

to protect animals and their people throughout new mexico



**IMPACT**<sup>20</sup><sub>23</sub>

ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO ANNUAL REPORT



they are with us and around us,  
connected to us

we are all part of the delicate yet  
inimitable power of nature

when we protect animals we  
protect people and the bond that  
benefits both

The enduring, powerful work of Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) and Animal Protection Voters (APV) hinges on crucial fundamentals that drive everything we do: a desire to make positive change for animals and communities; a deep resilience and the ability to adapt to change; and leadership and skills to assess, plan, and implement bold and effective solutions to long-standing problems. Your engagement in and support of APNM and APV inspires and fuels our efforts!

In 2023, APNM embarked on a new long-term strategic plan—focusing on building and expanding strategic state infrastructure for animals—and then made internal structural changes to ensure that work is optimized. These moves will position us to achieve our next big goals through seamless collaboration, both within our organization and with our many external partners.

Meanwhile, APNM and APV delivered meaningful policy changes by ensuring that animal sexual abuse is finally considered a serious crime in New Mexico, and by requiring all homeless horses, donkeys, and mules in government custody first be offered for adoption by equine rescues. Legislative

champions helped us secure significant funding for the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund, and for services for domestic violence survivors and their animals.


APNM’s popular humane education offerings were expanded through our new virtual curricula in 2023, and our promoting plant-based eating program underwent new development, with fresh assessments, economic research, and cross-cultural accessibility.

Widespread delivery of the following reliable and crucial services continued all across the state in 2023: safety net services for equines; animal cruelty helpline; law enforcement training scholarships; spay/neuter and other companion animal protection projects in Mora and McKinley Counties; companion animal food support; and plant-based meal support for needy communities. And APNM’s support services for domestic violence survivors and their animals were not just maintained, but grew, with APNM launching a co-sheltering initiative with state funding.

APNM refused to give up on the 26 (as of 2023) chimpanzee survivors still languishing on Holloman Air Force Base who deserve permanent sanctuary, applying pressure on

the National Institutes of Health to follow federal law with the help of New Mexico’s caring Congressional delegation. And working with the city of Albuquerque, APNM developed educational materials about wildlife coexistence related to coyotes, pollinators, bears, and prairie dogs, to name a few. And while APNM’s relentless efforts, with allies, to further protect our state’s cougars and bears fell on deaf policymaking ears at the NM Game Commission, we gained key insights into fundamental changes needed to protect those valuable wild species in the long run.

Woven into APNM/APV’s work from now on is our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB), both internally and externally. Already our programs and services are benefiting from this deliberate and inclusive approach, while revealing where more and deeper work is needed to achieve systemic change in New Mexico. In just one year, APNM has dramatically expanded our engagement and partnerships with Tribal Nations, and it is no surprise that this has enriched the lives of animals and the diverse communities who care about them, strengthening everything about our vision and mission.



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

**Anne Coller**, *Board President*  
Animal Protection New Mexico and  
*Incoming Board President, Oct. 2024,*  
Animal Protection Voters

**Yolanda Eisenstein**, *Board President*  
*2023 through Sept. 2024,*  
Animal Protection Voters

## big wins

- Passed Senate Bill 215, making animal sexual abuse (bestiality) a fourth-degree felony.
- Passed Senate Bill 271 to codify in state law a process where all abused and abandoned horses, donkeys, and mules—in the custody of the Livestock Board or law enforcement, or seized after a cruelty conviction—can first be saved by registered equine rescues before having their lives put at risk by being sent to auction.
- Secured \$250,000 in state funding for the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund, and \$150,000 for services for animals and people affected by domestic violence.
- Expanded humane education across the state through digital offerings.
- APNM is a plaintiff in the lawsuit in which a U.S. District Court ruled that the National Institutes of Health broke the law by denying the surviving chimps at Alamogordo Primate Facility the opportunity to live out their lives in sanctuary at Chimp Haven.
- Expanded engagement and partnership with Tribal Nations.
- Developed wildlife coexistence education in partnership with the city of Albuquerque.
- Launched the CARE Co-Sheltering initiative, advocating for consideration of companion animals in the design and function of shelters for domestic violence survivors and those experiencing houselessness.



## sustainability

- Conducted organization-wide strategic planning, with a future focus on the development of state infrastructure for the benefit of animals.
- Made strategic changes in organizational structure to support long-term systemic change.
- Continued organization-wide improvement.
- Sustained high donor satisfaction (as reflected by high retention rate).
- Improved income diversity.
- Received unmodified APNM/APNM Foundation audit.
- Maintained commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.
- Awarded the 2023 Candid Platinum seal and Charity Navigator 4-Star rating.

# Tribal Affairs and Engagement

Members of Tribal Nations tell us that animals are integral to their cultural, spiritual, and personal lives. Yet New Mexico's tribal communities often face more barriers to accessible and affordable animal care services than non-tribal individuals, especially those living in rural New Mexico. Further, members of Tribal Nations may not always qualify for various types of state assistance that non-tribal communities benefit from. APNM works across all its program areas to help fill some of those gaps by assisting tribes with the tools they want and need to create the humane communities they deserve to have.

In 2023, APNM provided tribal members with animal feed assistance and veterinary services, a wide variety of training for tribal agency staff and law enforcement officers, and consultation on cruelty cases and animal ordinance revisions:

## Navajo Nation

- Outreach to Navajo Nation leadership regarding free-roaming horse assistance.
- Joined Nihik'is (Our Friends) Navajo Nation working group meetings—operated by Best Friends Animal Sanctuary—to discuss animal welfare challenges, possible resources, and related events on the Navajo Nation.

## Jicarilla Apache Nation

- Coordinated information received on Cruelty Helpline regarding an animal welfare concern.

## Santa Clara Pueblo

- Worked with Pueblo officials on animal ordinance revisions.

## Sandia Pueblo

- Provided spay/neuter resource information.

## Taos Pueblo

- Made donation of dog/cat food to the Pueblo from APNM's Companion Animal Food Effort.
- Recognized Taos Pueblo animal welfare activist, Holly Summer Berries.

## Tesuque Pueblo

- Provided assistance on a hoarding case, connecting Pueblo officials with animal shelter and rescue partners.

## Isleta Pueblo

- Provided suggestions about an animal cruelty case.
- Shared information on Dangerous Dog Training held in Taos.

## Jemez Pueblo

- Connected new Pueblo Animal Control Officer with Sandoval County Animal Control to provide educational ride-along trips.



New Mexico State Representative Anthony Allison (Navajo Nation) speaks with APNM Tribal Affairs Manager, Ruben Lucero. *Photo: Tiffany Jiron.*

## For all Tribes, we shared information on animal care opportunities, including:

- Lay Vaccinator Conference by the federal Indian Health Service, to provide training and information on the administration, record keeping, and proper storage of animal vaccinations.
- Dangerous Dog Investigation Training, hosted by Taos Animal Control in September 2023 and put on by the American Animal Cruelty Investigations School (AACIS). Training covered New Mexico laws related to dogs, animal evaluations, investigative process, dangerous dog case law, and more.
- Equine Health Clinics, PZP training for tribal members, and equine feed assistance. For more details, see the Equine section (pages 14-16).

# Building Humane Communities

Humane Communities implements on-the-ground initiatives and provides services necessary for the humane treatment of animals. Our goal is to create successful models of animal welfare programming that can be institutionalized for long-term, systemic change at the state and local levels.

In the meantime, we recognize that financial and other limitations prevent many people from giving their companion animals the care they need. Through the provision of our services, we are opening the door for companion animals to be safe, cared for, and remain with their human partners.

Our education programs provide foundational messaging regarding the agency and intrinsic value of all animals, highlighting their sensitivity and emotions, providing the basis for humane treatment. Our spay/neuter initiatives remind us that part of humane care is keeping animals out of the shelter system where, too often, overcrowding results in the euthanasia of healthy animals.



A spay/neuter clinic attendee with her newly spayed pup. APNM Foundation provided a life-saving grant of \$33,798 to Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare for their projects in McKinley County. *Photo: Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare.*

## Companion Animal Food Effort (CAFÉ)

Our CAFÉ initiative is funded by a grant from the Bonner family. It provides mini-grants to organizations throughout the state for the purchase and distribution of companion animal food to help people in financial need. Providing this support is part of the bigger goal of keeping companion animals with their people instead of ending up in the shelter system.

MINI-GRANTS WERE PROVIDED TO:	
Guadalupe Community Development Corporation	\$2500
Veterans Integration Center of Albuquerque	\$2500
Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART-New Mexico)	\$2500
ACTion Programs for Animals (APA)	\$2500
McKinley County Humane Society	\$1500
Friends of Estancia Valley Animals	\$1500
Santa Clara Pueblo (amount in food, sent directly)	\$1000
Taos Pueblo (amount in food, sent directly)	\$1000
Number of animals assisted	>4,300
Number of individuals or households assisted	>1,300
Pounds of food distributed	>96,000
ANIMALS ASSISTED:	
Cats, Dogs, Kittens, Puppies, Companion Chickens, Companion Equines	



A veteran's beloved canine and feline family members received needed food assistance through CAFÉ. *Photo courtesy of recipient.*



## Community Partnerships

**McKinley County** Through the Valerie C. King Fund, Animal Protection New Mexico Foundation partnered with and granted over \$38,000 to:

- Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare: assisted 900 total animals in 2023. Their work provides spay/neuter clinics, donated animal food, transport, foster home support, and medical support for animals in the Pinehill/Ramah Navajo communities.
- McKinley County Humane Society: partial support for their out-of-state transfer program, helping 993 animals have a better chance at adoption.

### **Mora County**

- Our continued partnership with the Las Vegas-San Miguel Veterinary Hospital resulted in 150 spay/neuter surgeries and 90 vaccines for clients in 11 Mora County municipalities.

### **Santa Rosa**

- We provided general support for 3 spay/neuter clinics, including help in scouting mobile clinics.
- Assisted in the collection of community cat colony background information and collaboration with ACO Director, Crystal Trujillo.



## Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE)

Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) program services provide financial assistance through mini-grants for veterinary care and temporary safe boarding for domestic violence victims and their companion animals. In addition, CARE promotes co-sheltering through its Co-Sheltering Initiative. The initiative focuses on increasing the number of domestic violence shelters in New Mexico that accept domestic violence victims and their companion animals. To accomplish this, CARE provides outreach, education, shelter supplies, and shelter staff training.

- Secured a 2023 Children, Youth, and Family Department appropriation for co-sheltering initiative.
- Provided statewide outreach training through New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- Conducted site visits to Roswell Refuge, Roberta's Place, COPE, and The Nest Domestic Violence Shelter to provide direct support to promote, educate, and improve co-sheltering procedures and practices through information, supplies, and case management.
- In partnership with Red Rover and Greater Good Charities, planned the first New Mexico Co-Sheltering Conference (March 5th - March 6th, 2024).

MINI-GRANTS & COORDINATED SERVICES FOR 46 PEOPLE	
51	animals received routine medical care
17	animals received spay/neuter procedures
5	animals received emergency veterinary care
80	animals were provided with up to 21 days of housing

The CARE Helpline 505-533-CARE(2273)	
121	calls received involving 203 animals
38	individuals received agency referrals for a variety of companion animal needs



# Promoting Plant-Based Eating

APNM's Promoting Plant-Based Eating program's continued success includes a deepened partnership with organizations that provide plant-based food relief and securing funding from the Animal Policy Alliance to conduct comprehensive economic research on the harm and burden of animal agriculture in New Mexico.

## Partnerships and Plant-Based Food Relief

- Collaborated with MoGro Mobile Grocery, Eat the Change, and Ramah Navajo to offer 800 fresh, locally sourced produce bags containing culturally appropriate, plant-based pantry staples.
- Partnered with the Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico (AWC) and AnimalBalance to support spay/neuter clinics in rural New Mexico, providing plant-based meals to 160 veterinarians and volunteers.

## Assessing the True Economic Impact of Animal Agriculture on New Mexico

- APNM secured a grant from The Humane League (via Animal Policy Alliance) to conduct comprehensive economic research on the true costs and harm to New Mexico and its communities from large-scale animal agriculture. A subsequent report will inform institutional outreach and systemic changes needed to reduce the harm animal agriculture is causing to New Mexicans, our state's precious water and land resources, and the animals caught in these systems.



Promoting plant-based eating in *The Paper*, summer 2024.



# Teaching Compassion for Animals



**The Virtual/Hybrid Animal Connection** Our humane education curricula, *The Animal Connection* and *The Animal Connection Junior*, continue to grow through outreach, as well as through strong, word-of-mouth interest. Through these popular courses delivered online, students learn key principles of the humane treatment of animals that stay with them beyond the classroom. In 2023, *The Animal Connection* curricula served 740 students and 12 teachers in 46 classrooms across several New Mexico counties.




Photo opposite: Creator of *The Animal Connection*, Sherry Mangold and her therapy dog, Erizo, engage students.

Photo: César Diaz/APNM

- **Red Rover/Kind News Project** This year, APNM’s education team partnered with Red Rover to provide New Mexico educators with Red Rover’s humane education magazine, *Kind News*. Each participating teacher received a subscription to the magazine, which includes award-winning articles, activities, and exercises that supplement our program lessons.
- Pilot launch in key regions: **San Miguel, Rio Arriba, Cibola Counties.**
- Some virtual program pilots launched in key areas in New Mexico where APNM has worked hard to establish support; most notably, two elementary schools in **Española**, two elementary schools and one high school in **Las Vegas**.
- **Española** Don Cecilio Elementary second-grade students developed an Orange Ribbon campaign to raise awareness about animal welfare in their community.
- **Las Vegas** The education team partnered with two local organizations, Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico (AWC) and Friends of San Miguel County Animals, to support the elementary schools using the virtual program.
- **Robertson High School (in Las Vegas)** The 9th and 10th grade National Honor Society used the virtual curriculum to learn more about humane education. Students requested that their community project focus on “raising awareness about animal welfare issues in San Miguel County.”
- **Grants** A 7th-grade Life Science Teacher adapted *The Animal Connection* curriculum to fit New Mexico’s middle school science standards—teaching students the importance of compassion and kindness when solving animal welfare issues in Cibola County.
- **Albuquerque** The hybrid program launched several pilots, including Lowell Elementary, where first-grade students created dog toys for shelter dogs. The community project was covered by KOB-TV, highlighting students’ kindness towards shelter dogs.
- **Community projects:** Lowell Elementary (ABQ), Don Cecilio Elementary (Española), Los Alamos Middle School (Grants), and Robertson High School (Las Vegas).

**In-Person/Special Presentations** *The Animal Connection* and *The Animal Connection Junior* delivered in-person programs assisted by therapy dogs from the Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers (SCCV). These special classes and presentations are beloved by attendees.

- Full, in-person programs were delivered at the Bernalillo County Youth Center and Vision Quest Middle Schools during the Fall/Spring 2023 semesters.
- 7 special presentations were delivered to students and adults, including the “Rekindle The Spirit” Conference for New Mexico Tribal Youth and Southwest Indian Polytechnical Institute.
- In 2023, APNM’s Senior Humane Educator gave special presentations to 301 students in 25 classrooms.



# Challenging Animal Cruelty

To challenge animal cruelty, we employ a multi-step approach. We listen, collect data, and work toward just outcomes for animal victims of crimes through our Animal Cruelty Helpline. We provide training opportunities to animal control and law enforcement officers and legal professionals in helping animals through the criminal justice system. And we engage in outreach and education for community leaders in recognizing and reporting animal abuse. We also track and analyze the data gathered through the Animal Cruelty Helpline and employ it to help create systemic change for animals.

Photo opposite page: Jessica Shelton, APNM Senior Program & Policy Strategist, presents at The New Mexico Conference on The Link.

Photo this page: Alan Edmonds, APNM Cruelty Response and Advocacy Director, presents at the New Mexico Humane Conference.

*Photos: Russell Hawkins/APNM*

## The Animal Cruelty Helpline

- Total Calls: 511 (28 fewer than 2022)
- Most Common Calls: Dog Abuse & Neglect (43%)

## Animal Control and Law Enforcement Trainings

- We partnered with the Humane Society of the United States on an Animal Cruelty Investigations Training on Isleta Pueblo. During this training, we presented on animal laws and ‘The Link’ between animal cruelty and human violence.
- We also presented on documenting and reporting animal cruelty at a Las Vegas training sponsored by the Animal Welfare Coalition of NE NM.
- We organized a full-day Animal Cruelty Prosecution Training for prosecutors and other legal professionals, featuring ASPCA experts.
- During 2023, we provided 68 scholarships to 34 Animal Control Officers in 13 locales around the state.

## Education and Outreach

- We delivered presentations at the New Mexico Humane Conference (hosted by Animal Humane NM) about local animal ordinance work and state legislative updates.
- We presented at the NM Conference on The Link (hosted by Positive Links) on animal sexual abuse, domestic abuse, and the legislative process.
- We served as post-surgery recovery volunteers at a City of Albuquerque spay/neuter clinic, hands-on experience to inform our advocacy work.
- We presented before the Water & Natural Resources legislative interim committee on the status of state spay/neuter funding, equine rescue funding, and veterinary service shortage solutions.
- We attended a 2023 Legislative Dinner hosted by the NM Speaker of the House and House Democratic Caucus, and spoke to many policymakers about animal protection issues facing their districts and legislative solutions.





# Challenging Animal Cruelty

## **Legal Action**

Changing laws can be brutally hard. But that's often just the beginning. When SB 57 passed in 2020, creating a funding mechanism for affordable spay/neuter throughout New Mexico, it wasn't long before the opposition brought a lawsuit to stop it. And when Roxy's Law passed in 2021, banning traps, snares, and poisons on public lands, a group opposed to the law brought a lawsuit against it. That's why change requires fierce determination. We will NOT give up on these critical changes and hard-fought legislative victories.

## **Pet Food Industry Lawsuit to Overturn the Affordable Spay/Neuter Law**

Background: Senate Bill 57, which established a new small pet food manufacturer fee dedicated to spay/neuter services in New Mexico, was signed into law March 2020. In December 2020, pet industry and ranching groups filed lawsuit against the State.

2023 Update: In April, the State filed a motion to dismiss the case in state court. In November, the Judge denied the state's motion to dismiss. As the case continued, we continued to monitor its progress and identify opportunities to advocate for the law.

## **Trapping Groups' Lawsuit to Overturn Roxy's Law**

Background: Senate Bill 32, the Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act (aka Roxy's Law) was signed into law in April 2021. The law took effect in April 2022.

2023 Update: In May 2023, national and local trapping organizations filed a lawsuit against the State. We utilized media opportunities to raise awareness and galvanize support for the law. We provided the State attorneys with helpful information and research to support the State's motion to dismiss and supporting briefs. Case now continues.



# Protecting Animals in Science

The Protecting Animals in Science program encompasses three issue areas:

1. Getting the former research chimpanzees still at the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) to sanctuary at Chimp Haven;
2. Establishing a higher standard for animals being used for research in New Mexico labs, and reducing the use of painful and fatal laboratory experiments;
3. Informing New Mexico students and parents about a student's right to an alternative to animal dissection in New Mexico schools.



## Securing Sanctuary for Chimpanzees

APNM spent much of 2023 fighting to get the remaining 26 Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) chimpanzee survivors moved to Chimp Haven, the federal chimpanzee sanctuary in Louisiana. APNM's efforts were bolstered by a U.S. District Court judge ruling that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is violating federal law by refusing to allow the chimps to move to sanctuary. In response to a lawsuit filed by APNM and the Humane Society of the U.S., the Court said the language of the federal Chimp Act is "plain and unambiguous."

Regardless of the law, throughout 2023 NIH still refused to provide a plan for chimp transfers, even though sanctuary care saves taxpayer dollars and is the more humane approach.

During 2023, we also:

- Commissioned a state-wide poll that showed New Mexicans overwhelmingly support sanctuary for the APF chimps.
- Submitted a Question for the Record (QFR)—through Senator Ben Ray Luján—to new National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, inquiring about their plans to release the chimps to sanctuary. The director confirmed in writing her commitment to move the chimpanzees to sanctuary.
- Maintained pressure on NIH through conversations with Congressional offices in both New Mexico and Louisiana, including targeted outreach at Congressional town halls for Rep. Melanie Stansbury (CD-1) and Rep. Gabe Vasquez (CD-2) during the August 2023 Congressional recess. Both lawmakers pledged support for helping the chimps get to Chimp Haven, while APNM worked with the sanctuary to understand specific sanctuary needs for the 26 chimp survivors.
- Continued exposing NIH's intransigence through blog posts and earned media interviews published on television and in newspapers.

Angelo at Chimp Haven. *Photo: Jessi Princiotta/APNM*

# Protecting Animals in Science

## Animals Used in Research

APNM commissioned a statewide poll to understand how New Mexicans feel about the use of animals in painful experiments. The results confirmed our suspicions: a large majority of New Mexicans support a state law that would establish a stronger standard to protect animals used in scientific experiments.

In addition, we:

- Worked with allied organizations around the country to support federal legislation that would provide stronger protections for animals in labs.
- Gathered as much information about the use of animals in labs in New Mexico, but it has become clear that key information about lab animal experiments is difficult, and sometimes even impossible, to find. (Private laboratories are allowed to hide what they do from the public, without transparency requirements.)
- Were interviewed on Shamayim, a Jewish Animal Advocacy podcast, about the use of animals in New Mexico labs.
- Completed research on opportunities that artificial intelligence offers to reduce and eliminate the use of animals in experiments.

## Dissection Choice

APNM amplified the New Mexico Public Education Department's "dissection choice" policy throughout the year. We also:

- Updated our Dissection Choice webpage ([apnm.org/dissectionchoice](https://apnm.org/dissectionchoice)) to provide information about students' rights and options
- Published and distributed a fact sheet informing students, parents, and teachers about a student's right to opt out of animal dissection in school, without any negative consequences.

APNM also stepped out into New Mexico's communities to spread the word as well. During 2023, we:

- Tabled at the Friends of San Miguel County Animals' Christmas Carnival in Las Vegas.
- Began planning a dissection choice public awareness campaign highlighting the environmental impacts and costs of annually removing millions of frogs and other animals from their natural habitat to supply classrooms with specimens.
- Started building relationships with teachers who were already promoting dissection choice, like Lauren Apodaca, a Las Cruces biology teacher who received the 2023 Humane Science Educator of the Year Honorable Mention from Animalearn (<https://www.animalearn.org/>) for their fearless approach to using dissection choices in their classroom.



Biology Teacher, Lauren Apodaca  
*Photo courtesy of Lauren Apodaca*





# Protecting Horses, Donkeys, and Mules

In 2023 we worked to expand the safety net for equines by bringing direct services to more places than ever before. In the winter, with little forage on the ground and hay prices soaring, we initiated a massive wave of feed assistance to equines all across New Mexico, including to 11 Tribal communities. We increased the number of mobile equine clinics and added more offerings—hoof care and an educational talk—in response to local needs. We also worked to strengthen existing Tribal partnerships and lay the foundation for new ones, such as a growing partnership with central Navajo Nation that led to our first equine clinic across state lines in Arizona.

Photo opposite: Service beneficiaries at the Windowrock Equine Clinic.  
 Photo: Nina Eydelman/APNM

**During 2023, we expanded our equine services clinics. We increased the number of clinics, offerings at clinics, and the geographical reach of clinics, including the following:**

- First equine clinic in Southern New Mexico (Las Cruces).
- First equine clinic in Arizona (Window Rock) at the request of central Navajo Nation.
- First time offering an educational talk by a veterinarian with Q&A.
- First time offering of hoof care services.

**We also helped individuals, families, and shelters, including:**

- Walkin 'N Circles Ranch, Masleña Rescue Foundation, and Dharmahorse.

2023 ASSISTANCE INCLUDED:		
TYPE	AMOUNT	# EQUINES
Emergency Feed Assistance	\$196,064	1,514
Gelding Assistance	\$18,232	51
Veterinary Care	\$18,784	159
Trail's End (humane euthanasia)	\$6,909	19
<b>APPROXIMATE TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$239,989</b>	<b>1,743 equines and 1,019 people helped</b>



Attendees learn how to administer PZP injections at equine clinic. APNM's Equine and Wildlife Chief Program Officer, Nina Eydelman, joins the group at left. Photo: APNM




## Protecting Horses, Donkeys, and Mules

A growing and important part of our work for equines throughout New Mexico includes the outreach and collaboration we do with tribal communities. During 2023, we:

- **Delivered hundreds of thousands of pounds of feed worth \$69,286 to 11 communities:** Nambé Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Kewa Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, Mescalero Apache, Ramah Navajo Chapter, Manuelito Navajo Chapter, and Rock Springs Navajo Chapter, assisting 628 equines.
- **Provided PZP training:** 7 additional tribal members and 1 veterinarian were trained to use PZP fertility control vaccine. The Navajo Nation's Veterinary and Feral Horse program is interested in PZP training for mares in their community.
- **Coordinated equine care with Ramah Navajo Chapter:** 109 equines received essential care at seasonal wellness clinics, such as dental work, vaccinations, deworming, blood tests, and castrations. Eighteen mares were treated with PZP by Ramah Navajo Chapter-Dept. of Natural Resources staff.
- **Rock Springs Navajo Chapter:** An equine clinic and educational talk was attended by at least 20 people from 9 Navajo Chapters as well as Zuni Animal Care Services. 20 equines received veterinary care.
- **Window Rock, AZ:** An equine clinic provided care to 15 equines, including 6 castrations and 6 mares treated with PZP.
- **San Felipe Pueblo:** We continue strengthening our partnership with the Pueblo, supporting the Pueblo's long-standing stance against horse slaughter.
- **Zia Pueblo:** 2 equine clinics were held at the Village of San Ysidro, where 28 equines received essential care such as dental work, vaccinations, deworming, blood tests, and hoof trims. 11 stallions were castrated.
- **Taos Pueblo:** We assisted with veterinary care for 39 equines, including vaccinations, deworming, and 3 castrations.

**A key focus of our work to protect horses, mules, and donkeys includes broader policy work. During 2023:**

- We served on the New Mexico Livestock Board Equine Shelter Rescue Fund committee, providing recommendations for the distribution of \$262,000 to 12 licensed equine shelters.
- We continued to participate in the Carson Partnership for Horse Management, a diverse group of stakeholders and federal agency representatives that work collaboratively to humanely manage the horses of the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory.



"The work you do is extraordinary,  
which is what our state needs!  
And you get results from your  
hard work and perseverance.  
Thank goodness you have the  
dedicated staff you do. Best  
wishes for a terrific year!"  
-Nancy L. Adam

*Photo: Heidi Baxter/APNM*

# Promoting Coexistence with Wildlife

If the southwest's ongoing megadrought wasn't enough, 2022's historic wildfires and 2023's record-breaking heat wave have made it painfully apparent that the era of climate change is upon us. As available wild habitat changes, burns, and diminishes, wildlife will be the first to feel the adverse effects, and be increasingly forced into encounters with humans over decreasing food and water resources. Coexistence education that help us be allies to our wild neighbors and the implementation of non-lethal conflict resolution strategies are becoming more important than ever. That is why this year we partnered with the City of Albuquerque to launch an urban wildlife coexistence initiative and fought against a new hunting rule that proposed unsustainable kill limits for bears and cougars.



**BEARS AND COUGARS NEED YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW**

**HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO**

The NMDGF Commission will vote on new rules that will govern the trophy hunting of bears and cougars for the next four years on October 27th. The proposals are located here: <https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/downloads/commissioner-rule-development/bear-cougar-kill-limits-call>

Submit written comment: You can submit written public comments and proposals by sending an email to [BCF-Bear-Cougar-Public@state.nm.us](mailto:BCF-Bear-Cougar-Public@state.nm.us). Please consider submitting a written comment as soon as possible before October 23th to give the Game Commission time to review the comments before their meeting on October 27th. We have provided some general talking points below, and you are encouraged to add your own to make your comment unique.

Attend the October 27th Game Commission meeting in person in Farmington starting at 9:00AM. The Game Commission will officially vote on the final bear and cougar rules at this meeting. While public comments at this meeting are unlikely to influence changes in the rule, you are still encouraged to make your voice heard and let the Commission know how important bears and cougars are to New Mexicans.

Or Attend via ZOOM. If you are unable to attend in person, you can register via Zoom and indicate you would like to provide public comment (instructions will be posted on this page under "How To Participate" a few days before October 27th: [wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agenda/](https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agenda/)).

SEE SUBJECTIVE TALKING POINTS ON OTHER SIDE

But Game and Fish has not provided sufficient or coherent information about bear or cougar populations that allows the public or non-wildlife biologists to judge whether their recommendations are sound.



## Albuquerque's Wildlife Coexistence

A city councilor's desire to bring greater awareness to the importance of wildlife coexistence in urban areas gave rise to a collaborative project between the City of Albuquerque and APNM.

Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn secured a \$40,000 grant from the City of Albuquerque which launched the project.

- We identified 10 key coexistence topics: coyotes, snakes, birds, pollinators, bears, prairie dogs, hiking safety, pesticides, rodenticides, and zoonotic diseases.
- APNM created the logo for the new Albuquerque Wildlife Coexistence: "Be a friend to wildlife" campaign and created fact sheets on each topic. These were used for web pages, printable brochures, and social media posts to help Albuquerque residents protect vulnerable species and minimize conflicts with wildlife.

## Bears and Cougars: A Fight for Greater Protection

A new "Bear and Cougar" hunting rule proposed by the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish (NMDGF) was harmful to these species in several ways:

- It raised annual bear kill limits from 804 to 864
- It kept annual cougar kill limits at an unsustainable 562
- It only counted legal hunting kills towards these annual kill limits – meaning an unlimited number of bears and cougars may be killed through other human causes (recent examples: an additional 141 bears and 66 cougars were killed in one year from collisions with automobiles, depredation killing, etc.)

Despite APNM's extensive efforts to reduce the kill limits and ensure all dead animals were counted, and opposition to the rule voiced by independent wildlife experts and caring citizens, the rule passed as proposed and will remain in effect for the next four years.

While this is a devastating result for bears and cougars, this outcome – along with other instances of NMDGF's disregard for conservation values in order to appease trophy hunters – will be used in future efforts to substantiate the need for meaningful reform in New Mexico's state wildlife policy.



**ALBUQUERQUE  
WILDLIFE  
COEXISTENCE**

Be a friend to wildlife.






# Changing Laws to Change Lives



We believe all animals deserve protection from cruelty and abuse, and one powerful tool we use to help us achieve that goal is New Mexico's lawmaking process. We also know that our work doesn't stop after a law is passed and signed by the Governor, or after state funding is secured. We stay vigilant and ensure that the protections and resources we fight hard for at the Legislature are implemented and their positive impact is felt on the ground.



## 2023 Legislative Victories: Our Priority Bills

- **Senate Bill 215 (Establish Crime of Bestiality)** Amended sexual crimes section of criminal code to create new crime of bestiality, making it a 4th degree felony to commit or promote and a 3rd degree felony to do so involving or in the presence of a child.
- **Senate Bill 271 (Equine Definition)** Codified in state law a process where all abused and abandoned horses, donkeys, and mules in government custody can first be saved by equine rescues before having their lives put at risk by being sent to auction.
- **Funding: \$150,000** Secured for domestic violence survivors to escape abuse without having to relinquish their companion animals.
- **Funding: \$250,000** for the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund to save horses, donkeys, and mules in peril, and \$75,000 to put protections in place for free-roaming horses.

## Bills We Supported

- **House Bill 384 (Social Worker & Veterinarian Licensure)** Veterinarians will now more quickly get their licenses to practice in New Mexico, helping to expedite services for animals across our state.
- **Senate Bill 72 (Create Wildlife Corridors Fund)** This fund, seeded with \$5 million dollars, will be used to construct safe road crossings, sparing both wildlife and drivers from animal-vehicle collisions.
- **Funding: \$3.2 million** for construction, improvements, and day-to-day operations for animal shelters in Albuquerque, Estancia, Gallup, Santa Fe, Truth or Consequences, and Eunice.

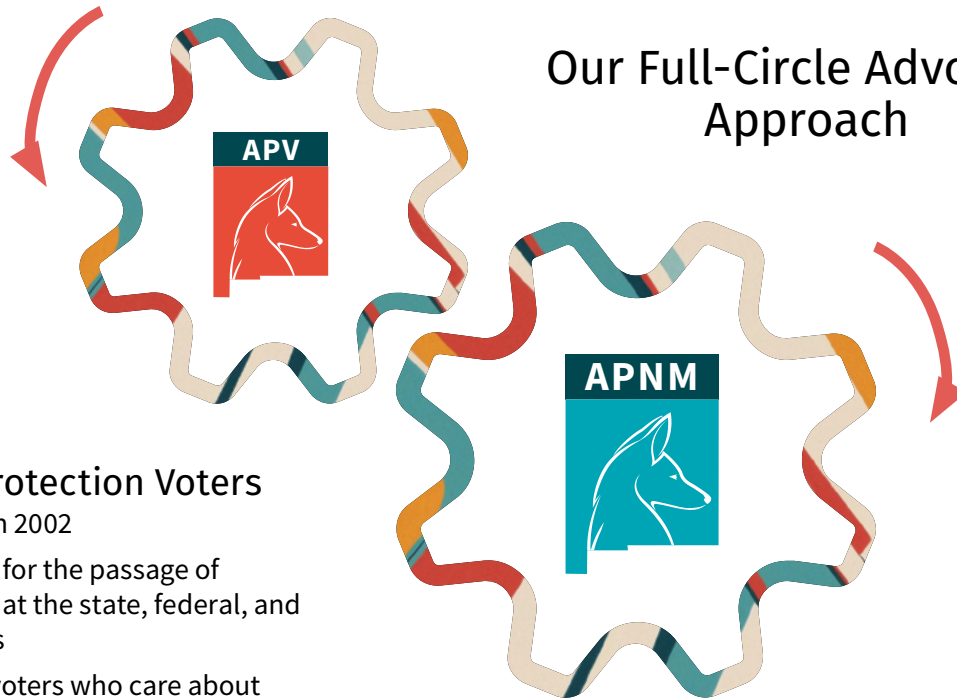
## Lobby Day

On Animal Protection Lobby Day, constituents from across the state joined APV at the Roundhouse to visit their lawmaker's offices and deliver letters encouraging them to support several important bills. By gathering for Animal Protection Lobby Day, we sent a strong pro-animal message to New Mexico's lawmakers, came together to speak with one voice, and delivered our arguments for strong animal protection laws.

Photo below: Lobby Day advocates gathered in Santa Fe in support of animal protection legislation. Photo at right: Senator Nancy Rodriguez speaks to attendees in the Roundhouse. *Photos: JE Newman Photography*



## Our Full-Circle Advocacy Approach




### Animal Protection Voters

- Founded in 2002
- Advocates for the passage of legislation at the state, federal, and local levels
- Activates voters who care about animals
- Helps elect animal-friendly candidates

### Animal Protection New Mexico

- Founded in 1979
- Advocates for the passage of legislation and adoption of policies by entities, including businesses or government agencies
- Creates and ensures implementation of animal protection infrastructure to complement policies and law
- Provides program services to the community to fill gaps of need





## Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

APNM recognizes that our staff, those who do the work on a daily basis – whether “behind the scenes” in an office, or “in the spotlight” while lobbying at the legislature – are our greatest assets in accomplishing our mission. Creating a workplace where every individual feels they belong, and can therefore focus fully and collaboratively on this impactful work, is paramount to APNM.

In the wake of APNM leadership completing foundational training in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI&B) in 2021 and 2022, beginning in January 2023 APNM embarked on a grand scale DEI&B initiative under the guidance of a highly reputable, local consulting firm with the expertise to prepare our staff and boards for creating strategic, systemic change in the equity arena.

To date, we have carefully and thoroughly examined methodology, set context, and built internal trust and consciousness, laying a strong foundation from which to launch the next phase of our DEI&B pursuit: Collaborative Action. During 2024, our Design Group of representatives from across the organization and boards will begin deliberative, actionable work, examining

specific organizational policies and practices through an equity lens.

With direct ties to so many varied and robust communities and cultures throughout the state of New Mexico, Animal Protection New Mexico is deeply committed to an overall diverse, equitable, and inclusive organizational environment, both internally and externally. Seeking continuous improvement to ensure that our organization is positioned as a healthy, highly functioning workplace in turn best positions all staff to pursue our mission with passion and integrity. Creating long-term, sustainable policies and practices that ensure everyone at APNM feels valued and empowered to bring their whole selves to the work and the mission aligns perfectly with our longstanding, well established “systems” approach to seeking changes for animals and the humans who care about them.

APNM is proud to be reflective of the diverse communities we serve and aims to continue to build capacity for expanding those relationships, ultimately bringing the needs of those without voices – the animals that need our help – to the forefront.

# goals for the next decade

Preparation for the future legislative sessions, including to:

- Build and strengthen state infrastructure, program funding, training, and services for animals, to include momentum for state Dept of Animal Protection, Animal Welfare Trust Fund, Equine Welfare Trust Fund
- Reform the state cruelty statute and infrastructure to strengthen animal protections and offender rehabilitation and secure funding for training in the link between animal cruelty and other kinds of family violence
- Require transparency by New Mexico laboratories experimenting on animals
- Protect and humanely manage free-roaming horses
- Modernize the Dangerous Dog Act
- Stop anti-animal bills, resolutions, and memorials
- Continue to fight for implementation of recently adopted legislation and programs
- Amend the Family Violence Protection Act: add animal abuse as a trigger for protective orders; and allow judges to include companion animals in protective orders
- Modernize management of New Mexico's wildlife



## Impact

- Expand partnerships with Native Nations
- Secure sanctuary for surviving APF chimps
- Promote Dissection Choice
- Challenge the most egregious animal experimentation practices in New Mexico
- Expand *The Animal Connection* virtual humane education
- Institutionalize more plant-based eating options
- Maintain APNM's crucial program services & projects: Equine protection direct services, Community

Partnership projects, CARE helpline and Co-sheltering initiative, Animal Cruelty helpline

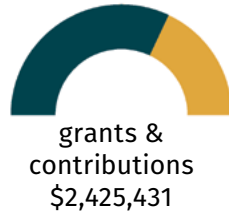
- Provide support for animal shelters and spay/neuter programs
- Provide/secure funding for law enforcement officer scholarships
- Promote wildlife coexistence

## Sustainability

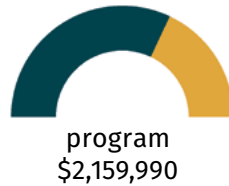
- Grow support base for APNM and APV to sustain work
- Grow APNM, APV, and Equine Protection Fund endowments to sustain our work

# financials

income  
total income:  
\$3,766,596



expenses  
total expenses:  
\$3,352,067



Financials reflect the 2023 audited consolidated financial statements (available at [apnm.org](http://apnm.org)) for Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection New Mexico Foundation.



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

- Established 3 formal animal protection policies.
- Benefitted 214,853 individuals, groups, and animals with our tools, materials, and resources.
- Created 5 program and organizational innovations.

thank you, business sponsors





## thank you to our supporters for all grants, contributions, and fees-for-services

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- Hildegard Adams
- Miriam Adams
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- Annette Adler & Stephen Rudy
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- Arianne Avery
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- of Judy Babcock
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- City of Albuquerque
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- Martha Clair
- Barbara Clark
- Cecilia Clark
- Keith Clark

Photo opposite: Mom and son attend spay/neuter clinic with their beloved cat. *Photo: Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare.*

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- Carol Clericuzio
- James Clow
- Terry Coburn
- Kelly Cockrell
- Susan Cockrell
- Kathryn Colbert
- Karyn Cole
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- Edward Cone
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- Martha Coulter
- Susan Coulter & John Hinton
- Jill Cowley
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- Heidrun Craig
- Jennifer Cregar
- Michael Crews
- Charlene Criner
- Sean Michael Cromwell
- Bridgette Crowley
- Laurie Cubbin
- Mary Eleanor Culpepper
- Nancy Cunha
- Kathi Cunningham
- Lora Cunningham
- David & Judith Cyr
- Norma da Silva & Cesar Goulart
- Cynthia DaCosta
- Nancy Dahl
- Joan David
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- Robert L & Joyce Davis
- Nancy Day
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- Millika De Ponte
- Stella De Sa Rego
- Elizabeth Dee
- Joseph DeFelice
- Dorothy DeLaine
- Reina Delgado
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- John & Sandra DelMar
- Michael DeLongchamp & Kate Miller
- Cathryn Delude
- Lyn deMartin
- Jim Denton
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- Miles Drenth
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- Michael Fikani
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- Kimberly Fincher
- Laura Fiori
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- Alexandra Fischer
- Michael & Mary Catherine Fitzgerald
- Mary Fitzpatrick
- Sena Fitzpatrick
- Kerry Flint
- Chris Flood
- Victor & Karla Flores
- Robert & Patty Floyd
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- Heidi Foley
- Cheryl & William Foote
- Joan Forestal
- Janet Forman
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- Jan Frye
- Stephanie Fuchs
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- Irma Furnish
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- Stephen Gaber & Monica Morris
- Carl Gable & Jackie Shane
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- Michael Gallagher
- Peggy Gallegos
- Diane & Alphonse Gama
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- Tomas & Terrill Garcia
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- Sandra & Richard Garriott-Stejskal
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- Ester Gonzalez
- Marguerite Gordon
- Jane Gowe
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- Amanda Graham

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- Rebecca Johnson
- Webb Johnson
- Yvette Johnson-Rodgers
- Colleen Jones
- Jessica Jones
- Norman & Linda Jones
- Robert Jones
- Sharon Jones
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- Julia Magnelind

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- Patricia Magyary
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- James Maher
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- Christian Martinez
- Deborah Martinez
- Ginger Martinez
- JoAnn Martinez
- Lana Martinez
- Lee Martinez
- Leroy Marinez
- Rosemarie Martinez
- Janet Martinique
- Debbie Masse
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- Maegan Mayon
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- Raily McDaniel
- Tracy McFarland
- Birgit McGaughey
- Julie McIntyre
- Mary McIntyre
- Arin McKenna
- Senator Brenda McKenna
- Leslie McKenzie
- Katlyn McKinney
- Elaine McLeod
- Brendan McManus
- Alyson McMinn
- Lee Ann McMurry
- Marlene McNealy
- Chuck Melendez
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- Marian Mesojedic
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- Sylvia Silliman
- Ardyth Simmons
- Susan Simons
- Rita Sims
- Jaclyn Sinclair
- Abigail Singer
- Sherry Singer
- Cory Sisk
- Timothy Sleigh
- Edward Smith
- Melissa Smith
- Robin Smith
- Amy Snow
- Janet Snowden
- Ruth Snyder
- Mike & Beth Soeder
- Sophia's Placitas Giving Circle
- Marcy Soriano-Brown
- Margaret Soriero
- Leonard Spellbring
- Emily Sperry
- Lewis Sponar
- James & Tracie Stackhouse
- James Starzynski
- David & Ilene Steele
- Monica Steidele
- Anne Stein
- Carl Steinhauer
- Briar Stephens
- Candis Stern
- Janet Stevens
- Fay Steving
- Albert & Mary Stipe
- Rhonda Stokes
- Marilyn & Rex Stone
- Eugene Stone-Romero
- Stream Dynamics
- Bonnie Suazo
- Jo Ann Sullivan
- The Summerlee Foundation
- Virginia Sunderland
- Christopher Supik
- Rita Surdi
- Dan Sutton & Rebecca Jolin
- Faith Suzio
- Mary Sweet
- William & Patricia Sylvester
- Sylvia Taborelli
- Margaret Tange
- Isabel Tapanes
- Elaine Tarango
- Tamara Tardiff
- Target Corporation
- Gretchen Taylor
- Lois CS Taylor
- Patricia Ellen Taylor & Michael Agar
- Tesuque Design
- Daniel Thayer
- The Tides Foundation
- Sylvia Thomas
- Carrie Thompson
- Janis Thompson
- Norman Thornton, Jr
- Jess Tidmore, Jr
- Claire Tillman
- James Tillotson, Jr
- Laura Tilson
- Pamela Timmerman & David Juarez
- Josh Timock
- Guillermo Torres, Jr
- Arnold Torrez
- Totally Wiard Fund of Taos Community Foundation
- Lori Trani
- Catherine Travis
- Stephen Traxler
- Michelle Trujillo
- Rep Christine Trujillo
- Katrina Trujillo-Lucero
- Al & Edith Tsacle
- Elizabeth Tubbs
- Francesca Tuoni
- Pamela Turman
- Robert Turner & Kerstyn Porsch
- Leslie Ullman
- Zeynep Unal
- Wayne & Gretel Underwood
- UnitedHealth Group
- Carla Urban
- Edmond Urbanski & Yvonne Boudreaux
- Elise Van Arsdale
- Jean & Richard E VanCamp
- Robert Vargas
- Sheila Vaughn
- Julia Velasquez

- Susan Verhoef
- Richard Vickery
- Tom & Susan Videen
- Kathy Vigil
- Chloe Volek
- Susan Vosburg
- Kris Waara
- Veronica Wabbington
- Bruce Wagman
- Leslie Wagner
- Angela Walker
- Deb Wallace
- Evalinda Walrack
- Anita Walsh
- Elizabeth Walsh
- Donald Ward
- Tina Wardle
- Dan Warren
- Bruce Washburne  
& Margaret Werner-  
Washburne
- Ruth Waterhouse
- Reg Watkinson
- Steve Watson & Brooke  
Richards
- Raymond Watt
- Erik & Lorna Watts
- Paula Waugaman
- Kelley Weaver
- Sandra Weikel
- Deborah & Laurence  
Weinberg
- Liz Weinheimer
- Jonathan Weiss
- John Welch
- Susan & Rick Weller
- Judith Wells
- Llyd Wells
- Margaret Wells
- Wells Family Legacy  
Endowed Fund at Taos  
Community Foundation
- Catherine Westbrook
- Lee Wharton
- Katrina White
- Anne Widmark
- Roxann Wigen
- Ian Wilcox

- Wild Wear
- Vicki Wilhite
- Jane Wilken
- Andrew & Elizabeth Wilkie
- Aimee Williams
- Gary Williams
- John & Samantha Williams
- Robert Williams
- Joanie Wilson
- Thomas Winter Estate
- Peter Wise
- Paul & Gay Witherington
- Roxanne Witt
- Sherry Wittenberg-Gara
- Leslie Wizner
- Jimmie Wolf
- Nicholas & Codie Wolf
- Peter Wood
- Mia Woodmansee
- Jonathan Woodside
- Judith Yandoh
- Susan Yarnevich
- John Yoeckel
- Gretchen Yost
- Linda Young
- Phillip Young
- Robert Zachry
- Maryln Zahler Estate
- Jill Zaluga & Alan Herman
- Carol Zamora
- Joan Zegree
- Edwin Zurawski

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Framers

#### **ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGACY SOCIETY**

- Tom Alexander
- Honorio Andres
- Anonymous (14)
- Stella Archer
- Elizabeth Aronson
- Budd Berkman
- Ann Beyke
- Lynnette Carneal
- Larry Caudill
- James Corcoran & Rae  
Sikora
- Joan David
- Abigail Davidson
- Joyce Davis
- Dorothy DeLaine
- Michael DeLongchamp
- Susan M Diaz
- Nancy Dickenson
- Joseph Gary Dontzig
- Carol Elliot
- Debby Everett
- Vivian George
- Scott Goodman
- Marguerite Gordon
- Ginger & Larry Hindman
- Tavo Holloway
- Christina Huber
- Deidra Huestis
- Elisabeth Jennings
- Margaret Keller
- Rosemary Lewandowski
- Mark Napolin
- Dixie Ray
- Deborah Risberg
- Victoria Rogers
- Robert Schutz
- Juliana Seeligson
- Jaclyn Sinclair
- David & Ilene Steele
- Edwin Zurawski

Veterinarian Dr. Dwight Hooten cares for a horse's teeth during an Equine Wellness Clinic in the Ramah Navajo Chapter. We mourn Dr. Hooten's sudden passing in 2024 and are so grateful for his generosity in helping us provide services for over 200 equines since 2023.

*Photo: Nina Eydelman/APNM.*





PO Box 11395  
Albuquerque NM 87192



***Animal Protection New Mexico's mission*** is to advocate the rights of animals by effecting systemic change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals.

***2023 APNM Board of Directors:*** Anne Coller, *President*; Joan David, *Vice President*; Tom Alexander, *Secretary*; Susan Diaz, *Director*; Andrew J. Rudnick, *Director*

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

***2023 APV Board of Directors:*** Yolanda Eisenstein, *President*; Robert Schutz, *Vice President*; Jim Corcoran, *Secretary*; Dave Holland, *Director*; Rebecca Álvarez, *Director*; Sunderjeet Kaur, *Director*, Dr. Katherine Gallagher Robbins, *Director*

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A McKinley Count spay/neuter clinic attendee cuddles her newly spayed pup. *Photo: Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare.*