

A PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO 2024



MAKING TRACKS



**ANIMALS SUFFER
NEEDLESSLY IN
LABORATORY
EXPERIMENTS**

**SEE WHAT WE'RE DOING
TO PROTECT THEM**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend of the Animals,

You, APNM's supporters, know that our work to protect animals is grounded in making fundamental shifts in how animals are viewed and treated in New Mexico. Our mission—positive systemic change for animals—relies heavily on making sure that local and statewide systems are built, strengthened, and funded at a level that meets the demands for the humane treatment of animals.

Thanks to our supporters, APNM and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, has already made monumental strides in ensuring the creation, implementation, and funding of crucial state infrastructure that benefits animals and those who care about them. Concrete examples are the Animal Sheltering Act, which sets and enforces standards for the practice of humane euthanasia and sheltering, and the Animal Care & Facility Fund (ACCF), both now enforced and managed by the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine. The ACCF is the fund into which lifesaving spay/neuter dollars get deposited and then distributed to spay/neuter providers. In early January, approximately \$850,000 was awarded to dozens of spay/neuter providers across New Mexico, so that cats and dogs can be spayed or neutered, sparing communities the cost and heartache of addressing unwanted animals in their shelters. A similar amount will be distributed again later in 2024.

Another powerful example of crucial state infrastructure for animals is the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund, managed by the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB). New Mexico's legislators recently approved \$350,000 in recurring funds that get distributed to licensed (by the NMLB) equine rescues to support their costs of caring for New Mexico's homeless equines.

Finally, domestic violence survivors and their animals are also benefiting from the state's long-term investment in protecting both with the establishment of recurring funding for supportive services and new funding for a co-sheltering model that hold great promise for helping people and their animals escape violence. [See article on page 8.] Both efforts are in partnership with the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department.

New Mexico needs many more powerful programs and expanded services like this to address all kinds of gaps that harm animals and undermine our communities' ability to ensure healthy, thriving, and safe places for all in our state.

2024 looks to be an inflection point for APNM's/APV's continued work to broaden and deepen crucial animal-related infrastructure. We look forward to sharing more good news with you and will need your considerable help in bringing this all to fruition.

With deep gratitude,

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

APNM MAKING TRACKS™

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Although APNM's Protecting Animals in Science program officially launched in 2020, we have been working to stop the cruelty of vivisection since 1988. During the past three years, our staff have been focused on the following priorities:



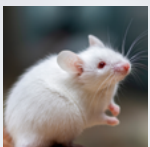
Securing the release to sanctuary of the remaining 26 chimpanzees still languishing at the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF).

Importantly, APNM's Congressional delegation has been actively engaged for years in helping secure the release to sanctuary of other APF chimps, and now Rep. Melanie Stansbury, Rep. Gabe Vasquez, Senator Martin Heinrich, and Senator Ben Ray Luján are particularly determined to work with APNM to see these long-suffering and deserving survivors be able to live out the remainder of their lives in peace and sanctuary.



Highlighting the abundant resources available to New Mexico's students, parents, and teachers in support of a student's right not to dissect animals.

In 2005, the New Mexico Public Education Department approved a policy affirming that right, and ever since then APNM has been helping link students with humane choices for learning about the life sciences. How ironic that for so many students, learning about the life sciences has often involved carving up deceased animals, and in the process exposing themselves to harmful chemicals used to preserve deceased animals for labs.



Working to reduce and eventually eliminate animal suffering in federal, university, and privately owned research labs.

According to a scientific poll commissioned by APNM in 2023, the vast majority of New Mexicans are eager for change on the use of animals in research. These values were recently reflected in the tireless efforts of US Senator Ben Ray Luján who was instrumental in the passage of the federal FDA Modernization Act 2.0, removing the requirement for animal tests to bring drugs to market.

Through this and other initiatives, we are working with national partners to hasten systemic and permanent change in the systems, practices, regulatory framework, and cultures that allow the continued use of animals in research, including in labs here in New Mexico. That work also includes educating and influencing researchers and policy makers to embrace and adopt new technologies and permanently end the use of animals in research.

(Continued next page)

VIVISECTION IS THE ACT OR PRACTICE OF PERFORMING EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS

(Continued from previous page)

While these ambitious program goals represent the heart of a new APNM program, APNM has been fighting for animals used in the sciences for many decades. To fully appreciate the scope of our work in this regard, refer to the timeline on pages 6-7 of this edition of *Making Tracks*, where you can track our progress for animals in science over the years. Many of you who have been supporting us for a long time will remember the milestones listed by year since 1988, even before APNM employed paid staff. Thanks to dedicated support from donors, this crucial work to interrupt some of the most entrenched animal cruelty continues unabated.

APNM's poll results also confirmed what we already knew: **people care deeply about the humane treatment of animals in our state, and specifically, a majority of New Mexicans oppose the use of animals in scientific experimentation.**

APNM is determined to ensure that our citizens' humane values extend to how research is conducted in our state, and we will continue broadening and deepening our commitment to reduce and eliminate painful experiments on animals in New Mexico.

45% of New Mexicans are not aware that animals are used in painful experiments in our state.

60% of New Mexicans are not aware that taxpayer dollars pay for animal experimentation in our state.



Earlier this year, APNM, along with our partners at Animalearn (the educational division of the American Anti-Vivisection Society), hosted a virtual town hall webinar on dissection choices available to students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Why are choices important? For many students, dissecting animals to learn the life sciences is a traumatic experience, leading to rejection of that field of learning altogether, or at least negatively impacting their interest in it. With superior, high-tech, nontoxic, humane teaching tools available to students for learning anatomy and other aspects of biology, there are no good reasons to resort to the decades-old ritual of animal mutilation in the name of learning.

Today's students are embracing "humane science" and are continued proof of existing studies that show non-animal teaching methods to be equally effective, if not better, as an anatomy teaching model, especially for younger students. Students are demanding humane, common-sense options. When one considers the additional environmental impacts associated with the use of animals in dissection—particularly for the millions of frogs caught annually in the wild in Mexico

and the dangerous chemicals needed to preserve their dead bodies—the choice to pursue non-animal methods seems obvious.

NMPED's dissection choice policy applies to students in grades K-12, and college-level courses are beginning to offer options as well: the University of New Mexico is offering its medical students a new anatomy dissection choice with a life-sized Anatomage (anatomage.com) anatomy table.

Prepare to be amazed at the array of high-tech, lifelike tools available today to teach biology and anatomy to students in any age group. APNM's town hall covers these options, and the recording can be found on our YouTube channel: tinyurl.com/yetdsxbp. A truly fascinating array of learning choices currently offered include augmented and virtual reality tools, apps that use your phone camera and other anatomy tech options to "see" your anatomy, synthetic material frog models with removable, reusable organs, and much more.

All these efforts follow the Next Generation Science Standards with no formaldehyde, no harmful and toxic chemicals, and no unnecessary trauma. If you are a parent, student, or teacher, this video will be your guide to humane learning.



CHIMPS UPDATE

This summer, APNM focused its advocacy for chimpanzees on Congressional Town Halls held during the August Congressional recess. At her town hall event, Rep. Melanie Stansbury (CD-1) affirmed her support for former research chimps held at the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) to earn their freedom and live out their remaining years with exceptional care at Chimp Haven, the national chimpanzee sanctuary in Keithville, Louisiana.

At his town hall event, Rep. Gabe Vasquez (CD-2) publicly committed to visiting APF and Chimp Haven in order to assess and compare the chimps' care at the two facilities, showing keen interest in the welfare of the chimps who are being held in a laboratory environment in his district.

To learn more about the compelling reasons chimpanzees should be in sanctuary, visit apnm.org/chimps.



YOUR VOICE IN THIS FIGHT REMAINS ESSENTIAL FOR THE CHIMPANZEES TO REACH CHIMP HAVEN

At Rep. Gabe Vasquez's town hall in the South Valley this past August, Toni Wood, whose own father worked at the notorious Coulston lab as a hysto-technologist and who was traumatized by witnessing surgeries and other harms done to the chimps (in photo, far right), spoke up for the chimps. Ms. Wood is also an APNM volunteer, and she asked Rep. Vasquez about the APF chimps and their future. Her potent action shows that speaking up and speaking out helps get results. We need your voice in this fight for chimp freedom, too!



Photos: Chimp Angelo at Chimp Haven: Jessi Princiotta/APNM; Rep Vasquez Town Hall: Ray Watt

A TIMELINE OF APNM'S WORK TO PROTECT ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

(ANIMALS ARE ROUTINELY BEING USED, ABUSED, TORTURED, AND KILLED IN NEW MEXICO'S RESEARCH LABS)



- 1988** APNM started drawing attention to and protesting at White Sands Research Center (predecessor to Coulston) and organized and participated in public forums at New Mexico State University and University of New Mexico (UNM).
- 1989** APNM introduced state legislation to stop the practice of “pound seizure”: at the time, approximately 600 animals per year were sold from the city of Albuquerque’s animal shelter to be used in research at UNM and the VA Hospital.
- 1990** UNM student activist Lisa Hepner refuses to dissect at UNM, earns “A” in Biology despite “enhanced” exam. She wrote and published book on dissection at UNM: Animals in Education.
- 1991-92** APNM started the Coalition for Research Ethics and Accountability and, for almost 2 years, waged a campaign to expose barbaric experiments on dogs and other animals at what was then called Inhalation Toxicology Research Institute, which is now called Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute.
- 1991-94** APNM wrote to UNM medical students about the cruelty of the school’s invasive “dog lab.” In April 2001, UNM student activists wrote to university leaders in opposition to using live animal labs at the medical school.
- 1995** APNM debated Frederick Coulston at a public forum in Las Cruces.
- 1996** APNM successfully sued the US Department of Energy (DOE) to release records related to the inhumane use of animals for research experiments at ITRI. (DOE was attempting to prevent the public from knowing details of experiments because the research was being conducted by a contractor. This argument ultimately failed, and a Court ordered the records be released).
- 1999** APNM held protest at the (then named) Coulston Foundation in Alamogordo. This marked the beginning of APNM’s relentless campaign against Coulston, in conjunction with In Defense of Animals (IDA).
- 2001** APNM pushed for passage of a NM law removing a blanket exemption for animal research in the state’s new animal cruelty statute passed in 1999.
- 2002** After years of working together on the campaign to close down Coulston Foundation, APNM and IDA witness the final shuttering of the notorious lab, freeing 327 chimpanzees and monkeys from years of misery there.
- 2004** APNM pushed for passage of a legislative memorial to study dissection alternatives. Santa Fe High School students petitioned for dissection choice, while APNM assisted/supported their efforts. Students were given an APNM Milagro Award for their efforts.
- 2004** 12th Judicial District Attorney Scot Key filed unprecedented cruelty charges against APF.

Photos: This page: Adobe Stock; Facing page: monkey, rabbit, dog: Shutterstock; young chimp: Adobe Stock



- **2005** APNM created a short-term dissection alternatives lending library.
- **2006** New Mexico Public Education Department passes dissection policy mandating dissection choice for students.
- **2007** APNM exposes horrific cruelty in science fair experiments on mice (given electric shocks and forced to swim until nearly drowning) conducted in conjunction with UNM faculty. News outlets reported that university attorneys even tried to hide troubling details about the experiments by improperly redacting public records secured by the media. The university later acknowledged the overreach and that the experiments violated federal guidelines and had not been properly approved by UNM's Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee.
- **2011** After multi-year campaign, an Institute of Medicine report concludes essentially all US chimp research unnecessary; NM Senators call for permanent retirement of APF chimps.
- **2013** NIH announces an end to the use of chimps in research in the US as a result of APNM's Chimps to Sanctuary campaign. Federal CHIMP Act amendments passed by Congress.
- **2014** APNM, along with the New Mexico Community Foundation and the Humane Society of the United States, creates the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund.
- **2017** The Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund grants \$198,000 to support more chimps reaching sanctuary. 42 Alamogordo chimps reached sanctuary at Chimp Haven; 79 chimps still remain at Alamogordo as of December 31, 2017.
- **2018** The Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund grants \$204,000 to support more chimps reaching sanctuary. 23 Alamogordo chimps reached sanctuary at Chimp Haven.
- **2019** APNM hosts a Chimp Freedom Party with US Senators Tom Udall (D-NM), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM). Later, NIH reneges on its commitment to sanctuary retirement for all chimps owned or supported by the federal government.
- **2020** The Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund grants \$150,000 to support APF chimps at Chimp Haven. APNM engages new partners in the US Senate and House of Representatives.
- **2021** APNM launches new Animals in Science program to uncover, understand, and reduce invasive animal experiments conducted in New Mexico.
- **2022** APNM secures three wins: 1) a federal judge rules that NIH is violating the CHIMP Act by not moving all APF chimpanzees to sanctuary; 2) APNM helps 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 works closely with US Senator Ben Ray Lujan to push for passage of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, the first federal law passed since 1966 to protect laboratory animals. ■



Co-Sheltering is the practice of providing safe shelter for humans *and* their companion animals, allowing them to stay together as they escape domestic violence.

Progress for Co-Sheltering

When people are threatened by domestic violence, their companion animals are also in danger.

Unfortunately, many domestic violence shelters don't have the support and resources needed to accept companion animals. APNM's co-sheltering initiative, inspired by national trends, aims to help more of New Mexico's domestic violence shelters house people who are in crisis together with their companion animals.

APNM's co-sheltering initiative is a project stemming from over 20 years of work with shelters, advocates, state and federal entities, and domestic violence survivors. Through services offered for over more than two decades, APNM's CARE Program — the Companion Animal Rescue Effort — has already helped thousands of survivors find temporary safe-haven for their companion animals while escaping abusive situations.

Leaving a domestic violence situation is difficult—emotionally,

APNM was awarded a \$150,000 contract with New Mexico's Children, Youth and Families Department to work on a co-sheltering initiative, thanks to an appropriation of funds from Senator Nancy Rodriguez (D-Santa Fe) during the 2023 legislative session.

financially, and logistically. These difficulties are compounded when survivors are faced with the inability to find shelter for their animals.

Companion animals are often used as a source of control and manipulation in domestic violence situations. Survivors may delay escaping a violent household out of fear for a companion animal's well-being. Plus the possibility of having to surrender or separate from a beloved and often emotionally supportive part of the family can create additional trauma, leading to behavioral health impacts such as increased depression, anxiety, a possible return to substance abuse, and more.

One survivor, speaking with CARE program staff, said that if she had not been able to secure housing for her cat while she and her child were staying at a domestic violence shelter, she "would have had to make a really painful decision."

Keeping families together with their animals has well-documented positive effects like lower blood pressure and heart rate, increased exercise and social interactions, and decreased levels of depression and anxiety. Additionally,

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Photo: Shutterstock

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children's interaction with companion animals has been proven to encourage school attendance, intra-emotional balance, social integration, and participation.

Supporting survivors' ability to remove their companion animal from the reach of their abusers provides safety for the animals. It also keeps animals out of already overburdened animal shelters where survivors may have to surrender their animals in a last-ditch effort to protect them.

For survivors in rural areas, options may be scarce. The CARE program has worked with survivors in areas where there is no access to veterinary facilities, private boarding facilities, or animal shelters. The cost of boarding an animal long enough for a survivor to escape a situation and find new housing is often cost prohibitive.

Facing uncertain funding futures and rising need, CARE staff began in-depth research and analysis to find a better

In the last three years, CARE has seen the highest numbers of people and animals needing CARE services in the program's history. Costs of boarding, veterinary care, and other direct services have also continued to rise.

solution for New Mexicans and animals threatened by domestic violence.

Through discussions with community partners like New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), domestic violence shelter staff, advocates, survivors, and other experts across the country, one trend emerged as the way forward: co-sheltering. Co-Sheltering—housing people in crisis together with their companion animals—achieves the same goal of keeping families together with a more survivor-centric, trauma-informed, and cost-effective approach.

In 2020, in response to these findings and the need to adopt more flexible responses during the COVID-19 pandemic, APNM launched its state-wide CARE Co-Sheltering initiative.

Over the last three years, alongside operating the CARE helpline, staff have worked to compile repositories of co-sheltering information, funding opportunities, and information on the state of co-sheltering in New Mexico. We conducted research and deepened relationships with current New Mexico co-shelters, shelters interested in exploring co-sheltering, and state and national organizations working toward the same goal: increasing the number of New Mexico domestic violence co-shelters.

In January of 2023, champion for both humans and animals, state Senator Nancy Rodriguez saw the rising need for domestic violence services and introduced Senate Bill 291 to appropriate \$350,000 to the Children, Youth & Families Department for FY 2024 to fund programs working to provide and support temporary safe havens for animals of domestic

violence victims while they transition to safety.

Ultimately, SB291 did not pass, but Senator Rodruiguez was able to include a special appropriation of \$150,000 in Senate Bill 192 that tasked CYFD with contracting “for domestic violence victims and associated companion animal rescue services.”

Because of the CARE program's history of state partnerships, funding, successful program outcomes, and because CARE is the only program of its kind in the state, CARE was invited to submit a Scope of Work application and was awarded \$150,000 to support domestic violence services and pursue co-sheltering in New Mexico on a more meaningful scale.

This funding comes at a crucial time to leverage the support of partner organizations like Red Rover (redrover.org), who have launched a national initiative “25 by 2025” to help 25% of domestic violence shelters accommodate companion animals by 2025.

Currently, only a tiny percentage of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. provide co-living options for survivors and their companion animals. Although New Mexico's domestic violence shelters are ahead of the national average, with around 19% providing official co-sheltering activities, increasing this number will only help more people and animals escape the cycle of violence, remove barriers to safe housing, and reinforce the human-animal relationship.

APNM's co-sheltering initiative aims to assist New Mexico domestic violence shelters in adopting a co-sheltering model by providing information, advocacy, and logistical support. Though it takes more up-front resources to become a co-shelter, it's more sustainable in the long-term, reducing boarding costs, foster and even medical costs. Five domestic violence shelters in New Mexico are already leading the way, offering co-sheltering for survivors and their animals.

Leah Slootweg, former advocate at The Nest domestic violence co-shelter located in Ruidoso, noted the importance of co-sheltering, “In my experience, I can think of a few shelter residents in particular whose lives were significantly improved because they were able to have their animals with them when they left a dangerous living environment. We had numerous people who had called the crisis line willing to travel across the state or even from a different state in order to keep their animals safe because there are so few shelters that allow residents to keep animals in the shelter with them.”

On March 5th and 6th, Animal Protection New Mexico and Red Rover will host the first ever statewide conference on co-sheltering to help connect domestic violence shelters, human and animal advocates, NGOs, and government agencies with other local and national co-sheltering resources (see the event flyer on page 20 for details).

APNM is grateful to its partners and supporters who enable APNM to pursue this life-changing work for those caught in the cycle of violence with their animals. ■

Opening Minds and Hearts

From a single community center presentation in 2010 to statewide reach today, *The Animal Connection* humane education curriculum shows that lasting, systemic change is bolstered when we transform how we think about, live with, care for, and protect the animals with whom we share our world.

One Lesson at a Time

On one particular day, APNM's humane education team is visiting Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque's South Valley. Assisted by registered therapy dogs, the educators teach a class of Special Education students how to approach a dog safely. Many of these 9th – 12th graders have limited verbal communication.

After the lesson, students go from therapy dog to therapy dog, quietly and calmly approaching them. "Soft," says one student. "Good dog," says another. One student tells the animal her name.

"I knew this would happen," the classroom teacher whispers to the humane educator. "I knew they would want to talk to the dogs."

APNM's Sherry Mangold has witnessed thousands of scenes like this since she designed APNM's humane education curriculum in 2010. *The Animal Connection* grew from Sherry's six years of operating APNM's Animal Cruelty Helpline (877-5-HUMANE). Taking calls from concerned citizens from all over the state — reporting chained dogs, wildlife caught in traps, animals left outside in the heat and cold, horses facing starvation, and more — Sherry saw first-hand the link between animal neglect and poor outcomes for the human community. She realized that education was a key part of improving both animal welfare and community well-being in New Mexico.

By 2020, *The Animal Connection* had expanded to reach six school districts, seven pueblos, two correctional facilities, and countless community venues in central and northern New Mexico.

For seven years and counting, thanks to the generosity of Placitas Giving Circle and Jardineros de Placitas, the program has been offered at Algodones Elementary School, where about 90% of the students are from San Felipe Pueblo. The same Sandoval County donors now support the program's launch at Placitas Elementary School this year.

Albuquerque Public Schools support *The Animal Connection* at Vision Quest Alternative Middle School for students expelled from their home schools and at Bernalillo County Youth Services (BCYS) Center for minors in the juvenile justice system. During one lesson, a BCYS student sat on the floor hugging therapy dog Knuckles, a greyhound rescued from the racetrack. Tears streamed down the teen's face. "I don't know why I'm crying," she said. "This is wonderful."

Many of the therapy dogs who assist in the lessons are rescues who come from backgrounds of neglect or cruelty. Hearing what the dogs have been through and being able to hold and pet them elicits empathy. Soon, the students are sharing what brought them to their current situation.

Another student, a Vision Quest 7th grader, shared the weekly lessons with his dad. One day he met Sherry at the classroom door and excitedly told her about his new chihuahua. "Me and my dad named him" — you guessed it — "Knuckles!"

Expanding to Digital Delivery

The Animal Connection was born right in New Mexico classrooms. Its hallmark was the instant bond between students and visiting therapy dogs. When the pandemic shut down schools, APNM was forced to make a choice. Should *The Animal Connection* pivot to virtual instruction? Could it survive without therapy dogs?

Fast forward four years: *The Animal Connection* now offers the best of both worlds — a virtual curriculum and a hybrid program with selected in-person presentations. With the help of New Mexico filmmaker Brent Peterson of AntiGravity Films and generous funding from the Bonner family of Albuquerque, APNM developed a self-paced curriculum with videos and activities that make humane education free and accessible to any New Mexico teacher or homeschooler with an Internet connection. The videos "star" many of the same therapy dogs who delighted classrooms for years.

Via an online educational platform called LearnWorlds, *The Animal Connection* is available in two versions (see next page): a 10-lesson course for grades 3-8 and a 3-lesson course for K-grade 2 called *The Animal Connection, Jr.* Each unit includes an instructional video, lesson plans, and suggested activities with demonstrations, simulation games, and vocabulary lists. The courses are designed to satisfy the New Mexico Public Education Department's Core Standards and can be adapted to highlight animal welfare issues relevant to a teacher's community.

To sample or sign up for the virtual curricula on LearnWorlds, contact Education and Outreach Director César Díaz at cesar@apnm.org.

(Continued)



The Lessons

The Animal Connection

- Introduction
- Care and Responsibility
- Life and Death in the Shelter
- The Need for Spaying and Neutering
- The Consequences of Dog Chaining
- Loose Dog and Bite Safety
- Blood Sports
- The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence
- Careers in Animal Welfare
- Sherpa's Farm: A Northern New Mexico Sanctuary

The Animal Connection Jr.

- Care and Responsibility
- Loose Dog and Bite Safety
- Reading to Dogs

“The topics addressed in *The Animal Connection* are very important in helping educate our future decision-makers. Having worked in education for over 30 years, I know APNM is the best resource for delivering these topics. Evidence of this is the fact that my students continued to return to the topics in their conversations and journals for the remainder of the year.”

—JoAna Piñeda, Teacher,
Maggie Cordova Elementary

The hybrid *Animal Connection* combines the virtual curriculum with one, two, or three in-person lessons taught by Sherry and therapy dog teams from the Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers. Popular choices for live lessons are “Care and Responsibility” and “Loose Dog and Bite Safety,” but any of the lessons are available as in-person presentations. Due to the expense and difficulty of traveling with dogs, the hybrid program is only available within 100 miles of Albuquerque.

For more information about the hybrid program or one-time presentations, contact Senior Humane Educator Sherry Mangold at sherry@apnm.org.

One of APNM’s “Next Decade” goals is establishing widespread humane education across the state. “The education team worked hard introducing teachers to the virtual curriculum while Sherry and the therapy dogs brought the concepts to life in the classroom for students,” says César. “Positive word-of-mouth from educators has opened the possibility for the program’s continued growth.” Introductory discussions are underway with several pueblos and public school districts.

As of the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, *The Animal Connection* — virtual, hybrid, and full in-person program — was scheduled for delivery in elementary, middle, and even high schools in six cities. These include a Social Emotional Learning class in Albuquerque, a 7th-grade Life Sciences class in Grants, three elementary schools in Las Vegas, and the entire 4th grade of a Rio Rancho elementary school, Maggie Cordova.

Community Service Projects Put Compassion in Action

APNM’s education team also introduced community service projects to the curriculum during the 2022-2023 school year. After students understand what an animal experiences when taken to the shelter and that overcrowding leads to the unfortunate reality of euthanasia, students are eager to help. However, being under age 18 limits what they can do. Working in partnership with shelters, younger students make toys for the animals and older students have creatively supported adoption efforts.

Both semesters, Sherry worked with three classes at Polk Middle School and the Bernalillo County Animal Care and Resource Center on student projects that drew attention to long-term dogs in that shelter. Sherry chose Polk because the school, although in Albuquerque, serves a rural, financially stressed area. Its unwanted and abandoned animals go to the county shelter, which is fairly close to the school.

In the first semester, a language arts class partnered with an art class to make an appeal “from” the dogs to would-be adopters visiting the shelter. With photographs and kennel keeper notes from the shelter staff, the art students drew

portraits of the dogs, and the language arts students wrote a first-person appeal to be adopted from the dogs. Both were hung on the dogs’ kennel runs.

Second-semester students “helped” another group of dogs create their own “resumés,” explaining why they were the perfect fit for a loving home (see photo at left). Students



willingly accomplished class lessons, developed concern and compassion for the shelter dogs, and experienced the value of giving back to their community. KOB-TV in Albuquerque covered the story on the evening news: [kob.com/new-mexico/first-grade-students-gift-handmade-toys-to-local-shelter-pups/](https://www.kob.com/new-mexico/first-grade-students-gift-handmade-toys-to-local-shelter-pups/). And most of the dogs in this program were adopted!

“We were very happy to have a member of our community reach out to us, especially with such a worthy cause behind it,” said Polk Assistant Principal Jonathon Aranda. “It was a unique partnership that allowed our students to hone their creative and linguistic skills to give back, while at the same time seeing their hard work pay off in the form of adoption. The portraits and animal resumés highlighted some of our most vulnerable members of society and gave them a chance to find loving homes. Polk Middle School is excited to continue its partnership with Animal Protection New Mexico.”

URBAN DWELLERS

COEXISTING WITH
WILD NEIGHBORS
IN THE CITY

Despite being the largest urban city in New Mexico and home to over a quarter of the state's population, Albuquerque also has nearly 30,000 acres of public Open Space areas, ranging from mesa and volcanos to the river, arroyos, and mountains. Residents enjoy access to spectacular outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, river rafting, and hang gliding. The great outdoors is also home to an abundance of wildlife. Over 850 animal species live in and around Albuquerque. Most visitors can expect to see lizards, birds, rabbits, prairie dogs, squirrels, chipmunks, butterflies, and beetles. On occasion, wildlife sightings may include snakes, coyotes, bobcats, bears, and even cougars. All of them are important urban area residents who help maintain healthy local ecosystems.

But as the Middle Rio Grande Valley faces increasing pressure from population growth, residential and commercial development, and limited water resources, some of these animals are venturing into human neighborhoods that displaced their ancestral homes. And, sometimes, such encounters give rise to conflicts between humans and other species. While most of these conflicts are preventable, and can often be resolved through non-lethal means, far too often the nonhuman party pays with their life. *(Continued)*

Photos: Bear in a Santa Fe backyard: APNM; Aerial west side Albuquerque: Shutterstock



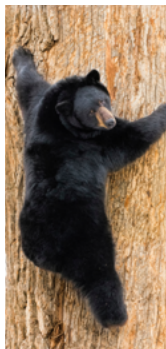
(Continued)

In the Summer of 2022 Albuquerque City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn (District 7) secured a generous \$40,000 appropriation to help the City's human residents learn how to better coexist with their wild neighbors, and contracted with APNM to carry out this program. APNM met with Clr. Fiebelkorn and a round table of representatives from many City Departments that regularly address animal issues. Together the team identified a list of the most conflict-prone species and the most pressing wildlife-related issues that the program would focus on.

The program emphasis was on the intrinsic value of wildlife as fellow living beings who are not inherently a threat but are just trying to survive and meet their needs for food, water, and shelter. To this end, residents were encouraged to evaluate their own behavior and surroundings, take responsibility for their role in both creating and preventing human conflicts with wildlife, and be empowered with feasible wildlife-friendly resources and solutions.

APNM developed material for 10 key coexistence topics/species: coyotes, snakes, birds, pollinators, bears, prairie dogs, hiking safety, pesticides, rodenticides, and zoonotic diseases. This material was converted to website pages, printable documents, and social media posts to help Burqueños protect vulnerable species and minimize conflict with wildlife.

We are deeply grateful to Councilor Fiebelkorn and the City Council for giving us the opportunity to help with this crucial work, and to the many City Departments who contributed their expertise to the effort. ■



Do you know what to do if you encounter a rattlesnake, a coyote, or a bear? Are you curious about how to support our pollinating and feathered friends? Visit cabq.gov/abq-wildlife-coexistence for information on all of these topics and to download quick reference factsheets with tips about coexistence for your own reference or to share with your neighbors.

WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE TIPS

DON'T feed wildlife (except songbirds)	DO keep your distance
DON'T feed companion animals outside	DO seal garbage and compost
DON'T leave companion animals' waste outside	DO plant native flowers
DON'T use chemicals or poisons	DO supervise your companion animals
	DO stay on trails

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ANIMAL PROTECTION
NEW MEXICO





Dr. Gonzales begins a teeth float procedure on a horse.



Helping More Equines Around the State

In the spring and summer of 2023, APNM continued to expand accessibility to gelding (equine castration) and other necessary care in communities where many people and their equines have geographic or financial barriers to receiving those crucial services.

Two equine clinics were held in the village of San Ysidro (Sandoval County) for Tribal communities in the surrounding area. This resulted in 11 stallions being gelded free of charge. Because our wonderful licensed equine shelters are often functioning at capacity, castration is an important tool to help prevent future unwanted horses with no safe place to go. Equines who attended these clinics also received vaccinations, dewormers, dental work, and Coggins tests. This was also the first time we were able to have a farrier attend one of our mobile clinics to provide much-needed hoof trims. All

other care was provided by Dr. Thomas Gonzales of Gonzales Veterinary Services.

In spring 2023, APNM helped pay for a gelding and wellness clinic at Pine Hill School in the Ramah Navajo Chapter. Because there are no veterinary clinics in the Chapter, members would otherwise need to haul their horses an hour away to Grants or Gallup and pay hundreds of dollars to receive care. We have partnered with the Ramah Navajo Chapter Department of Natural Resources since 2019 to assist with the Chapter's wild and domestic equine needs, part of which includes low-cost mobile clinics in the Spring and Fall that offer vaccinations, dewormers, dental work, Coggins tests, gelding, and PZP fertility-control treatments. Because the Chapter's domestic horses are often allowed to roam freely to graze, gelding and PZP of domestic horses also helps control the wild horse population. Spring 2023 was our biggest attendance yet, with a record 52 equines receiving care over two days. This included four stallion castrations. Services were provided by Dr. Thomas Gonzales, Dr. Dwight Hooton, Dr. Hilary Clayton, Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary, and Ramah Navajo Chapter Department of Natural Resources staff.

In summer 2023, at the request of Taos Pueblo, we helped pay for veterinary care for 39 horses. Care included vaccinations, deworming, and 3 castrations. Taos Pueblo informed us that due to economic hardship, including the steep cost of equine feed, many community members could not afford to pay full price for these necessities themselves, so making them available for a low-cost or free was of great help. Services were provided by Dr. Dwight Hooton.

In April 2023, APNM held a gelding clinic at the Doña Ana County Fairgrounds in Las Cruces – our first equine clinic in Southern New Mexico! To promote and raise awareness of the event, APNM employed TV ads, press releases, and social media ads. Fifteen stallions were gelded at the clinic, and one additional donkey was gelded at his home. Services were provided by Las Cruces' own Schumacher Veterinary Clinic.

In addition to providing clinics, APNM is working with Tribal communities to promote humane population control of free-roaming horses with PZP immunocontraceptive vaccine. In 2021, all seven staff members of the Ramah Navajo Chapter Department of Natural Resources were trained to dart horses with PZP. Also, in April 2023, seven more Tribal members, including three additional Ramah Navajo Chapter members, were trained in the use of PZP by the Montana-based Science and Conservation Center. These skills empower Tribal communities to take management of their land's free-roaming equines into their own hands, and provides tools to help do so humanely and effectively. The Ramah Navajo Chapter Department of Natural Resources immediately put this training to use by having their staff administer PZP to nine domestic mares in spring 2023. ■



The 2023 New Mexico State Legislative Session Recap

Although advocates have made so much progress for New Mexico's animals over the years, there is still much more to do while animals still suffer. Whether we're confronted with a horse at risk of being sold and shipped to a slaughterhouse or with a dog who is victimized by some of the most grotesque abuse imaginable, animals rely on us to fight on their behalf.

In 2023's 60-day legislative session, the New Mexico Legislature considered almost 1,300 bills, memorials, and resolutions—but by the end, just 246 pieces of legislation were passed and sent to the Governor's desk. Thankfully, a few substantial and important efforts related to animal protection made it across the finish line! This work was possible because of your determination, advocacy, and continued support, powering us every step of the way. And there is so much more to do in the following years. Thank you and stay tuned for more!

MAJOR VICTORIES

BESTIALITY IS NOW ILLEGAL

Studies have revealed stark statistics: Bestiality is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk for committing child sexual abuse (Abel 2009). In fact, 53% of bestiality offenders have a criminal history involving sexual abuse, collecting or using child pornography, and interpersonal & domestic violence (Edwards 2019).

A disturbing tip received by APV in 2022: Someone had posted in an online personals forum in Albuquerque that they were looking for a dog to sexually abuse—and the post made it clear they knew it was still legal in New Mexico. And statistics have shown that more likely than not, abusers engaged in bestiality (sexual abuse of an animal) are also similarly abusing children and other vulnerable people. This had to change now.

Thanks to bipartisan legislative leaders who had the courage to champion this difficult issue and put this heinous abuse to an end, **Senate Bill 215** made it a fourth-degree felony to commit bestiality; coerce or solicit someone else to commit bestiality; or sell, buy, offer, or possess an animal for the purpose of bestiality. It upgrades the violation to a third-degree felony if done in the presence of a child or involving a child as a participant. Those convicted of these crimes won't be able to live or work around animals for several years and may be ordered to undergo mental health treatment and/or pay for the cost of caring for animals harmed by their crime.

SB 215 will not only protect animals from sexual abuse, but also close a gap in law enforcement that has risked letting sexual abusers off the hook. West Virginia remains the only US state in which bestiality remains legal.

(Continued)

Photo: AdobeStock

(Continued)

HORSES ARE SAFER FROM THE AUCTION-TO-SLAUGHTERHOUSE PIPELINE



Murray is an Appaloosa gelding who was seized from a cruelty case, and the judge ruled that he would be auctioned (the only available option before SB 271 was enacted). Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary bid to take him in, but they sadly were outbid. Thankfully, the bidder was not a slaughterhouse buyer, and when Murray proved to be too unsound to be ridden, he gave Murray to Dharmahorse, where they have worked long, hard, and compassionately to return him to health. Murray is now awaiting a new family to adopt him.

Imagine a horse who was rescued from a horrendous cruelty situation. Perhaps she is severely malnourished, or injured, or both. And once she was saved... her only option was to be sold to the highest bidder in an auction where “kill buyers” were ready to buy horses cheaply and make a profit by reselling them to be slaughtered for meat. But this isn’t just an imagined scenario—this was the reality for many horses. A crowded trailer headed toward a brutal death in a slaughterhouse is an unacceptable outcome for a suffering horse in need of veterinary care, careful refeeding, and tender handling.

But legislative champions for horses and their equine relatives have now established a new safety net for these vulnerable animals.

Senate Bill 271 codified in state law a process where all abused and abandoned horses, donkeys, and mules who are in the custody of the state or law enforcement or subject to court-ordered disposition in a cruelty case will first be offered to New Mexico’s registered equine rescue organizations before being sent to auction.

Animal Protection Voters was proud to push for SB 271, with support from the New Mexico Livestock Board, on behalf of our state’s wonderful equine rescue community, who already face rising feed costs and whose donations and volunteers are increasingly stretched thin. This new law will ensure that they can step up to save, rehabilitate, and either adopt out or provide sanctuary for equines in need without trying to outbid slaughterhouse ‘kill-buyers’ in an auction.

(Photo courtesy: Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary)

EQUINE RESCUE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES RECEIVED FUNDING

Co-sheltering is an emerging model of temporary housing for domestic violence survivors that places them WITH their companion animals on-site. Keeping families together can aid in the recovery from trauma and well-being of children and adults alike.

The State Legislature does more than pass new laws—it also approves funding for important community programs and services. In partnership with dedicated state legislators, APV supported appropriations to key animal-related causes, including:

- ★ \$150,000 to the Children, Youth & Families Dept. for contract services to help domestic violence survivors and their companion animals, which APNM’s CARE program received to conduct work on developing and supporting “co-sheltering” for survivors and their animals.
- ★ \$250,000 to the NM Livestock Board for the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund to support state-registered equine shelters
- ★ \$5 million for wildlife corridor studies, construction projects, and management of safe road crossings for wildlife
- ★ \$3.2 Million+ in funding for construction and improvements of animal shelters in Albuquerque, Estancia, Gallup, Santa Fe, and Truth or Consequences.

Learn more about all the measures that passed in the 2023 legislative session, those that didn’t, and what comes next at apvnm.org and by following us on social media. ■

Keeping Tummies Full and Families Together

Thanks to renewed funding from the Bonner family of Albuquerque, APNM continued and even expanded our Companion Animal Food Effort (CAFÉ) program in 2023. CAFÉ grants support organizations throughout New Mexico in providing food for companion animals in their communities.

Full grants were awarded to:

- 🐾 Veteran's Integration Center of Albuquerque
- 🐾 Homeless Animal Rescue Team in Valencia County
- 🐾 Guadalupe Community Development Corporation in Guadalupe County
- 🐾 Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico in Las Vegas
- 🐾 ACTion Programs for Animals in Las Cruces

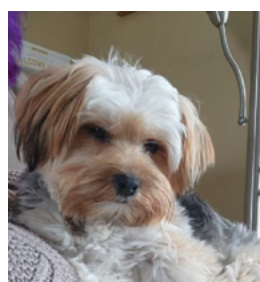
Mini-grants were provided to:

- 🐾 McKinley County Humane Society
- 🐾 Friends of Estancia Valley Animals

Additionally, shipments of companion animal food were provided directly to:

- 🐾 Santa Clara Pueblo
- 🐾 Taos Pueblo ■

At right and below: some grateful recipients of the CAFÉ program.
Photos courtesy of their families.



APNM Mourns the Passing of Governor Bill Richardson and Senator Mary Jane Garcia

APNM will always remember Governor Bill Richardson for his unparalleled advocacy for those in need of justice, whether that was a person wrongly imprisoned far from his beloved New Mexico, or a 'chimp person' who deserved to be in sanctuary but was stuck in prison-like conditions in Alamogordo, NM.

In the summer of 2010, as Governor Richardson pulled out every stop to prevent research chimp survivors from being shipped out of New Mexico and subjected to more painful invasive testing, he was unapologetic in declaring that animal protection is "a human rights issue." He took the time to meet the chimps who needed his help, including an elder, Flo, whose story compelled him to more action.

'The Guv,' as he was affectionately known, spent his entire career as Governor and NM's Congressman from the 3rd District, along with the many years

thereafter, speaking up, working for, and supporting the protection of NM's horses, dogs and cats, chimpanzees, wildlife, roosters forced to fight, and so many more. His legacy and history of compassionate action cannot be easily summarized. It will never be forgotten.

In 2007, Gov. Richardson was awarded the Milagro Executive Director's Award. Watch the video here: tinyurl.com/24jcyw3x



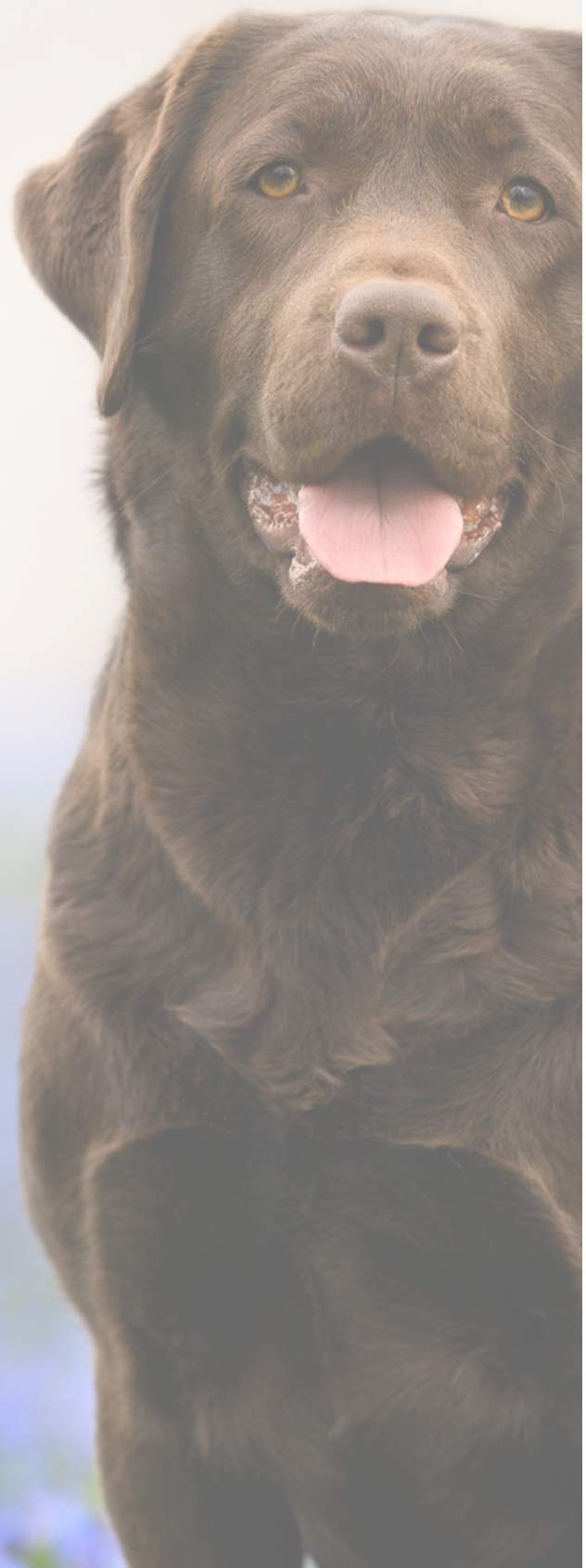
New Mexico animal advocates are also mourning the loss of one of

our state's most effective and prolific champions for animals, Senator Mary Jane Garcia. Senator Garcia was instrumental in sponsoring and passing legislation to make extreme cruelty to animals a 4th-degree felony in 1999, and for leading the charge in 2007 to ban cockfighting in NM after more than a decade of struggle. In all the years in between, Senator Garcia was a leader and booster for all legislative efforts that mattered and that helped animals. She will always be remembered as a fierce and compassionate defender of all animals.

Senator Garcia received APNM's Executive Director's Milagro Award in 2000, the first year awards were given out, for distinguished achievement in assuring the humane treatment of animals. Senator Garcia was such a magnificent champion for the animals that APNM later named a Milagro Award for her, beginning in 2007. *The Mary Jane Garcia Champion for Animals Award*, for exceptional leadership, courage, and persistence in the face of opposition, resulting in positive change for animals, has been presented to three winners since the award was created. ■

Photo (clockwise from top): Governor Bill Richardson, Senator Mary Jane Garcia, and APNM Executive Director Elisabeth Jennings at the Governor's Cabinet Room following the historic signing of legislation (SB 10) to ban cockfighting in New Mexico, March 12, 2007. *Photo: APNM*

Photo of dog: Shutterstock





Download a PDF of this brochure at apnm.org/reportingcruelty

During the winter season, there are many important ways you can help animals. Whether it's lending your watchful eyes or using your voice to advocate for them, you have the power to protect them.

- 🐾 **The 2024 State Legislative Session** began on January 16. Know who your State Representative and State Senator are, as these are the two officials who will be casting votes on your behalf, either for or against state legislation that affects animals' lives. Find your legislators' names, photos, and contact info by visiting nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator
- 🐾 **Thanks to the passage of Roxy's Law** (the Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act) that went into effect April 2022, you now have a much better chance of visiting New Mexico's public lands this winter without being confronted by a trap, snare, or poison cruelly set by a fur trapper or wildlife exterminator. But if you spot one during your ventures, know what to do and who to contact by reviewing our information at apnm.org/RoxysLaw
- 🐾 **Cold temperatures and inclement weather** put dogs and cats kept outdoors at risk of immense suffering or even death. If you see an animal that looks in distress or needs help, call APNM's Animal Cruelty Helpline at 877-548-6263 (877-5HUMANE). You may be their last hope. And please share our Winter Campaign video on YouTube to help empower others to speak up, too: youtube.com/watch?v=BVPH5GaszCc
- 🐾 **With students returning to school** in the new year, we want to ensure they know they have the option to say "no" to dissecting real animal cadavers in their science classes. In fact, the NM Public Education Department has a policy that specifically requires that educators provide alternatives for students who object to animal dissection. Visit apnm.org or contact us directly for more information on this policy and a sample letter that parents/guardians can use to help their student exercise their humane choice. ■

APNM EVENTS

SPRING 2024

Follow us on social media and sign up for our emails to hear details and up-to-date news about what we're working on (APNM: apnm.org/signup and APV: apvnm.org/signup).

APNM and RedRover present
Keeping People and Animals Together
(a co-sheltering conference)

See details at right ➡

APNM and APV
Annual Review Meeting
March 21, 2024
4pm – 6pm

Annual APV Online Campaign
Laws & Paws
April 1–21, 2024

Kick-Off Party in Santa Fe
March 28, 2024

UPCOMING EVENT

KEEPING PEOPLE & PETS TOGETHER

Join RedRover, Greater Good Charities, and Animal Protection New Mexico for a FREE two-day training conference where we'll discuss the power of the human-animal bond and explore ways to create and sustain pet housing programs for people and pets in crisis.

📅 TUES - WED
05-06 MARCH

🕒 TIME
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

📍 UNM CONTINUING EDUCATION
1634 UNIVERSITY BLVD
NE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

➡ REGISTER
DONTFORGETTHEPETS.ORG/EVENTS



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Thank you, Abigail Davidson, APNM Business Sponsor

Abigail Davidson is a full-time real estate professional with Sotheby's International Realty in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has been involved in the Santa Fe Community for 20 years and has served on the Board of Directors of The Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Animal Protection New Mexico. She was also a part of the ad-hoc committee that rewrote the current animal services ordinances for the City of Santa Fe.

Abigail is passionate about the humane treatment of animals and is proud to sponsor Animal Protection New Mexico and contribute toward the tremendous efforts in making the world a safer place for all animals. ■



Photo: Courtesy of Abigail



APV Board Member JC Corcoran Takes a Natural Approach to Fundraising

Deep in the naturally pristine community of Glorieta, APV board member, JC Corcoran, offers visitors to his property a chance to relax and explore the beauty of the land.

JC is always motivated to find creative ways to support the protection of animals in New Mexico, even beyond his board duties. So last year, JC listed his property amenities with Harvest Host. This platform allows travelers to book a stay at a private property. In exchange for staying at his property, JC requests donations to the APV Endowment Fund.

On the property, JC offers two RV rentals, four campsites (for tents), and four Class B-size RV parking sites. In JC's words, the property is "dog-friendly, includes miles of hiking trails, world class mountain biking 4 miles away, and is simply awe-inspiring."

To learn more, contact JC directly at:
jc@plantpeacedaily.org. ■

Photo: Courtesy of JC Corcoran

Statewide: In August 2023, APNM/APV joined a slate of speakers at the 2023 New Mexico Humane Conference. Alan Edmonds, Cruelty Response & Advocacy Director, and Jessica Shelton, Chief Government Affairs Officer, presented workshops on changing local animal ordinances and addressing animal cruelty through the state legislative process in New Mexico. We also staffed a table where we shared about our work and networked with animal professionals from across the state and beyond.

Las Vegas: In April 2023, APNM's Challenging Animal Cruelty Director Alan Edmonds presented on animal law, especially the city ordinance, and how to document and report animal neglect and cruelty at the Las Vegas Animal Welfare Coalition's (AWC) well-attended Las Vegas Town Hall event.

Bernalillo County: APNM's Challenging Animal Cruelty Director Alan Edmonds met with Bernalillo County Sheriff John Allen about APNM becoming a partner in the Bernalillo County Animal Cruelty Task Force. APNM has provided training scholarships to three Task Force Deputies and looks forward to supporting the Task Force's work.

Ramah Navajo Chapter: APNM worked with MoGro and Ramah Department of Natural Resources to distribute 100 bags filled with fresh local produce and value-added plant-based food items to elderly and at-risk residents the Ramah chapter of the Navajo Nation.

Isleta Pueblo: In May 2023, APNM partnered with the Humane Society of the United States and the Pueblo of Isleta on an Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations training. APNM's Cruelty Response and Tribal Affairs Manager Ruben Lucero presented on laws, the Link, and an APNM program overview.

APNM's Ruben Lucero presents training to the Pueblo of Isleta. Photo: Tyler Winkler/HSUS



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.*

"We support Animal Protection New Mexico and wanted to leave a legacy gift because we want to do what we can to help animals. We believe APNM is the best animal advocacy group in the state, addressing a wide range of animal issues. We feel that leaving a legacy gift is our way of supporting APNM's work into the future".

—Ginger & Larry Hindman

Photo courtesy of Ginger and Larry



"Thank you for the tireless work you do for ALL of the animals in our beautiful state of New Mexico :)"

—Mari, with her beloved canine companion, Lulu

Photo courtesy of Mari



You can ensure APNM continues to advocate for animals tomorrow and always by becoming a member of *The Animal Protection Legacy Society* today with your planned legacy gift.

If you have questions, want to learn more, or have already included APNM in your estate plan, we would be honored to talk with you.

Contact Sara Norton-Sanner at snortonsanner@apnm.org or 505-264-9643. ■



PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192

BIG THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!



APNM **FACES**



Jodi and her dog, Pippa *Photo courtesy of Jodi*

Jodi Beers

Driven by an unyielding passion for animal welfare, Jodi Beers joined Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters in 2021 as our Operations Manager. Growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, she and her family were often rescuing animals. This ignited her compassion for animals and led her to Asheville, North Carolina, where she earned an associate of applied science in Veterinary Medical Technology. Throughout her veterinary career, she was a voice for animals and advocated for improved pain management practices.

In 2009, Jodi moved from Asheville to New Mexico. With many years of experience as a Registered Veterinary Technician, she decided to seek a new path. Jodi went to UNM and earned her master's degree in public administration. Her goal was to work for a nonprofit, one with a profound commitment to helping and advocating for animals. APNM's/APV's missions and work perfectly aligned with her values. She is proud to be a part of an inspiring organization with exceptional, dedicated staff and boards of directors.

As our Operations Manager, Jodi plays a pivotal role encompassing Administration, Human Resources (HR), and Information Technology (IT). She derives genuine satisfaction from tackling technological challenges and providing invaluable HR, IT, and Administrative support to her esteemed colleagues.

Jodi now resides in Sandia Park with her partner, rescued dogs, and rescued cats. They enjoy paddleboarding, hiking, and camping throughout New Mexico. Jodi continues to foster animals with special needs and remains an advocate for animal health and well-being.