building stronger protections for animals in new mexico
speaking up and making changes to protect animals from suffering

there are answers, there are solutions, and we won’t stop until we find them

with community partnerships and support from people like you
Thanks to you, in 2022 Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) continued to influence positive, systemic change for animals, locally and nationally. APNM’s commitment to finding pragmatic and effective solutions to complex and long-standing problems that harm animals was visible all year long. Like many others, we adapted to new and challenging conditions all around us. We maintained crucial work, pivoted when necessary, grew our impact, and leveraged strong relationships with caring and engaged policymakers.

We spent time ensuring implementation and enforcement of policies previously achieved, building on past successes, and planning for expanded local and state infrastructure to protect animals. We launched a webpage for Roxy’s Law (the 2021 law restricting traps, snares, poisons on public lands), pushed for release of $900,000 in state spay/neuter funds stuck in limbo, secured and helped ensure the fair distribution of $350,000 in recurring funds to equine shelters, and worked with others to pass a stronger Valencia County animal control ordinance.

We offered all kinds of essential services across the state, bridging the gap between current dire needs and what should be basic infrastructure/systems that support animals and make our communities livable and safe for all. Those services included wildfire disaster relief, spay/neuter services and support, plant-based meal delivery in underserved communities, equine feed and veterinary care, domestic violence support services, and Animal Control Officer (ACO) training scholarships. Our humane education team brought the powerful and virtual The Animal Connection humane education curriculum to more students and teachers.

APNM embraced our responsibility to ensure that our work is inclusive of diverse voices who care about animals in New Mexico. We committed to internal assessment and growth related to diversity, equity, and inclusion and expanded outreach across the state, including tribal engagement aimed at learning from and partnering with more communities on animal protection projects. APNM is already working with numerous tribal communities to address requests for support like ordinance review, ACO training, equine feed and veterinary care, spay/neuter support, and humane education.

Building on decades of work to protect native wildlife, APNM took on important black bear advocacy previously spearheaded by Sandia Mountain BearWatch. And APNM’s many years devoted to protecting animals in science triggered three wins in 2022: 1) a federal judge ruled that the National Institutes of Health is violating the federal CHIMP Act by not moving all Alamogordo Primate Facility chimpanzees to sanctuary; 2) APNM helped pass an Albuquerque city ordinance allowing discarded spay/neuter tissue from city animal shelters to be used in research protocols in the city; and 3) APNM worked closely with US Senator Ben Ray Luján to push for passage of the FDA Modernization Act, the first federal law passed since 1966 to protect laboratory animals.

Through all this impact, APNM and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, also focused on ensuring our work’s long-term sustainability. We know that New Mexico’s animals need our help, and they need it for the duration. Thank you for being on this honorable trajectory with us!

Elisabeth Jennings, Executive Director
Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters

Anne Coller, Board President
Animal Protection New Mexico

Yolanda Eisenstein, Board President
Animal Protection Voters
big wins & efforts

- Federal judge ruled that the NIH violated the CHIMP Act by not releasing all Alamogordo chimps to sanctuary.
- Valencia County animal ordinance passed (coalition effort).
- FDA Modernization Act 2.0 passed (coalition effort).
- Provided life-saving services through: Equine protection program (for domestic and free-roaming equines), the CARE Helpline (for victims of domestic violence), the Animal Cruelty Helpline, Humane Communities, Plant-Based Eating program, wildfire disaster response aid, and CAFÉ project (food assistance for companion animals).
- Provided training for Animal Control Officers throughout NM.
- Worked to help convince the state to release spay/neuter funds collected through the passage of Senate Bill 57.
- Expanded engagements and partnerships with Native Nations and tribal communities throughout the state, assessing needs and projects.
- Launched the virtual version of *The Animal Connection* curriculum.
- Secured recurring funding in the state legislative session for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund.

sustainability & capacity building

- Received an unmodified APNM/APNMF audit.
- Maintained a strong financial position with 81% major donor retention.
- Presented online Town Halls.
- Increased outreach in southern New Mexico.
- Trained all staff in Limited English Proficiency to increase public’s access to our services.
- Embraced a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
we will not stop fighting to ensure that all the chimpanzee survivors at the Alamogordo primate facility reach the sanctuary they absolutely deserve
building foundations to keep animals safe

Our life-saving work helping those affected by domestic violence, financial hardship, and wildfire disasters creates the foundations on which animals are safer and communities are more humane.

Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE)

CARE program services provided:

- Uninterrupted [CARE Helpline](#) coverage and referrals to outside organizations.
- Statewide outreach training on The Link and CARE program access for New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women advocates.
- Expanded services through additional partnerships with veterinary, boarding, human and animal shelters, and national organizations to address barriers to co-sheltering initiatives (co-sheltering allows humans and their companion animals to stay together in a shelter).
- Continual staff training and conference participation on domestic violence, crisis support, and co-sheltering topics.
- Support to 113 callers to the CARE Helpline, assisting 164 animals.
- Coordination of direct services for the animals of 34 mini-grant recipients, including air transport, regular and emergency veterinary care, spay/neuter procedures, and emergency boarding.

CARE also secured new VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) federal funding, CYFD (Children, Youth, & Families Department) state funding, and other foundation funding.
Humane Communities
In McKinley County, through the Valerie C. King Fund, APNMF (APNM Foundation) partnered with:
• Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare to transfer 416 stray and surrendered animals out of state for a higher chance of being adopted.
• McKinley County Humane Society, partially supporting their out of state transfer program, which totaled 925 animals.

In Mora County, we continued our partnership with the Las Vegas–San Miguel Veterinary Hospital to provide 193 spay/neuter surgeries and 190 vaccines for clients in 10 Mora County municipalities.

In Santa Rosa, we:
• Supported grant writing, a mobile clinic partnership, microchips, and plant-based meals for staff and community at 3 spay/neuter clinics providing free services to over 500 animals in Guadalupe County.
• Continued our partnership with the Animal Control Director and city administration, and provided support with our humane education program, Animal Control Officer training scholarships, Plant-Based Eating Program, and sustainable spay/neuter access (including control of feral cat colony populations).

CAFÉ (Companion Animal Food Effort)
The Bonner family-funded pilot project provided companion animal food assistance mini-grants to:
• Veterans Integration Center, Albuquerque: 809 lbs. of food for animals in 116 families.
• HART, Valencia County: 10,350 lbs. of food for 40 dogs, 20 cats, and 15 community cat colonies.
• ACTion Programs for Animals, Las Cruces: 14,665 lbs. of food for animals in 247 families.
• APNM: 3,943 lbs. of food for 80 dogs, 51 cats, and 6 equines affected by Las Vegas/Mora wildfires.

“It really helped due to a fixed income. I don’t have to worry about not having enough food for my dogs.”
—Lester B. (recipient of companion animal food from Veterans Integration Center)
**Disaster Response**

2022 brought two of the largest wildfires in New Mexico history. To provide relief to those affected by the disaster, APNM:

- Created a new [Disaster Resources](#) webpage.
- Strengthened relationships with New Mexico Livestock Board and other responding organizations.
- Arranged delivery of animal food to evacuation sites and animals left behind.

Provided direct services to 276 animals:
- Approximately 100 disbursements of equine food and other equine supplies.
- Approximately 158 disbursements of cat/dog food.
- Vet care assistance for 1 dog.
- Rehab expense assistance for 3 bear cubs and 1 elk calf; relocation expense assistance for 3 hawks, 7 owls, 1 falcon, and 2 eagles.

One assistance recipient lost his home and several of his companion animals perished in the Calf Canyon-Hermits Peak fire. When he was allowed to return to his property, he spent several days walking around and calling for his horses, who had managed to get free of their corral before the fire reached his land. Thankfully, they eventually found each other. He told us: “I’ve been working with FEMA, but it takes a long time. You guys are the only ones that have helped me so far.”
challenging animal cruelty

Listening. It’s what makes our Challenging Animal Cruelty program so powerful. Through our Animal Cruelty Helpline, we help solve not only the cruelty and abuse problems at hand, but also delve deeper to uncover the causes. Then, our organization sets to work to make changes within our New Mexico communities that create long-term solutions.

In 2022, we:
• Took 539 calls to our Animal Cruelty Helpline. The most common call topic? Dog abuse or neglect (43%).
• Provided 59 ACO training scholarships to 31 Animal Control Officers in 15 locales around the state.
• Worked with Valencia County Commission on improving the Valencia County animal ordinance.
• Visited Animal Control Officers in Sandoval County, Santa Fe, and Santa Fe County during ACO Appreciation Week.
• Met with Las Vegas, NM Mayor, City Manager, and Animal Shelter Director, for animal sheltering consultation.
• Consulted with law enforcement and the FBI on a New Mexico dog fighting case.
• Consulted with members of NM Bar Animal Law Section on New Mexico’s need for improved animal cruelty investigation, enforcement, and legislation.

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

Alan Edmonds (2nd from right), APNM’s Challenging Animal Cruelty Program Director, joins Valencia County Animal Shelter staff and NMDOG advocates to celebrate the passage of the new Valencia County Animal ordinance. Photo: Courtesy of NMDOG
promoting plant-based eating

Consumption of animal products as food impacts more than just farmed animals. In areas of social justice, the environment, and human health, animal agriculture contributes to suffering, illness, and climate change.

In 2022, we spread the word (and the plant-based food!) to communities throughout New Mexico:

- We produced 16 new episodes of the Teach Me How To Vegan podcast, bringing the total number of episodes to 57. To date, the podcast has had 15,000+ unique downloads.
- In order to provide a quick and easy-to-use resource for finding plant-based options when dining out in New Mexico, we created the New Mexico Vegan Dining Guide.
- We conducted outreach through the blog on our website, social media posts, email newsletters, tabling at outreach events, contributing articles to NM Vegan magazine, and co-sponsoring the ABQ Vegan Chef Challenge.
- Partnering with Eat the Change, MoGro, and Ramah Navajo Office of Natural Resources, we distributed 400 bags (containing 1600 meals) of locally sourced, culturally appropriate plant-based food to elderly, critically ill, and other vulnerable populations.
- We coordinated plant-based meals for staff, volunteers, and the community supporting 5 spay/neuter clinics in Santa Rosa, Ramah/Pinehill, and Las Vegas.
- For New Mexico animal agriculture and economic impact research, we secured $70,000 in grant funding, plus $110,000 for program funding.
promoting coexistence with wildlife

Wildlife have an inherent right to thrive in New Mexico, regardless of their benefit to humans, and are critical to a balanced ecosystem. From native keystone species to nonnative exotic wildlife brought to New Mexico through traveling circuses—and all species in between—we have a long, steadfast history of fighting to protect wildlife and foster coexistence with them.

- On April 1, 2022, Roxy’s Law (a law we fought hard to ensure passed the NM state legislature in 2021, which bans traps, snares, and poisons on public lands) went into effect. We created an educational website and brochure to inform the public about the law.
- As Sandia Mountain BearWatch wound down operations, they collaborated with us so that we could continue the work they started, protecting Black bears throughout New Mexico.
- The Midnight Fire wildfire impacted the Santa Fe Raptor Center. We provided aid to help with relocating 13 raptors to safety.
- The Calf Canyon-Hermits Peak Fire impacted wildlife. We provided financial assistance to Cottonwood Rehab for help rehabilitating three bear cubs and an elk calf.
- In coalition with wildlife advocacy groups and state legislators, we continued to communicate with New Mexico Department of Game & Fish leadership to inform future wildlife policy and shape the greater vision for overhauling the entire Game & Fish agency’s form and function (to promote modern, holistic conservation of all wildlife).
protecting horses, donkeys, and mules

Equines throughout New Mexico are at risk due to climate change, economic hardship, lack of sufficient shelter capacity, and transportation out of the country for slaughter. We are fighting for their safety from many angles to ensure a solid safety net for all equines.

Through APNM’s Ramah Navajo Horse Project, we:
- Funded veterinary care for 65 horses, including the castration of 10 stallions and supplies for the Department of Natural Resources employees to treat 14 mares with PZP fertility control vaccine.
- Facilitated horse population survey training to help inform a herd management plan for the Ramah Navajo Chapter’s wild horses.
- Provided feed assistance for 223 equines from Ramah households (since 2020).

Working with the San Felipe Pueblo, we:
- Assisted with repair of the community equine water spigot, increasing water access for the Pueblo’s horses and wildlife.
- Received a letter from the Pueblo’s Governor Carl Valencia and Lieutenant Governor Joseph Trancosa in support of the SAFE Act without exemptions and relayed it to the federal legislature. This federal Act would prohibit both domestic equine slaughter and export of equines for slaughter.

In support of licensed horse shelters, we:
- Participated in the New Mexico Livestock Board’s Horse Shelter Rescue Fund committee, which distributed $360,000 to 10 licensed horse shelters.
- Provided financial support to shelters during a sudden intake of 32 equines from cruelty cases.

In an emergency response to the disastrous Hermit’s Peak-Calf Canyon fire, we:
- Delivered hundreds of pounds of hay to Las Vegas and Taos evacuation sites.
- Continued to support individuals with equine feed assistance as they returned to their homes.

“APNM’s donations to fix the water spigot over at the yard has benefitted horse owners greatly in a way where they’re no longer having to rely on ditch line or the Rio Grande river to transport water to horses...”

–Nathaniel, San Felipe Pueblo
A young resident with her beloved horse at the Ramah Wellness Clinic, September 2022. Photo: Nina Eydelman/APNM
protecting animals in science

The use of animals in scientific experimentation needs to end. The painful, wasteful use of animals produces results that are, simply put, not predictive of results in humans. We've launched our newest program with a focus on revealing and reducing invasive animal experiments in New Mexico.

Ladybird spent most of her life subjected to invasive experimentation but finally enjoyed her last 11 years at Chimp Haven sanctuary.

In 2022, we made strides with:

**Dissection Choice**
- We hosted a Town Hall to promote the NM Public Education Department’s policy requiring alternatives for K-12 students opposed to animal dissection for ethical, moral, cultural, or religious reasons.
- In partnership with the American Anti-Vivisection Society and their program, Animallearn, we presented a wide variety of alternatives, from synthetic to virtual models.

**Securing Sanctuary for Chimpanzees**
- A federal judge in Maryland agreed with APNM and our co-plaintiffs that the National Institutes of Health violated the CHIMP Act by refusing to transfer the surviving Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) chimps to sanctuary.
- We will use this ruling to do everything we can to ensure all the surviving chimps get to sanctuary.
- As part of that effort, we helped introduce in the 117th Congress the federal Chimp Sanctuary Act, which mandates transfer of the APF chimps to sanctuary.

**Legislative Advocacy**
- We worked closely with Senator Ben Ray Luján’s office to help pass the FDA Modernization Act 2.0. Drafting bill language, galvanizing supporters to contact lawmakers, and pressing the House and Senate leadership to pass the bill all proved effective. The bill allows for nonanimal tests to be used during the FDA approval process for biologic and biosimilar drugs. President Biden signed this monumental bill into law on December 30, 2022.
- We worked closely with Albuquerque City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn and scientists to ensure the passage of Albuquerque R-73, which allows the University of New Mexico to use the City’s discarded spay/neuter tissue, rather than live animals, to test chemicals. We motivated supporters to contact their lawmakers, provided scientific experts to help develop and draft the bill, and testified at the hearing for the bill, which passed unanimously.
teaching compassion for animals

When kids learn to be kind to animals, they learn to be kinder to each other. Our humane education work is growing digitally to reach more and more students throughout New Mexico.

In 2022:

The Virtual and Hybrid versions of The Animal Connection curriculum

- We created videos and their corresponding lessons for “Bloodsports” and for “Careers in Animal Welfare.”
- We prepared our curriculum for teachers’ use on the LearnWorlds website and developed informational materials for teachers and principals.
- In central and northern New Mexico, including on Pueblos, we promoted the virtual program, held in-person meetings to prepare teachers and schedule the program launch, and cultivated future pilot launches through discussions with local community organizations.
- At Grant Middle School (grades 6th through 8th) in Albuquerque and at Maggie Cordova Elementary School (for 4th grade) in Rio Rancho, we launched the hybrid program.
- At Santa Rosa Elementary, the virtual program was launched for the entire student body.

In-Person and Special Presentations of The Animal Connection curriculum

- For the Bernalillo County Youth Center, Vision Quest middle schools, and Lowell Elementary’s students on the autism spectrum, we gave full, in-person presentations of The Animal Connection.
- We delivered 26 special presentations to students and 4 community presentations to adults.

Students love meeting the canine ‘teachers’ in The Animal Connection. Photo: César Díaz/APNM
changing laws to change lives

Passing laws to better protect animals is a powerhouse tool to reduce animal suffering in New Mexico. By building a force that our lawmakers can’t ignore, we are passing laws that save thousands upon thousands of animals’ lives.

In 2022, we:

- Secured a recurring appropriation of $350,000 in state funding for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (Senate Bill 1 in the Legislature’s 2022 special session). This helps state-registered equine rescue organizations care for homeless and abused horses, donkeys, and mules.

- Supported the successful passage of pro-animal legislation, including:
  - Temporary Veterinary Permits (House Bill 56), to extend the length of temporary permits granted to veterinarians providing medical care and expertise to animals in nationally accredited zoos and aquariums.
  - Developed Plan to Save Adoptable Dogs and Cats (House Memorial 24), with goal of reducing shelter euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats.

- Defeated Livestock Protection from Wolves (House Memorial 49), an attempt to undermine the reintroduction of the endangered Mexican grey wolf by exaggerating the actual low incidence of wolves killing cattle.

- Kept fighting for statewide spay/neuter funding (implementation of Senate Bill 57 [2020]):
  - Monitored the pet food industry’s lawsuit to overturn SB 57 and lobbied key individuals for help to get spay/neuter funds into communities as soon as possible.
  - Pressed the NM Dept of Agriculture to release $900,000+ in spay/neuter funds to the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine. The Board is working toward distribution of spay/neuter funds later in 2023.

- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of APNM’s legislative advocacy arm, Animal Protection Voters.
“I feel blessed to be a part of the sacred work of APNM! It gives me hope for our world that you do what you do!! Truly.”
– Susan S., supporter
goals for 2023 and the next decade

Impact

*Through the legislative process, improve infrastructure and enact policies to protect New Mexico’s animals, including to:*

- Establish a state Department of Animal Protection to tackle long-neglected systemic and large-scale animal issues not adequately addressed by the current makeup of state government.
- Secure deeper state investment and funding for humane education, companion animal and equine shelters, and services for human-animal linked needs such as domestic abuse cases and support for low-income families with animals.
- Demand transparency from and hold accountable the many industries that use or exploit animals, including biomedical research laboratories, wild & exotic animal circuses, horse racing, and the meat and dairy agriculture sector.
- Overhaul the state’s broken wildlife management agency structure, systems, and culture to prioritize sound, science-based conservation policies for all wildlife.
- Reform the state’s wild horse statute to better protect and promote humane management of free-roaming horses.
- Update the state’s criminal animal cruelty statutes to strengthen animal protections and offender rehabilitation options.
- Facilitate solutions to widespread problems that affect companion animals, like shortage of veterinary care and spay/neuter access, and obstacles to humane no-chain outdoor confinement.

- Defend against efforts to undo New Mexico’s progress for animals: stop all bills, resolutions, and memorials that would harm animals, and ensure effective implementation and enforcement of recently passed bills.

**Continue support and expansion of our services:**

- Continue massive equine protection services and safety net expansion.
- Further expand partnerships with Native Nations on animal protection initiatives.
- 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 program services & programs: Humane Communities projects, Plant-Based Eating program, CARE services/initiatives, Cruelty helpline, Sheltering and spay/neuter support, and animal control officer scholarships.
- Provide support to communities for wildlife conflict prevention and coexistence.

Sustainability

- Strengthen commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion across the organization.
- Grow the support base for both APNM and APV to sustain programs and services.
- Grow the Equine Protection Fund Endowment to generate more sustained equine direct services.
Financials

**Income Total:** $2,181,438
- $2,333,676 Grants & Contributions
- $494,228 Individual Donors
- ($681,865) Investment Loss
- $35,399 In-Kind

**Expenses Total:** $2,950,629
- $1,847,777 Program
- $772,046 Management & General
- $330,806 Fundraising

Financials reflect the 2022 audited consolidated financial statements for Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection New Mexico Foundation.

A Guidestar/Candid (guidestar.org) Platinum Transparency 2022 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.
- 154,661 individuals, groups, and animals benefited from our tools, materials, and resources.
- Created 11 program and organizational innovations.

Business Sponsors

- Porch
- PaperTiger
- GOS Capital
- Nusenda Credit Union
- Heart & Soul of NM Inc.
- Violet Crown

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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.

we don’t just call for change—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.

and we continue—relentlessly—to push for changes in policies and practices that consider the animals’ point of view.

Ramah Equine Wellness Clinic
Photo: Nina Eydelmn/APNM
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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.

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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.

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Disaster relief that we coordinated helped support the care of Cinder, an elk calf. He was rescued during the Calf Canyon wildfire. He is shown here with a fire fighter from Missoula Fire Department. Photo courtesy of Cottonwood Rehab.