests, a time-consuming and frustrating process. Armed with the details about what happens in New Mexican labs, we will educate the public and lawmakers and target the most egregious projects using animals.

In 2021, Leslie Rudloff—an attorney with vast experience in reducing the use of animals in experiments—joined the team. Leslie has used various legal avenues to promote human-relevant, nonanimal methods including litigation, legislation, speaking at legal conferences across the nation, petitioning federal agencies for rulemaking and publishing on anti-vivisection topics.



Photo: izanbar/DepositPhotos



## APNM *and a* GENEROUS VETERINARIAN

BRING EQUINE CLINICS *to* RAMAH NAVAJO CHAPTER *and* SAN YSIDRO

*Toby (photo by his guardian, Bessie)*

APNM's Equine Protection Fund (EPF) exists to strengthen and expand the safety net for New Mexico's horses, donkeys, and mules, to ensure they have access to humane care at every stage of their lives and are not sold for slaughter. EPF provides emergency equine feed assistance so equines are able to remain with their human families who are going through financial hardship, assists with gelding procedures for stallions to promote equine fertility control, and covers fees related to humanely euthanizing suffering equines.

Since 2010, EPF has helped over 3,900 equines all across New Mexico. In 2022, EPF is expanding its gelding assistance initiative to host free mobile gelding clinics in more remote parts of New Mexico with less local access to such veterinary care. EPF partners with Dr. Thomas J. Gonzales of Gonzales Veterinary Services to make this possible.

On April 29, Dr. Gonzales drove to Pine Hill School in Ramah Navajo Chapter and gelded nine stallions out in the field. A tenth stallion—a 17 year old named Toby—needed a special

gelding procedure, requiring major surgery that could cost over \$1500. EPF worked with Toby's guardian to schedule his gelding procedure at the Albuquerque Equine Clinic, with the majority of the cost covered by EPF.

On May 6, Dr. Gonzales drove to the village of San Ysidro in Sandoval County and gelded six stallions. The seventh stallion, Scooter, would have required extensive after-care because of his advanced age, so his guardian elected not to proceed with the gelding but stayed to volunteer his time to help others at the clinic. Seven additional equines were gelded at a second clinic on July 15th, including a donkey named LD.

By making gelding services more accessible and affordable, APNM helps ensure fewer unwanted horses, mules, and donkeys are born, reducing the number who are at risk of being abandoned or sold for slaughter.



## DISASTER RESPONSE:

# Help for Wildfire Victims

**A horse may once have had plenty to eat, but now the field where they grazed could be scorched, or the building holding a stockpile of hay could have been destroyed.**

New Mexico saw a record-breaking early start to its wildfire season, which normally begins in May or June. The Hermits Peak fire started on April 6 in the Santa Fe National Forest. On April 19, the Calf Canyon fire broke out northwest of Las Vegas, NM. It merged with the Hermits Peak fire and grew into the largest wildfire in New Mexico's history. By late June, the fire had consumed nearly 317,000 acres and has driven thousands of people, companion animals, and wild animals from their homes.

On April 12, the McBride fire spung up in the Village of Ruidoso. Upon learning of the situation, APNM's Equine Protection Fund Program Manager Victoria Murphy travelled to Ruidoso to see how she could assist as a private citizen. She said that one of her biggest takeaways was how crucial outside help is in these extreme circumstances because "the people that were in the chaos were overwhelmed with what they were dealing with." Ultimately, over 6,000 acres were burned, two human lives were lost, and approximately 200 homes were destroyed by that fire.

Since then, APNM has been able to work with the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB), the agency managing many of the sites that are temporarily housing evacuated large animals, to determine what is most needed in the moment. APNM was able to swiftly provide 17,300 pounds of hay to feed evacuated equines in the counties of San Miguel and Taos. APNM was then contacted by the NMLB with a new request: they had received an adequate amount of hay for the time being but were in dire need of food for dogs, cats, and rabbits. APNM secured a large donation of goods from Tractor Supply Co., and the food was given to animals as soon as it was taken off the truck in Mora County.

APNM has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Humane Society of the United States to assist with costs associated with animal care, feed, and supplies relating to the 2022 New Mexico wildfires. Additionally, thanks to support from the Bonner family of Albuquerque, the Albuquerque Community Foundation, and a generous gift from an individual donor, APNM was able to fulfill other requests for food for companion animals affected by the wildfires.

For those affected by the wildfires, the future is uncertain. As one equine feed applicant recently wrote, "We are hoping our barn and house still stand and we will be able to go back to the normal feeding of our horses in about four weeks, once the fire leaves our area as it continues to go northwest away from us. At our place we have 90 bales of hay and 600 lbs. of feed stored so we are saying a little prayer that our farm is still there."

Eventually, fires will be extinguished, but the impacts for many will be long-lasting. Homes and livelihoods will have been lost. The simple act of buying dog food could now have the potential to break a family's budget. A horse may once have had plenty to eat, but now the field where they grazed could be scorched, or the building holding a stockpile of hay could have been destroyed.

APNM's disaster relief efforts seek to provide both long- and short-term assistance as displaced people and animals return to their homes. Receiving assistance may be the lifeline needed to allow animals to remain with their people.

**To learn more about available assistance, or to support APNM's Disaster Relief Fund, please visit: [apnm.org/disaster-resources](https://apnm.org/disaster-resources)**



## A TRIBUTE TO MARLYN ZAHLER



Mary Jane Garcia  
Champion for Animals Award  
Maryln Zahler

On March 4, 2022, our New Mexico community lost one of its most determined and vocal animal advocates who lived for 26 years in the southern New Mexico town of Las Cruces: Maryln Zahler.

From her childhood in Buffalo, New York, through the many places her education-focused career took her—including Morocco, Italy, Florida, and ultimately New Mexico—Maryln always helped animals. Although she was turned away from the Cornell University veterinary program by a 1940s system that didn't welcome women, she never let that stop her from devoting her life to improving the way animals are treated. Maryln was great at finding something positive to do for animals, no matter where she looked.

At the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, Maryln helped create programs that increased animal adoptions, including establishing cat adoptions at Petsmart, providing microchip scanners for animal control officers, improving Doña Ana County's animal control ordinance, improving conditions for the county sheriff department's animal holding facilities, and securing funding for a mobile spay/neuter van.

Maryln was fearless, feisty, and was a formidable proponent of government changes that would help improve animals' lives. She had a special way of making her case to policymakers that just made sense, and she was relentless in following through on an idea she was convinced would help animals.

Because of her intrepid work for New Mexico's animals, in 2015 Animal Protection New Mexico honored Maryln with the "Mary Jane Garcia Champion for Animals" Milagro Award.

Maryln supported APNM for over 20 years, and remained active and engaged in her beloved Las Cruces community until just before she died.

Southern New Mexico friends of animals surely miss Maryln, as do all of us who were lucky enough to know her, work with her, and marvel at the many things she did to enrich the lives of animals in her region.



Photos: Top: Jessi Princiotto/APNM; Above: Courtesy of Maryln Zahler



# PROTECTING *and* EMPOWERING *the* POWERLESS

*Marianne was out of town when she received a disturbing call from her ex-boyfriend: he had set her house on fire. By the time firefighters were able to extinguish the fire that morning, the house was full of smoke, Marianne's bed had burned, and her beloved cat Misty was found dead.*

**This nightmare scenario is just one example of the well-documented link between animal cruelty and domestic abuse and other forms of gruesome violence.** Companion animals are cherished members our families. Unfortunately, this powerful human-animal bond can make animals uniquely vulnerable as a tactic or victim of abuse.

*(Continued)*

*Photo: Veera/Shutterstock*

These are topics that are tough to talk and read about—but they are important. APNM’s legislative arm, **Animal Protection Voters**, is working diligently to strengthen state laws to provide more protections for the vulnerable and facilitate actions needed to stop the abuse.

## Including Companion Animals in Domestic Abuse Protection Orders

Statistics show that domestic abusers often control, threaten, punish, or intimidate their victims by threatening or harming companion animals. And because victims understand the harm the abuser may inflict on the animals, many delay or refuse to leave abusive relationships.

The Family Violence Protection Act is the state law in New Mexico that allows a person to petition a court, in a civil case, to secure a domestic abuse protection order against their abuser.

The law sets out a list of abusive conduct that triggers the ability to petition for protection—such as bodily injury, assault, or property destruction—but animal abuse is not on that list. Additionally, while the law specifically allows

a court to award custody of any children involved as part of the protection order, it is silent on whether a court may also include companion animals in the protection order. Legislation to fill these gaps is needed.

APNM advocated for Marianne and her cat Misty on the day her abuser was sentenced for arson and animal cruelty. Now, Animal Protection Voters is part of a statewide coalition working to recommend updates to the Family Violence Protection Act for the 2023 state legislative session, and are ensuring that animal protection provisions are included in those updates. Marianne told us when the bill is introduced, she would like those provisions to be called “Misty’s Law.”

## Making New Mexico the 49th State to Outlaw Animal Sexual Abuse

You read that correctly: New Mexico is one of only two states where animal sexual abuse is not yet a crime.

APNM was reminded of this recently when we received a report from a concerned individual who spotted an alarming Craigslist ad in Albuquerque soliciting for sexual contact with a horse—and law enforcement couldn’t do anything about it.

Animal sexual abuse, also known as “bestiality,” is not only cruel to animals. It is also often connected to child sexual abuse, child pornography, human sex trafficking,

and other violent and exploitative crimes. Evidence that sexual abuse of animals occurs is readily available, and experts report it happens more frequently than the public is aware.

It is far past time to make bestiality a crime in New Mexico. Animal Protection Voters has drafted a bill to establish one of the strongest anti-bestiality laws in the country and is engaging lawmakers to secure their support.

**Follow Animal Protection Voters for news on these bills and more.** APNM and Animal Protection Voters are working on other pieces of legislation, too—including bills to protect and humanely manage wild horses and modernizing New Mexico’s wildlife agency. Thank you for making our work possible.

apvnm.org



@AnimalVoters



@animalprotectionvotersnm



@AnimalVoters



## A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT “SKIP” TRIMBLE

On June 18, Animal Protection New Mexico, New Mexicans, Texans, and animals everywhere lost an intrepid and committed friend whose absence is impossible to measure.

Skip Trimble and his wife, Mary, have been deeply engaged and generous donors to APNM for over 20 years. Skip and Mary believed in APNM and its ground-breaking work in New Mexico early on, and were responsible for APNM launching our first CARE program services to help survivors of domestic violence back in 1999. Since then and over the years, the Trimbles' generous and crucial support helped all of APNM's programs, and extended to Animal Protection Voters' legislative priorities and its work to elect humane lawmakers/policymakers.

While Skip and Mary's primary home is in Texas, they have also lived in the Lincoln County area, spending time there with their beloved horses and dogs, and taking in the splendor that New Mexico offers in every season. They made a point of keeping track of key elections in New Mexico that would impact animals, and always stepped up to help elect champions for animals.

Those who were lucky enough to know and work with Skip Trimble know that first and foremost Skip was a “people person,” and he had an inimitable way of making people laugh, making people instantly like him, and generally drawing in anyone who would interact with him. His stories were the kind that left you almost rolling on the floor.

Skip's unique “people skills” were part of his success in lobbying the Texas Legislature to pass stronger laws to protect animals in that gigantic state. But that wasn't all. Skip was a talented private practice attorney who blended his academic and legal prowess with his personality, adding up to an unstoppable force for animals.

In Texas, Skip and the organization he founded there, Texas Humane Legislative Network, have been highly successful at passing laws that improve the lives of animals. He oversaw the passage of Texas laws to keep dogs from being permanently chained, to crack down on puppy mills and dog fighting, and to prevent horses from slaughter, among many others.

In 2000, Skip and Mary Trimble were given APNM's Board of Directors' Milagro Award for their service on the board of directors of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, for their collaboration with the Animal Protection Institute to establish the San Antonio Snow Monkey Sanctuary, and for funding the establishment of APNM's Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) program services.

Up until his death, Skip was knee-deep in pushing to support the passage of the FDA Modernization Act, federal legislation that APNM is also promoting. If passed, the measure would

end an outdated Food & Drug Administration mandate that experimental drugs must be tested on animals before they are used on humans in clinical trials.

As APNM and its lobbying arm, Animal Protection Voters, approaches the “long” state legislature in spring 2023, Skip's absence will weigh heavily on us as we realize that we don't have “our” Skip to talk over the bills with, to laugh about the unpredictable aspects of lawmaking, and to share our respective successes and failures with each other.

Our hearts are heavy for Skip's widow, Mary, who was Skip's early inspiration to advocate for animals, who fueled his natural compassion for vulnerable individuals, and who has been the dearest kind of friend to APNM for longer than we can remember.



*Photo courtesy of Skip and Mary Trimble*

# TAKE ACTION



## Influence Lawmakers and Make Positive Change for Animals

From passing laws to reduce the use of animals in laboratories at the federal level, to including companion animals in domestic abuse protection orders right here in New

Mexico, establishing laws that better protect animals is key to reducing their suffering. And better laws begin with you. Here's how you can help.



**Educate yourself on recent issues and legislative action.** Download the 2022 APV Scorecard and find out your legislators' voting records on animal issues at: [apvnm.org/download-scorecards](https://apvnm.org/download-scorecards)

### Vote! – Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day

Help animals by getting engaged in your democracy! Talk to candidates about the issues you care about. Then visit [NMVOTE.org](https://NMVOTE.org) for info on how, where, and when to cast your ballot.



### Join the G.O.A.T.s – (Grassroots Organizing & Action Team)

The 2023 New Mexico State Legislature is scheduled to convene January 17 -March 18, 2023. During the legislative session, APV will champion important legislation impacting animals, and we need your passionate, informed voice. Through APV's social media, e-alerts, and blog posts, we will update you on crucial animal-related legislation throughout the session and notify you of opportunities to volunteer and/or speak up about these issues that matter most.



### Urge Your U.S. Representatives to Pass the FDA Modernization Act 2.0

The federal FDA Modernization Act 2.0 would eliminate the 80-year-old Food and Drug Administration rule requiring drug developers to conduct animal testing, and would allow researchers to use the most modern, reliable testing methods available, saving millions of animals' lives. Contact your Representatives today and ask them to support this important bill. Visit: [apnm.salsalabs.org/fdamodernizationact/index.html](https://apnm.salsalabs.org/fdamodernizationact/index.html)

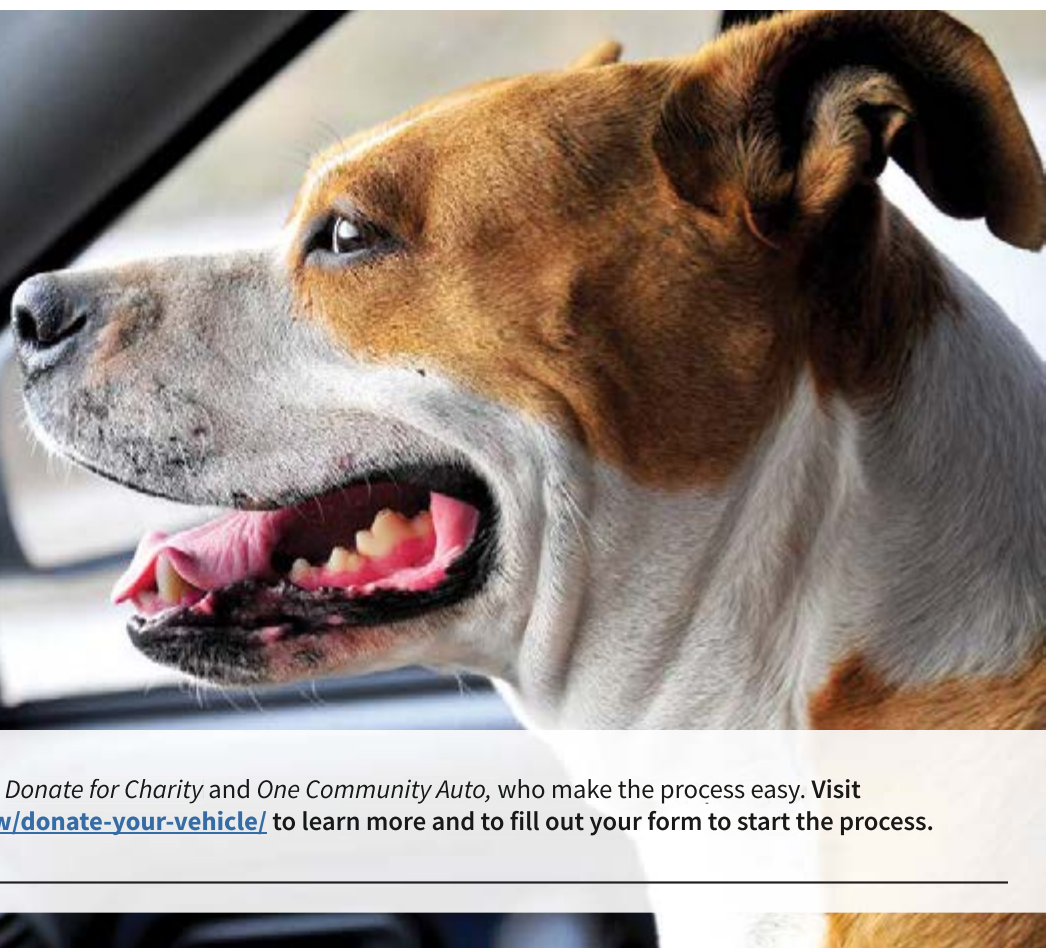
**THINKING  
OF BUYING  
A NEW CAR?**



**CONSIDER  
DONATING  
YOUR  
CURRENT  
VEHICLE**



APNM partners with *Donate for Charity* and *One Community Auto*, who make the process easy. Visit [apnm.org/give-now/donate-your-vehicle/](https://apnm.org/give-now/donate-your-vehicle/) to learn more and to fill out your form to start the process.





## Looking for Local Plant-Based Eats?

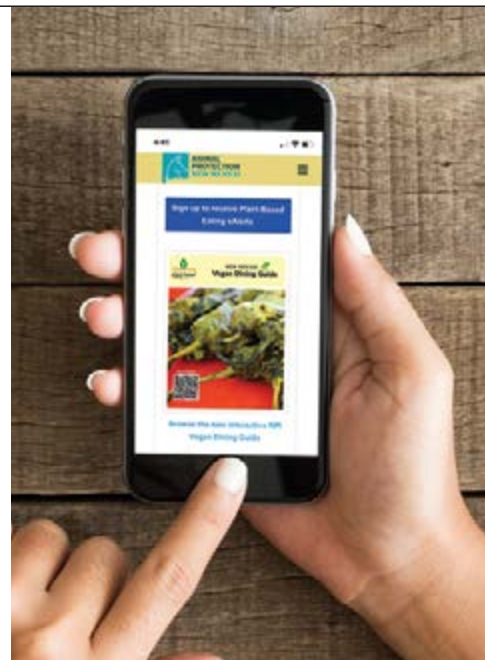
APNM's Vegan Dining Guide is now available in a *new interactive format online*: [apnm.org/eatvegannm](https://apnm.org/eatvegannm)

You can use the new site to locate plant-based options throughout New Mexico using the city dropdown menu, or you can use the search bar to find something more specific. Try entering something like “pizza” or “sushi” in the search bar to find plant-based options of exactly what you’re craving.

We hope this guide will help make it easier and more enjoyable for you to explore the wide range of local and international plant-based cuisines right here in New Mexico that are delicious while being more friendly to our planet and the animals with whom we share it.

You can still download a PDF version of the guide (or a portion of the guide based on your search) by clicking the “Download Resources” button. The new site is also mobile-friendly, so you can take the guide with you on-the-go.

Check out the new and improved Vegan Dining Guide website and start exploring the many delectable plant-based eats our state has to offer.



APNM OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

## Outreach Booths at Local Events

In 2022, APNM staff members and volunteers began returning to in-person outreach events in New Mexico, while continuing to follow COVID-19 safety precautions.

**Bark in the Park**, a celebration of dogs and the humans who love them, was held at the Albuquerque Isotopes baseball stadium. APNM's Development and Humane Education teams, along with volunteers, participated in the April 28th event. Very special (and popular!) guests Whitaker and Zack, Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers therapy dogs, were part of our “pack.” Highlights included seeing animal-loving kids engage with the dogs and the pre-game Pup Parade. Plus, the stadium serves delicious vegan hot dogs that kept everyone at the booth smiling.

On May Day (May 1st), APNM's Promoting Plant-Based Eating program was part of the **Spring Sustainability Fair** organized by the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque in their beautiful courtyard garden. First Unitarian Animal Advocates and EarthWeb service organizations are energized to learn more about plant-based eating choices and even set up a solar stove to bake delicious vegan cookies for everyone. Attendees from the congregation and the neighborhood came by to get information about APNM's breadth of work for New Mexico's animals.

June 5th was **National Animal Rights Day** (an annual celebration giving a voice to all animals and raising awareness for their rights), and APNM participated in an event at Tiguex Park in Albuquerque. The event started at 12:30 pm with a memorial ceremony and speakers, including Albuquerque City Councilperson, Tammy Fiebelkorn. The **Plant-Powered Pop Up Market** opened after the speakers, with vegan options from a

variety of food trucks and booths full of irresistible plant-based snacks.

The **Red & Green VegFest Albuquerque** was back in-person on August 20th, promoting and celebrating the delights of the plant-based lifestyle. Jessica Johnson, Animal Protection Voters' Chief Government Affairs Officer, spoke at the event about APV's work to pass strong state laws to protect animals, recent legislative victories and upcoming efforts, how the legislative process works, and how everyday animal advocates can get involved to make a difference.

In-person outreach events are a joyful way to celebrate and connect with members of the animal advocacy community. Be sure to come by our booths and say hello!





**Santa Rosa:** Working with Santa Rosa city administrators and dedicated volunteers, APNM helped secure funding from the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine to organize the first community spay/neuter clinic since 2019. In partnership with PAWS mobile clinic, over 60 cats and dogs were sterilized, vaccinated, and microchipped free of cost. APNM's Plant-Based Eating program provided free vegan meals for clinic staff and volunteers.



**Valencia County:** On March 2, 2022, as part of a grassroots coalition, Animal Protection Voters helped persuade the Valencia County Board of Commissioners to pass a revised animal ordinance that will greatly improve the daily lives of the community's animals. Changes include a chaining/tethering ban, stronger outdoor shelter requirements, and microchips to assist with reuniting people with their animals.

**The Rio Grande Corridor:** Thanks to funding from the Bonner family of Albuquerque, APNM launched the Companion Animal Food Effort (CAFÉ) pilot project to support several organizations along the Rio Grande corridor in providing food for companion animals in their communities. Grants were made to the Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Valencia County, the Veterans Integration Centers of Albuquerque, and ACTION Programs for Animals of Las Cruces.



A pup and her guardian check in at the Santa Rosa spay/neuter clinic. Photo: Marisa Sleeter/APNM



**Witness animal cruelty or neglect?**

CALL THE **APNM Animal Cruelty Helpline**

**1-877-5-HUMANE**  
(1-877-548-6263)

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

## RETIREMENT PLAN: CHOOSE ANIMALS OVER TAXES

If you are looking for a tax-effective way to make a gift to APNM, your individual retirement account (IRA) may be a great choice.

If you are 70-1/2 years of age or older, you may make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to APNM (or to the APNM Foundation, which exists solely to support APNM and its mission).

A QCD should not be included in the calculation of your gross income (although no income deduction is allowed) and can count towards the fulfillment of your required minimum distribution. This type of giving during your lifetime can be an excellent way to fulfil your personal financial objectives while getting to participate in APNM's impact today.

If you have any questions, need assistance, or would like to notify us that you are including APNM in your planned giving, please contact Sara Norton-Sanner, APNM's Major Gifts Officer, at [snortonsanner@apnm.org](mailto:snortonsanner@apnm.org) or 505-264-9643.



### BUSINESS SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



*Local capital investing in local startups*

GOS Capital Venture Capital Fund was started in 2021 to provide much needed venture capital to New Mexicans looking at starting technology companies that employ New Mexicans and grow our state's economy from within. GOS Capital has already invested in six technology startups, ranging from clean tech, to nanotech, to health and wellness technology.

Founder and Managing Partner, Scott Goodman, has been a long-time supporter of APV and APNM. Scott chose to support our organizations because of his love of animals and policy. He believes that we need to be the voice for the animals that cannot talk.

We are grateful for Scott and his team at GOS Capital for their continued support of our mission and values. We look forward to our continued partnership!



PO Box 11395  
Albuquerque NM 87192

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**BIG THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!**



VIOLET CROWN

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**APNM FACES**



*Photo courtesy of Dorothee*

**Dorothee Hutchinson** Dorothee (*DOR-tay*) Hutchinson, APNM's Chief Development Officer, joined APNM in January 2019, bringing with her a love for animals and the environment. She grew up in Germany, and German is her native language. She came to the United States to attend graduate school at the University of New Mexico on a Fulbright scholarship. Dorothee has a BA in communications and design, with an emphasis on photography from the Fachhochschule in Darmstadt (Germany), and a Masters and MFA in art and art history. Dorothee has done documentary photography and has worked in nonprofits for almost 25 years.

"Photography teaches you to look closely at things, and nonprofits help you change for the better the things you see," said Dorothee.

Dorothee grew up with nature around her, and her father, whose own PhD was related to trees, taught her to identify trees by leaves, needles, etc. In her family, kindness to animals was always a given. Growing up, her family always lived with lots of animals, including dogs, snakes, and turtles.

Working for APNM is a "dream come true" for Dorothee, and APNM's work to help animals and the people who care about them, along with how our work aligns with her concerns about the climate crisis and the environment, makes APNM a perfect fit for her.

Dorothee enjoys being outdoors and active as much as possible: hiking, climbing, bicycling, running, gardening, and exploring new cultures by traveling. Her husband, three grown children, a Jack Russell terrier named Emma, and two rescued box turtles are her extended family.