



MAKING TRACKS

A TWICE-YEARLY PUBLICATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO 2024 ISSUE 2

**THE ALAMOGORDO CHIMPS
ARE HEADED TO SANCTUARY**
(AND WHY WE NEVER GAVE UP)

TJ enjoys life at Chimp Haven.
Photo courtesy of Chimp Haven

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend of the Animals,

We couldn't be more thrilled to share with you the news that all surviving chimpanzees in Alamogordo will soon be enjoying true sanctuary at Chimp Haven in Louisiana! We never gave up on the chimps, and we know you didn't either. This edition covers the tragic and quite unbelievable history of these chimpanzees who have experienced so much trauma and deserve to live out their lives in freedom and tranquility. We are honored to have helped them get there.

Beyond this breaking news, thanks to your support, APNM's hard-working staff has spent 2024 planning for the expansion of crucial state systems and associated state funding that will help ensure the humane treatment of animals across our land of enchantment. The 60-day, 2025 state legislative session is right around the corner, and in this edition of *Making Tracks* we share details of our efforts to create enduring funding— through state trust funds—to benefit the many dog, cat, and equine shelters that house, rehabilitate, and adopt out the thousands of homeless animals that come into their care every year. Also, we will push for stronger laws that help ensure humane outcomes for free-roaming horses, animals harmed by domestic violence, and the many other animals who rely on our strong voice at the state capitol.

Beyond the scope of new laws, APNM and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, continue to fight hard to ensure the implementation of crucial laws passed but not yet fully implemented, such as the distribution of significant funds for spay-neuter services.

And APNM spent 2024 expanding all its life-saving services to tribal and non-tribal communities, acknowledging that people throughout New Mexico care deeply about the humane treatment of animals, but often lack the resources for—or access to—essential services for animals. Our equine direct services, support for survivors of domestic violence and their animals, scholarships for law enforcement training, humane education offerings, and many other services continue to break records for the number of people and animals benefitting from our comprehensive efforts.

We promise to continue advocating for animal-related programs and services that New Mexicans want and deserve, and which lead to healthy, thriving, and safe places for all in our state. We won't settle for anything less.

Thank you for walking this honorable path with us as we envision, create, and implement a brighter future for animals and all those who care about them in our wonderful state. Thank you for all you do to help us on this journey!

With deep gratitude,

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director



Making Tracks is published by Animal Protection New Mexico.

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Animal Protection New Mexico is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our federal EIN is 85-0283292.



Animal Protection New Mexico is #75743 in the CFC giving program.

Printed by Paper Tiger - Santa Fe, NM

At last...

In early November, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced their intent to transfer to sanctuary the remaining 23 chimpanzees housed at the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) located on Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

The NIH has indicated it will start moving the last APF chimps to the federal chimpanzee sanctuary, Chimp Haven in Keithville, LA, in early 2025. *(Continued)*

Marie, a former APF chimp, enjoys the peace and safety of sanctuary at Chimp Haven. *Photo courtesy of Chimp Haven*

(Continued)

This news comes after decades of determined advocacy for the chimpanzees by advocates in New Mexico and across the country.

“These deserving chimpanzees have endured so much for so long, and their arrival in sanctuary will represent the federal government’s honoring of its obligation and commitment to their retirement,” said Elisabeth Jennings, Executive Director of Animal Protection New Mexico, which has pressed for the chimpanzees’ freedom since the mid-1990s.

As of the latest census from the NIH in early October, 23 chimps remained at APF, nearly twenty-five years after the Chimpanzee, Health, Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection [CHIMP] Act was signed into law, determining that all former federal research chimpanzees be moved to sanctuary. *(Continued)*

At right is a chart of the chimpanzees currently held at APF. This information is accurate as of July, 2024, when the most recent census was done by APF and provided to us.

NAME	BIRTHDAY	AGE
Henry	Aug. 1, 1962	62
J.D.	Mar. 10, 1970	54
Nickel	June 2, 1970	54
Kamaka	Dec. 14, 1970	54
Funface	Jan. 1, 1971	53
Pearl	Jan. 1, 1971	53
Nazrat	Jan. 1, 1972	52
Sherril	July 23, 1972	52
Montessa	Oct. 1, 1973	50
Al	Jan. 1, 1974	50
Bert	June 27, 1975	49
Fred B.	Jan. 1, 1976	48
Tillina	May 10, 1977	47
Olivia	Oct. 8, 1980	43
Thadeus	Nov. 4, 1982	41
Faylene	Dec. 2, 1982	41
B.C.	Nov. 18, 1983	40
Guido	Sept. 21, 1984	39
Chauncey	Mar. 28, 1986	38
Sho-gun	July 9, 1986	38
Patricia	July 22, 1986	38
Socorro	Dec. 15, 1986	37
Lester	Aug. 11, 1990	34

Female Male



Melody, a former APF chimp, enjoys the natural environment at Chimp Haven. *Photo courtesy of Chimp Haven*

The 1990s: Cruelty at The Coulston Foundation

The Coulston Foundation (TCF) opened in the 1980s by Dr. Frederick Coulston with \$10 million in federal funding and became the world's largest captive chimpanzee colony, with over 600 primates at two Alamogordo locations. APNM and In Defense of Animals (IDA) spent years researching and exposing numerous, *egregious animal welfare, drug safety, and worker violations* that plagued the lab, eventually—after years of pressure by APNM and IDA—resulting in formal charges by the USDA.

After a multi-year APNM/IDA campaign against TCF and fears of its impending bankruptcy, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) seized 288 chimpanzees from TCF in 2001, and held them at APF on Holloman AFB, to be cared for under a 10-year, \$42.8 million contract with Charles River Laboratories (CRL).

2000 and 2001: Progress in Federal Legislation

Congress passed the CHIMP Act in 2000, creating a publicly and privately financed sanctuary system to provide lifetime care for chimpanzees retired from federal biomedical research programs.

Prompted by APNM, New Mexico legislators Senator Mary Jane Garcia and then-Representative Gary King pushed state legislation that would amend the (at the time) recently passed state animal cruelty statute to ensure that animals in a laboratory setting would not be exempted from the force of the statute. To underscore the need for an amendment to the law, APNM held a press conference in January 2001 where it exposed the years of animal cruelty atrocities that took place at the Coulston Foundation. Joining APNM to make this case were Attorney General Patricia Madrid, actor/animal activist Ali MacGraw, and Senator Garcia. The law passed successfully during the 2001 legislative session.

2002: Chimpanzee Sanctuaries

In September 2002, the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care (CCCC: the precursor to Save the Chimps), purchased the beleaguered Coulston facilities. TCF “donated” 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys to CCCC as part of the deal. Those chimps were immediately and permanently retired, while the 288 that remained at TCF were still “owned” by the federal government and would wait years to be able to be moved to sanctuary. Some died waiting for that chance. While Save the Chimps’ Florida facility was expanded to accommodate the 288 chimpanzees now in CCCC’s custody

and care, the chimps remained at the former Coulston Alamogordo facility but benefited from immediate enrichment. Veterinarians performed vasectomies on the male chimps so that family groups could be established and breeding would be prevented.

In September 2002, the NIH announced the selection of Chimp Haven, Inc., a 200 acre Louisiana sanctuary located near Shreveport, to build and operate a sanctuary system for chimpanzees retired from federal biomedical facilities. Authorization of the program was established with passage of the federal CHIMP Act.

2004: Charles River Lab Charged with Animal Cruelty

With half the former Coulston Foundation chimp colony still languishing in substandard conditions and care at APF, in 2004 APNM worked with Otero County District Attorney Scot Key who filed criminal animal cruelty charges against CRL and director Dr. Rick Lee after the tragic deaths of chimpanzees Rex and Ashley and the near-death of Topsy at the APF. CRL appealed the case to the New Mexico Supreme Court and ultimately escaped accountability for the chimps’ deaths because of a legal technicality in the NM cruelty statute.

2010: Invasive, Cruel Testing on Chimps Almost Restarted

NIH outraged New Mexicans in June, 2010, when they announced that the beleaguered former research chimpanzees at APF would once again be subjected to hideous animal experiments. APNM learned that 20 chimps had already been snatched from APF and sent to the Texas Biomedical Research Institute for that purpose.

APNM and its allies jumped into action and activated chimp advocates of all stripes to put a stop to the flawed plan. Leading the charge with APNM were the late governor Richardson, then Congressmen Heinrich, Lujan, and Teague who all spoke out against the transfer and plan. Senators Udall, Bingaman, and Harkin pushed for the National Academies of Science’s Institute of Medicine (IOM) to study the efficacy of all chimpanzee research for human health since its inception. *The study determined that “... most current use of chimpanzees for biomedical research is unnecessary...”*

Senators Udall and Bingaman urged prompt adoption of the IOM report recommendations and Senator Udall cosponsored federal legislation to end testing on chimpanzees. *In June 2013, NIH announced it would accept*

(Continued)

the IOM study recommendations, effectively ending the use of chimps in research, retiring government-owned chimps to sanctuary, and halting the breeding of chimps for research.

2015-2019: Chimps Begin Move to Sanctuary

In late 2015, on the heels of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to include research chimpanzees on the endangered species list, the NIH announced that it would no longer support biomedical research on chimps and would retire all chimps to sanctuary. *Between 2015 and 2019, nearly 100 APF chimpanzees reached Chimp Haven to finally enjoy their lives in sanctuary.*

2019: An About Face Halts the Move to Sanctuary

The NIH inexplicably and unexpectedly announced in 2019 that the chimps remaining at APF were not eligible for transport ostensibly because of “life-threatening, systemic

disease.” Between 2019 and 2024, APNM, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF) relentlessly pressured the NIH to reconsider their position, including suing NIH for violating the CHIMP Act. In December, 2022, a federal judge agreed that the law was being violated, stating that the language of the CHIMP Act was “clear and unambiguous” with respect to its mandate of moving chimps to sanctuary.

2024: APF Chimps will All be Headed to Sanctuary

In 2023 and most of 2024, the NIH appeared to defy the judge’s order, but after relentless pressure on NIH and its new director from APNM, HSUS, HSLF, members of Congress, and widespread media coverage, *NIH announced in late 2024 that it would retire all the remaining APF chimps to sanctuary at Chimp Haven. (Continued)*

TJ and Nicole, former APF chimps, enjoy enrichment and companionship at Chimp Haven. *Photo courtesy of Chimp Haven*





After a 28-year campaign that began with challenging the appalling treatment of chimpanzees at the infamous Coulston Foundation, one thing has been clear: New Mexicans of all kinds and from all corners of the state have contributed to this achievement for the surviving chimpanzees.

Tireless chimp advocates include **Senators Martin Heinrich** and **Ben Ray Luján**, **Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury**, former **Senators Tom Udall** and **Jeff Bingaman**, former **Congressman Harry Teague**, the late **Governor Bill Richardson**, former **Attorney General Patricia Madrid**, former **Land Commissioner Ray Powell, Jr.**, former **Mayor Marty Chavez**, former commander of the 479th tactical training wing at Holloman Air Force Base, **General Brad Hosmer**, and the late state **Senator Mary Jane Garcia**.

APNM is enormously grateful to every caring citizen and policymaker who spoke up for the chimps, and we will continue to support NIH's timely and successful transfer of the APF chimps to Chimp Haven. APNM welcomes this opportunity to revise New Mexico's historical legacy that has involved these deserving chimpanzees. ■

Be sure to sign up for our emails (apnm.org/signup) and follow us on Facebook (@animalprotectionnm) and Instagram (@animalprotectionnewmexico) to receive our updates.

Devon, a former APF chimp, enjoys the life of retirement at Chimp Haven.
Photo courtesy of Chimp Haven



New Mexico
Must Invest in
Trust Funds
Today for a
More Humane
Tomorrow

Photo: AdobeStock

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New Mexico is in the untenable position of not having enough animal sheltering capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable animals and communities across the state. At the same time, lawmakers report that state coffers are once again filled with a budgetary bounty—and it’s time to invest those dollars in shelter infrastructure and

animal welfare programs. Creating trust funds to expand infrastructure and improve the wellbeing of animals is not only the right thing to do for our animals, but it also serves people in our communities and helps protect the health of our state’s land and water that are home to wildlife and are crucial for environmental sustainability.

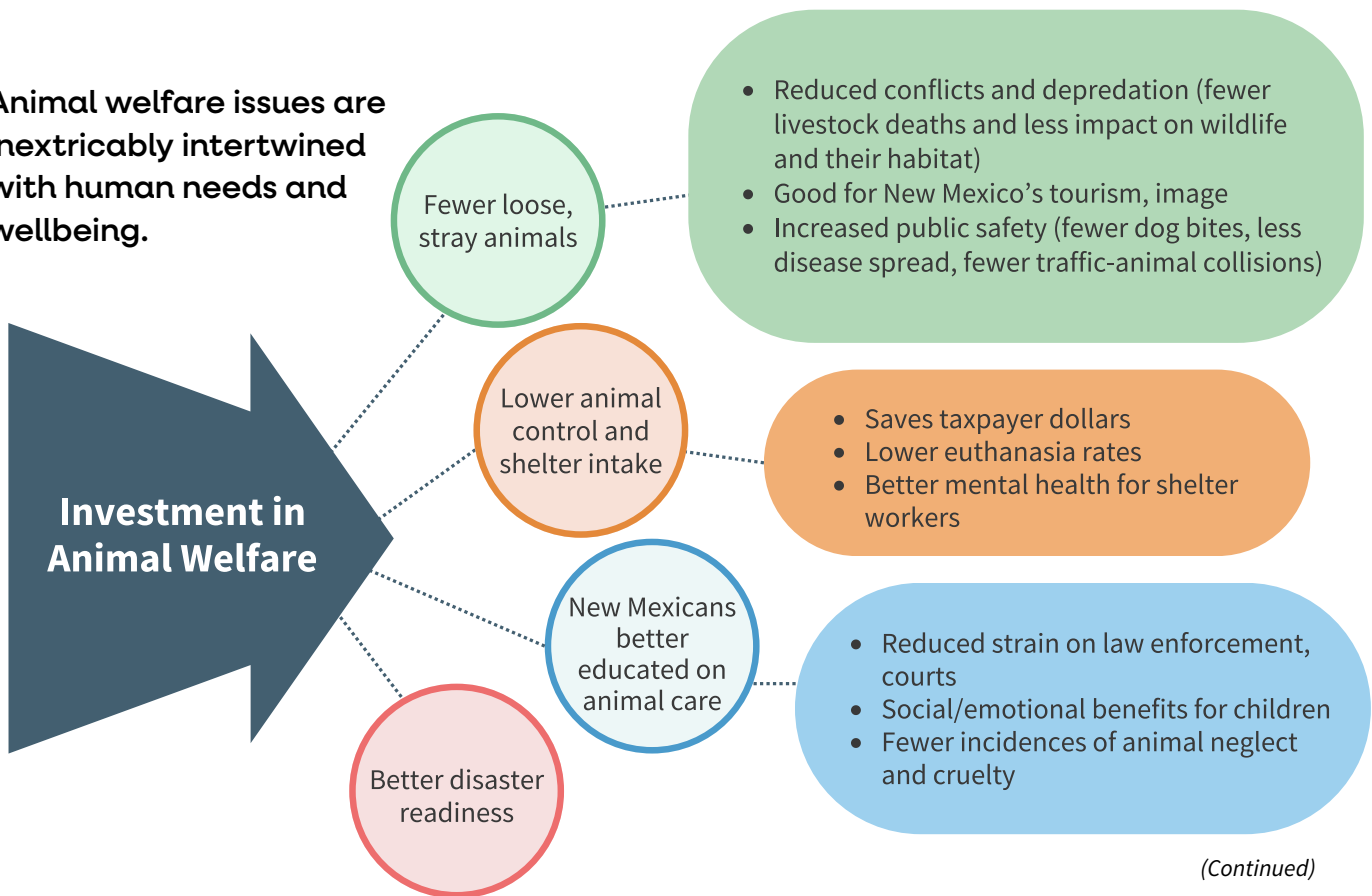
The True Cost of Overcrowded and Underfunded Companion Animal Shelters

New Mexico’s roughly 45 dog-and-cat shelters are chronically over capacity, so much so that they find it difficult to maintain staff, renovate, or even meet basic sheltering standards. Three counties have no animal shelter whatsoever, and many Tribal jurisdictions have no access to animal control or care facilities.

As Crystal Trujillo, Animal Control Director for the City of Santa Rosa, explained, “Areas that need to be added/upgraded include HVAC, an isolation area, an outdoor play area, additional staff to care for the animals...basic upgrades to keep our animals safe...and give them the best opportunities at a second chance at life.”

Lack of animal care and control capacity has negative impacts on both animal and human health. When communities lack this critical infrastructure, they are more vulnerable to preventable harm, such as dog bites from loose dogs, vehicle collisions with stray animals, or the spread of disease among unvaccinated companion animals. And the spay/neuter clinics, humane education programs, and other animal welfare projects that serve to stem the tide of animals coming into shelters are chronically hampered by lack of funds and the difficulty New Mexicans face—particularly in rural parts of the state—in accessing these services and programs.

Animal welfare issues are inextricably intertwined with human needs and wellbeing.



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Equine Shelters Are Also Stretched to Capacity

New Mexico also faces unique challenges caring for seized, surrendered, free-roaming, and abandoned equines. Some loose equines come into conflict with people or other animals as they cross roadways and private property, and others overgraze the range where they roam.

Similar to New Mexico's dog and cat shelters, the state's network of 12 licensed equine shelters and rescues are frequently at or over capacity and unable to accommodate the sheer number of horses, donkeys, and mules needing safe placement, care, or permanent sanctuary.

However, unlike many municipal and county dog and cat shelters, which often fall under the auspices of tax-supported animal control or animal services departments, all of New Mexico's equine shelters and rescues are non-profit organizations without sustained government funding.


Without funds from a government contract, equine shelters instead rely on private grant funding and charitable donations, and to a lesser extent, on sporadic funding from the state's Equine Shelter Rescue Fund (ESRF) administered by the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB). The ESRF was established in 2013, and by law, it is the money NMLB uses

to allow the state to contribute to the costs nonprofit equine shelters incur in caring for homeless equines.

The work these partners do is vital to protecting horses from cruelty and lowering the risk of horses entering the slaughter pipeline. In 2023, licensed equine shelters took in 191 equines, of which 98 were from the NMLB. Since 2019, equines flowing from the NMLB and other law enforcement agencies, made up roughly half of the equine shelters' annual intakes. The shelters also absorb surrendered, abandoned, and stray horses from other sources, as well as free-roaming horses requiring relocation. But for all the success of the ESRF, it has never had a sustained state funding stream and has received only occasional one-time legislative appropriations and minimal annual tax refund donations.

Karen Herman, Executive Director of Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary, one of the 12 licensed NMLB partners, told legislators at a committee meeting in September, "We can prevent suffering and ensure animal health in cost-effective ways when our animal welfare organizations have the staffing, facilities, and funding to intervene earlier." But without that infrastructure, the interventions come later, at a higher cost to everyone: taxpayers, the landscape, and the animals.

(Continued)



The work that equine shelters do is vital to protecting horses and other equines from entering the slaughter pipeline.

Photo: AdobeStock

An Embarrassment of Riches

While New Mexico’s animal shelters struggle, state coffers are flush with record-breaking revenues. At the start of the 2024 Legislative Session, the state’s general fund had a \$3.5 billion budget surplus. For 2025, the Legislative Finance Committee, which makes budget recommendations to the Legislature, expects to see another surplus \$3.5 billion available for appropriations.

Those with an eye towards using today’s dollars to build a stronger tomorrow see that excess revenue as a once in a lifetime opportunity to depart from past practice of spending down surplus revenues and instead creating investment funds, or “trust funds” that would grow over time.

Which brings us to House Bill 191, spearheaded by Representative Tara Lujan (HD 48), in the 2024 session. As drafted, the bill earmarked a small fraction of the state’s current windfall to establish the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. Earnings from the fund would be used for improving shelters. HB 191 passed the House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee unanimously (4 to 0 vote) but did not advance further. Though the original Animal Welfare Trust Fund bill didn’t survive the 30-day “short” session, we’ve been working with legislators to bring it back to the Roundhouse in 2025.

Building on this concept, Animal Protection Voters also intends to push for the creation of a trust fund to establish a more sustainable funding stream for equine shelters: an Equine Welfare Trust Fund. Establishing both an Animal Welfare Trust Fund and an Equine Welfare Trust Fund are APV legislative priorities for 2025 (for a preview of all our legislative priorities, see page 12).

Trust Funds Can Work to Help Animals and Communities

How would these two trust funds, dedicated to expanding sheltering capacity, work? To start, the Legislature would appropriate a “corpus” (initial dollars) into an investment fund. In the case of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, experts say putting \$30 million into an investment fund could generate earnings of approximately \$800,000 annually (or more) within a few years. Those earnings would flow into an “expendable fund,” and animal shelters and other animal welfare programs could apply for grants from this fund to cover costs for renovations, equipment, programs, and projects.

Similarly, an Equine Welfare Trust Fund, if seeded with an initial investment of \$20 million, could expect to earn approximately \$500,000 annually within three years. Those earnings would go to the existing ESRF for disbursement by the NMLB.

Ultimately, investments in animal care, control, and protection save money and lead to healthier communities. In contrast, inadequate programs and infrastructure lead to over-crowded shelters that may be forced to limit or stop intake, shelter staff fatigue, increased disease transmission, and in some cases, threats to public safety.

But our hard-working animal care and sheltering professionals are resilient, resourceful, and always make the most of what they get. Just imagine the lives they could save, and the long-term planning and sheltering capacity building that could be achieved within just a few years if these bills pass!

The Bottom Line

Animal wellbeing is inextricably linked with human wellbeing. And investing in New Mexico’s animal protection infrastructure will pay dividends for our animals, communities, and landscapes for years to come.

APV is grateful to all our supporters who enable us to pursue this life-changing work of passing legislation to protect animals and the communities where they dwell. Stay with us as we head into the 2025 session—our work isn’t done, and we can’t do it without you.

(Continued)

“One of the most common arguments I hear against funding for animal shelters is that the money should be spent on human issues, such as children and veterans. And I can passionately say that animal issues and human issues are one and the same. There is not an animal in crisis that does not have a human in crisis behind that animal.”

Stacie Voss, Animal Welfare Director, Farmington Regional Animal Shelter and Chair of the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine’s Animal Sheltering Committee, testifying before legislators in favor of establishing an Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

APV 2025 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW



SAVE THE DATE

Animal Protection Lobby Day
February 27, 2025

Every day is a day when Animal Protection Voters (APV) looks towards the future and how we can make humane the new normal in New Mexico. That's why, since the close of the 2024 legislative "short" session, we've been busy preparing for the upcoming 2025 "long" session, which will begin on Tuesday, January 21.

Short Session vs Long Session

During even-numbered years, like 2024, New Mexico's legislators have just 30 days to pass laws and can only consider specific types of bills. As required by the State Constitution, "short" session bills must be related to fiscal measures, such as the state budget and appropriations, be placed on

the agenda by the Governor, or be a bill that was vetoed in the previous session. By contrast, the 60-day "long" session, which occurs in odd-numbered years, allows legislators to consider any and all bills without the limitations imposed on the short sessions.

Since the adjournment of the 2024 session last February, Animal Protection Voters has been working diligently on several bills, including legislation focused on establishing long-term, sustained funding streams available for animal programs and projects across the state. Below is a preview of legislation that we hope to see introduced in the 2025 session.

Join us for an advocacy-filled day that will allow you to make your voice heard on behalf of animals. By engaging with legislators and supporting pro-animal bills, you have the power to make humane the new normal in New Mexico.

Thank you for being an Animal Protection Voter!

★ Establishing an Animal Welfare Trust Fund

In 2024, House Bill 191 provided for the establishment of an Animal Welfare Trust Fund to generate earnings from investments that would flow to animal shelters for desperately needed resources such as equipment, supplies, and shelter operational support, as well as other governmental and nonprofit entities carrying out important animal welfare programs and services in communities. While the bill garnered widespread support and passed its first committee with a vote of 4-0, it died awaiting action by the House Appropriations & Finance Committee. Passing Animal Welfare Trust Fund legislation is an Animal Protection Voters legislative priority for 2025.

★ Establishing an Equine Welfare Trust Fund

New Mexico faces unique and growing challenges concerning equines, including keeping homeless and abused horses from entering the slaughter pipeline through safe placement with registered equine shelters and rescues. Currently, several nonprofits partner with the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) to care for impounded, surrendered, and abandoned equines. But appropriations for those efforts are sporadic. Establishing a trust fund is a responsible way to invest dollars today so that the NMLB and its nonprofit partners can meet New Mexico's equine challenges going forward. The Equine Welfare Trust Fund is an Animal Protection Voters legislative priority for 2025.

★ Promoting the Humane Management of Free-Roaming Horses

New Mexico is home to countless free-roaming horses. While these horses are often cherished by communities, in some areas they lack food and water and face degraded habitat. In 2023, Senate Bill 301 would have improved the state law covering free-roaming horses. The bill passed the

Senate but died in the House. In 2025, Animal Protection Voters supports bringing this legislation back so that the law covering free-roaming horses can fulfill the original goal of facilitating responsible and humane action to control population numbers and ensure that any horses removed from the landscape are not endangered or subject to cruelty. Improving the law protecting free-roaming horses is an Animal Protection Voters legislative priority for 2025.

★ Reforming and Modernizing the State Game Commission & Department

There is a deep need and widespread support for updating the New Mexico Game Commission and Department of Game & Fish. In particular, a diverse set of interests want to: create a nominating commission to select qualified Commission candidates for appointment by the Governor; update the Department of Game & Fish's name, mission, and scope of authority; and increase certain hunting and fishing license fees to increase Department revenue. Reforming the State Game Commission and Department to better protect New Mexico's wildlife and serve all New Mexicans is an Animal Protection Voters legislative priority for 2025.

★ Renaming the Family Violence Protection Act

New Mexico's law against family violence should be updated to recognize animal abuse with the intent to harm or intimidate someone is a form of domestic violence. The law should allow companion animals to be included in protective orders. Both of these changes would better protect domestic violence survivors and their beloved animals by allowing them to swiftly escape abuse together. Animal Protection Voters is part of a coalition advocating for broad reforms to the Family Violence Protection Act. Updating the law to better protect people and their companion animals is an Animal Protection Voters legislative priority for 2025. ■



Tribal Partnerships Thrive and Grow

As part of APNM's strategic commitment to ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion with respect to the work we do and the animals and people who benefit from it, over the past few years we have been steadily expanding our work with tribal communities. Thanks to the skilled leadership of APNM's Cruelty

Response and Tribal Affairs Manager, Ruben Lucero (Isleta Pueblo), and the determined efforts of so many program staff, this year saw the growth of our relationships with central Navajo Nation (NN), as well as continued work with our partners at Ramah Navajo Chapter (RNC) and many Pueblo communities.

(Continued next page)



Above: an attendee and her beloved horses at the September 27th Tuba City Equine Clinic. Photo: Heidi Baxter/APNM

Equine

2024 began with an equine gelding and PZP (equine birth control vaccine) clinic in Tse Bonito, NM on February 15th in partnership with the NN Veterinary Program (NNVP) and Dr. Dwight Hooton. Five stallions were gelded, and seven mares were treated with PZP on that frosty winter morning.

On March 1st, we arranged for an Equine Hoof Care workshop in Church Rock, NM in partnership with Navajo Technical University (NTU) and farrier Randy Saiz. NTU reached out to us to request this workshop, hoping to engage more of the younger generations in the traditional lifestyle of caring for horses. The educational workshop was attended by 18 community members and included a classroom lecture, one live demonstration, practical hands-on training, and discussion with the audience. This was followed by a vaccine clinic in partnership with NTU and Dr. Thomas Gonzales on May 24th in Pinedale, NM. Forty-five equines were provided care, including one emergency euthanasia.

In April, APNM paid for nine NN staff from the Veterinary Program and Feral Horse Program to be trained in the use of PZP by the Science and Conservation Center in Billings, MT. One more NN staff member was trained in October. Tribal officials estimate that there may be as many as 80,000 free-roaming horses on Navajo lands, which span parts of

New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and a small portion of Colorado. Horse population issues are regional and by necessity must be addressed across state lines, so any real solution must do the same. PZP gives the Navajo Nation an additional tool to manage horse populations humanely by preventing unwanted births.

Both the NNVP and the Ramah Navajo Chapter Department of Natural Resources (RNC-DNR) are actively treating domestic mares with PZP vaccine. Over the past year, APNM provided 35 more doses of PZP to NNVP and 50 more doses of PZP to RNC-DNR. Since many community horses are allowed to roam freely, contracepting domestic mares and gelding stallions helps prevent them from adding to free-roaming populations. Our year-round emergency feed assistance program that is available to all residents of New Mexico also helps people keep their domestic equines at home versus letting them graze on lands where the tribal range conditions are poor.

APNM arranged equine clinics in the Spring and Fall for the Ramah Navajo Chapter community in partnership with RNC-DNR. In the Spring, 57 equines were provided preventative care over two days by veterinary partners Dr. Dwight Hooton and Dr. Hilary Clayton. The second day of the clinic proceeded despite a sudden snowstorm that muddied the roads.

(Continued next page)



Above: Horses arrive for the Tse Bonito Equine Clinic. Photo: Nina Eydelman/APNM

In the Fall, after the very sudden and tragic passing of Dr. Hooton, services to 42 equines were provided over two days by Dr. Hilary Clayton and Dr. Clara Maxam. RNC-DNR attributed the slight drop in patients in the Fall to APNM’s extra clinics with Navajo Nation in the Spring, since those clients have otherwise traveled to RNC to receive those services in the past. Thirteen stallions were gelded over the course of these two clinics.

Even though APNM is a New Mexico-based organization that focuses almost exclusively on animal issues in this state, we recognize that to have a meaningful partnership with the Navajo Nation and to offer solutions that address the regional equine issues affecting our state, we needed to expand our work into Arizona. The Navajo Nation is roughly the size of the state of West Virginia at over 27,400 square miles. It is very remote and many communities struggle to access veterinary care. That is why, at the request of NNVP, we arranged two mobile equine clinics at the Western edge of the Navajo Nation in Tuba City, AZ this year.

At our Spring Tuba City clinic on March 1st, 55 equines were served in one day—APNM’s largest equine clinic yet! We partnered with NNVP and Continental Animal Wellness Center to have four veterinarians, two farriers, and their teams provide essential preventative care including 12 hoof trims, 20 teeth floats, 27 Coggins tests, and 74 vaccinations, as well as one castration and one mare treated with PZP vaccine.

At our Fall Tuba City clinic on September 27th, despite a scorching heat wave we nearly tripled our previous record from the Spring by serving 138 equines in one day! Seven veterinarians and their teams—including the NNVP and Continental Animal Wellness Center teams—as well as two farriers came together to provide four castrations, five PZP treatments, 19 hoof trims, 30 teeth floats, 93 Coggins tests, and 141 vaccinations (some equines received more than one kind of vaccination).

Companion Animal Care

Equines were not the only beneficiaries of our work with tribal communities this year. After RNC was adversely affected by a series of winter storms and community members had difficulty feeding their companion animals, APNM provided 1,064 pounds of food for hundreds of dogs and cats. Later in the Fall, APNM provided 1,044 pounds of dog and cat food to benefit animals in the care of NN Animal Control, including animals

awaiting transfer to rescue. This assistance was done through APNM’s CAFÉ program, with funding from the Bonner family. To further help expand the safety net for dogs and cats, APNM is working to secure state support for animal shelters across the state through a proposed Animal Welfare Trust Fund (learn more about the AWTF beginning on page 8).

Humane Education

In response to several requests from tribal communities for delivery of humane education lessons for young people, APNM has been thrilled to provide this critical service which complements the community’s recognition of the importance of the humane treatment of animals. In the Spring, APNM provided both virtual and in-person humane education classes to 1st-3rd, and 4th and 5th graders at San Diego Riverside Charter (Jemez Pueblo), and 4th and 5th graders at Santo Domingo Elementary (Santo Domingo Pueblo). Three of the lessons were taught in person by educator Sherry Mangold with a therapy dog present.

Other in-person special presentations included an expanded lesson on “Loose Dog and Bite Safety,” with a session “Talking with Dogs through Body Language” for the Sundance Educational Consulting’s Look Across the Mountain VIII

Conference at Isleta Resort, and a presentation of “The Link” to one 4th-grade class at San Juan Elementary (Española/ Ohkay Owingeh).

To further increase outreach efforts with tribal communities, in the fall of 2024 a tabling and information-sharing session was held with parents and teachers at Isleta Elementary to introduce *The Animal Connection*.

APNM is deeply grateful for our growing relationships with Pueblo and tribal partners. Animals are integral to the cultural and personal lives of many tribal members, yet tribal communities often face more geographic, financial, and resource barriers to animal care services than other parts of the state. APNM is committed to supporting community-led, culturally-appropriate, and humane solutions to the most pressing animal issues where we can make a difference.

Lessons included:

- Introduction to *The Animal Connection*
- Care and Responsibility
- Life and Death in a Shelter
- The Work of the Animal Care Officer: Careers in Animal Welfare
- The Need for Spay and Neutering
- The Consequences of Dog Chaining
- Loose Dog and Bite Safety
- Bloodsports
- The Link (the relationship between animal cruelty and other family violence)
- Sherpa’s Farm Sanctuary

Sheltering Needs Assessment

APNM recognizes that the health and safety of our state's communities is connected to the physical animal sheltering infrastructure and associated processes and systems that support it. Yet so many communities lack adequate sheltering for dogs, cats, equines, disaster response management, wildlife rehabilitation, and support for the animals of domestic violence survivors.

To begin addressing this enormous gap in infrastructure and services, APNM and its legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, worked with state Representative Tara Luján to secure funding for a sheltering assessment project with the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD). The representative contributed a generous portion of her 2024 GRO (Government Results & Opportunity) funding allocation so APNM can conduct a comprehensive sheltering needs assessment in the north central region of New Mexico.

The assessment will examine dog, cat, and equine sheltering systems, animal-inclusive emergency planning, wildlife centers, and domestic violence sheltering and co-sheltering capacity. Included in this eight-county service area assessment will be a comprehensive assessment of Pueblo and tribal nation animal-related needs for the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the 14 Pueblos that fall partially or completely within the district: Cochiti, Jemez, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Kewa, and Zia (Sandoval County); Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque (Santa Fe County); Picuris and Taos (Taos County); and Santa Clara and Ohkay Owingeh (Rio Arriba County).

It is critically important to include New Mexico's tribal communities in a comprehensive animal sheltering needs assessment because while those communities face the same challenges as non-tribal communities, they often have fewer resources to devote to addressing the challenges. APNM's Ruben Lucero began surveying tribal communities on their animal-related needs in 2022. The response rate of nearly 75% and the long list of identified needs—from addressing free-roaming dogs and horses, to lack of animal shelters, to the dire need for spay/neuter services—demonstrates that tribal communities want their needs to be included in a thorough sheltering assessment. The assessment report will also address challenges unique to tribal communities, such as the lack of official agreements between tribes and local government or non-profit shelters, leaving some Pueblos with no facilities for homeless and free-roaming dogs.

The final report is expected to be published in early 2026. ■

Photo: Heidi Baxter/APNM



CARE Program Services Advance in Scope and Impact

Thanks to the efforts of APNM and so many allied organizations in New Mexico and across the country over many years, it's now widely understood and accepted that animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect should not be treated as isolated incidents.

Instead, it's abundantly clear that animal abuse can be a leading indicator of other family abuse and violence. In domestic violence situations, companion animals are often used as a source of control and manipulation, and without a strong and comprehensive safety net in place, survivors often opt to stay in a violent home rather than endanger the lives of their beloved animals. This can and does often result in tragic outcomes for people and their animals.

Through its Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) program services, APNM has worked for decades to address this problem and ensure positive outcomes for domestic violence survivors and their companion animals. In partnership with shelters, advocates, state and federal entities, and private funders, APNM's CARE Helpline and associated safety net services have provided life-saving services for domestic violence survivors, ensuring they have access to veterinary care and safe boarding for their companion animals while the survivor themselves seeks safety.

While this approach has literally saved lives and met the needs of survivors, in recent years APNM has become aware of the nationwide trend toward co-sheltering, which is the practice of providing safety for humans *and* their companion animals by placing them in shelter *together*. In response to this more trauma-informed approach, APNM expanded the scope of its CARE services work in 2023. APNM now offers strategic support, training, and even supplies to New Mexico domestic violence shelters that currently offer co-sheltering and assists in the building of capacity for those that wish to develop similar housing options for survivors. Unfortunately, not enough domestic violence shelters in all areas of New Mexico have the support and resources needed to house domestic violence survivors with their companion animals. APNM aims to change that.

Meanwhile, because co-sheltering is only an emerging approach, APNM continues to also provide the kinds of safety net services that it has offered for decades.

APNM'S transition to a co-sheltering model has been possible because our legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, has also worked strategically to secure CARE funds from more than just the private sector, working with lawmakers to persuade the state to fund these crucial social benefit programs. CARE program services now receive a modest amount of recurring funding from the state's Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). To supplement these funds, in 2023 Senator Nancy Rodriguez provided an additional one-time appropriation of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2024. And in 2024, Representative Linda Serrato and Senator Brenda McKenna provided one-time GRO (Government Results & Opportunity program) funding in the amount of \$360,000 for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. APNM is extremely thankful for the extra funding provided by legislators, allowing for more robust CARE program services.

In the meantime, APNM will continue to advocate for an increase in direct, recurring funds from the state to ensure the sustainability of the CARE program services and co-sheltering initiative and to ensure that solutions are institutionalized at the state level. *(Continued)*



Victoria Murphy, APNM CARE Program Services Director, presenting at the Co-Sheltering Conference *Photo: Russell Hawkins/APNM*

A Positive Difference with Focus and Funding

As part of CARE’s efforts this year, the first-ever statewide conference on co-sheltering was hosted by APNM, Red Rover, and Greater Good Charities in March. The compelling two-day conference covered critical aspects of the co-sheltering movement, the power of the human-animal bond, and keeping people and their companion animals together during times of crisis. Approximately one hundred individuals attended the conference over the two days. The conference included speakers from animal welfare organizations, the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Albuquerque Community Safety Department, and CYFD. APNM’s CARE Program Services Director, Victoria Murphy, Senior Director of Community Partnerships, Daniel Macy, and Senior Program and Policy Strategist, Jessica Shelton, also spoke.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Daniel Macy. Panelists included Senator Brenda McKenna, Executive Director of Grammy’s Place, Dr. Celina Bryant, Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Nicole Vigil, Program Support Specialist of NMCADV, Shana Aldahl, and Director of Bernalillo County Animal Care Services, Misha Goodman. The panel discussed the benefits of co-sheltering, creating a co-sheltering environment within domestic violence shelters, expansion of co-shelters, and legislation.

Throughout 2024, the CARE Director conducted outreach to educate domestic violence shelters on current resources and opportunities to expand client services to include companion animals. This outreach has included conducting site visits around the state, documenting and sharing best practices, and assisting facilities in becoming co-shelters while supporting current co-shelters in adopting standards needed to be successful.

“It was the best and most informative conference I have ever been to.”

Co-Sheltering Conference attendee



As a result of the CARE co-sheltering initiative, the number of co-shelters in New Mexico has increased, allowing more New Mexicans to be with their companion animals during times of crisis. In 2024, an additional three domestic violence shelters began offering co-sheltering, bringing the total number to eight shelters in New Mexico that house domestic violence survivors and their companion animals together:

- Grammy's House** (Artesia)
- HEAL/The Nest** (Ruidoso Downs)
- COPE** (Alamogordo)
- Haven House** (Rio Rancho)
- Navajo United Methodist Center** (Farmington)
- Family Crisis Center** (Farmington)
- Roberta's Place** (Grants)
- Roswell Refuge** (Roswell)

As a result of APNM’s CARE program services and the state’s investment in this transition, 31% of New Mexico's domestic violence shelters now offer co-sheltering, ahead of the national average (17%).

Five domestic violence shelters also provide some form of limited co-sheltering services. CARE staff continues to learn what is currently available to New Mexicans and explore other opportunities to advance co-sheltering in the state.

Animal Protection New Mexico is grateful to its employees, partners, and supporters who help the organization pursue this life-changing work for humans and animals who are caught in the cycle of domestic abuse and violence. ■

“The support and feedback CARE provides has been beneficial in properly setting up the space for the humans and their furry companions. We have also been provided necessary supplies from CARE that I would not have known are important to have otherwise, like the need and materials to sanitize dog runs”

Director of Client Services of Haven House

Daniel Macy, APNM Senior Director of Community Partnerships, conversing with the panel at the Co-Sheltering Conference *Photo: Russell Hawkins/APNM*



THE LONG FIGHT FOR SPAY/NEUTER FUNDING CONTINUES

Animal Protection New Mexico, together with our legislative advocacy arm Animal Protection Voters (APV), has not shied away from the hard work necessary to help ensure the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine's (NMBVM) distribution of critical spay/neuter services funding.

Since the enabling legislation (Senate Bill 57) for spay/neuter funds was passed in 2020, we have been committed to keeping our supporters updated on what's happening, engaging with stakeholders, and giving the people of New Mexico a voice in the legal proceedings.

HERE IS THE LATEST NEWS AS OF NOVEMBER 2024

Staff Changes at the Vet Board

The NMBVM's executive director, William Duran, resigned from the board in May and has since been replaced by long-time executive assistant Deborah Schenk in early October. Additionally, the legal counsel assigned to advise NMBVM has changed multiple times in recent months, with attorney Sandra Gardner recently taking up the position. Going forward, Director Schenk and Counsel Gardner will play a large role in guiding the board on actions related to spay/neuter fund distributions.

Vet Board Rulemaking Process Underway

APNM actively weighed in on NMBVM processes this year, including sending two letters in early 2024 advocating for the disbursement of spay/neuter funds (which includes funds derived from Senate Bill 57 passed in 2020) to eligible applicants from the Animal Care and Facility Fund (ACFF), which is overseen by NMBVM. However, the NMBVM determined in early spring 2024 that they needed to promulgate rules for the disbursement of funds from the ACFF.

In subsequent months, APNM monitored the rulemaking process, studied the proposed rules, and submitted written comments for the public hearing that was to take place in person and via Zoom on September 11, 2024. Technical

difficulties suspended the hearing and a new hearing was scheduled for November 20, 2024. APNM resubmitted its comments, attended the November hearing, and made oral comments at the hearing, underscoring the urgency of the written comments. Specifically, APNM urged the NMBVM to make clear in the rules that municipal and county shelters and euthanasia agencies did not have to certify income and that their services would be provided to the entire community. APNM's proposed changes were accepted and drafted into the rules. *APNM is pleased to report that the amended rules were passed unanimously by NMBVM on November 20 and go into effect 30 days from the vote. APNM will continue to monitor the activities of the NMBVM and advocate for immediate disbursement of spay/neuter funds from the ACFF.*

Other NMBVM activities for late 2024 include proposed rules for raising most licensing fees for those licensees regulated by the vet board, and amending emergency services requirements so that veterinary facilities must only make information about emergency care services available and will not be required to provide that care or have a referral system in place.

APNM continues to correspond with the NMBVM on the Board's other duties set out in state law, namely the Animal Sheltering Act—including development of, and compliance with, a more robust inspection and complaints system for the state's regulated animal shelters. *(Continued)*

Photo: AdobeStock

APV Won Direct Involvement in the SB 57 Lawsuit

Over the last four years, APV has relentlessly defended the law enacted by Senate Bill 57, which increased registration fees paid by pet food manufacturers selling their products in New Mexico to fund statewide spay/neuter services. But those funds have been held up in large part due to a lawsuit brought by pet industry groups and their allies shortly after the bill’s passage, challenging the law as unconstitutional.

In April 2024, APV filed a motion to intervene in the lawsuit, which would allow us to support and strengthen the State’s legal arguments toward upholding the law created by SB 57. In July 2024, Judge Matthew Wilson granted that motion (alongside co-intervening group, Española Humane), and we subsequently filed a counterclaim for declaratory judgment,

asserting and proactively urging the Judge to rule that SB 57 is indeed constitutional and should be upheld.

Going forward, APV will continue vigorously arguing on behalf of spay/neuter providers and New Mexicans who care about animals, a perspective not previously heard in the case. While we can’t predict when the case will conclude, we can say APV is now in position to go toe-to-toe with those bent on undermining access to affordable spay/neuter. ■



APNM’s humane education program has undergone significant changes this year. Sherry Mangold, our Senior Humane Educator and main presenter of *The Animal Connection* program, retired after 18 years with APNM. Since her departure, APNM has discontinued the in-person program and will focus on the online curriculum, recognizing its immense potential to reach more educators and children in New Mexico.

“*The Animal Connection’s* mission and goals remain the same,” says César Díaz, APNM’s Education and Outreach Director. “We help shape a generation of New Mexicans to effectively and compassionately care for animals and each other. With an added emphasis on providing support for educators using the virtual curriculum, teachers can easily integrate *The Animal Connection* into their existing lesson plans.”

In 2024, César has concentrated on expanding outreach to better inform educators and community leaders about the importance of providing teachers with tools that enhance academic achievement and raise community awareness of animal welfare issues.

His efforts have included joining the executive board of the Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) to establish relationships with other humane educators and organizations nationally. César has also presented on *The Animal Connection* at two prominent New Mexico conferences: Animal Humane’s New Mexico Humane Conference and the University of New Mexico’s Social-Emotional Learning Institute to promote the program to more New Mexico educators and supporters.

Coinciding with this program shift, César rebranded *The Animal Connection* website to better target teachers. The new website

The Animal Connection Sees Exciting Changes

focuses on factors such as social-emotional learning tactics and problems of practice that inform teachers how the curriculum benefits their students and community. APNM is excited about this new direction and appreciates the continued support of its funders, the Bonner family, the Los Alamos National Lab Foundation, and the Nusenda Foundation. ■



Above: César Díaz, APNM’s Education and Outreach Director, presenting at New Mexico Humane Conference, 2024. Photo: Daniel Macy/APNM
Right: *The Animal Connection* info sheet.



Community Partnerships Help Animals *and Their People*

APNM's Community Partnership projects across New Mexico focus on meeting the real, felt needs in communities as we work to institutionalize services at the state level. These include companion animal care in the poorest counties, where few animal care services are available. We also look to provide resources for those who are

economically fragile and facing hunger, including the hunger of companion dogs and cats.

Throughout 2024, Community Partnerships efforts in Mora and McKinley counties provided funding for spay/neuter services and animal transport to increase the likelihood of adoption and decrease euthanasia rates. *(Continued)*

Vet Tech Kerwin preps a pup for surgery at a Bro & Tracy Animal Rescue spay/neuter clinic. *Photo courtesy Bro & Tracy.*



In McKinley County

Due to a generous bequest in 2018 from donor Valerie King, Community Partnerships has had the privilege of being an annual grantor to two organizations in McKinley County: Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare and the McKinley County Humane Society. These organizations are making a strong impact on animals in the county by providing spay/neuter services and transporting animals to other areas where they have a higher chance of being adopted. Transport offers more space within the shelter, decreasing euthanasia percentages and increasing the likelihood of adoption.

Community Partnerships provided:

\$41,948 to Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare in May.

\$5,000 to the McKinley County Humane Society in July.

In 2024, Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare completed:

400 spay/neuter surgeries with core vaccinations, and

McKinley County Humane Society transported:

554 animals and completed 456 adoptions.

CAFÉ

Keeping animals out of shelters and in homes is the reason behind our CAFÉ project, generously funded by the Bonner family. Small grants provided to organizations across New Mexico are used to purchase food for vulnerable cats and dogs, providing great relief to families who want to remain just that—a family.

In 2024, APNM awarded a total of **\$20,000 in grants to:**

- Ramah Navajo Chapter
- Navajo Nation Animal Control
- ACTion Program for Animals
- Friends of Estancia Valley Animals
- New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers
- Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico
- Guadalupe Community Development Corporation
- Los Suenos Community Giving

Plant Based Eating Support

Now in our seventh year in partnership, our Promoting Plant-Based Eating program and MoGro Mobile Grocery remain committed to improving the well-being of vulnerable New Mexicans by inspiring people to think deeply about sustainable and healthy dietary choices.

To date in 2024, we have delivered:

300 bags of plant-based produce to the Ramah Navajo Chapter, serving Navajo elders and home-bound individuals. This program's success displays our commitment to improving the well-being of vulnerable, food insecure New Mexicans who face extremely limited access to fresh, healthy foods.

The bags delivered by MoGro contain fresh, locally sourced produce and culturally appropriate plant-based pantry staples, many from BIPOC farmers in New Mexico. Thanks to the Karuna Foundation for their generous funding of this project.

In Mora County

Through the generosity of an APNM donor, Community Partnerships can provide **\$30,000 annually to the Las Vegas-San Miguel Veterinary Hospital for subsidized spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations** for dogs and cats in eleven designated zip codes in the region.

In 2024, the Las Vegas-San Miguel Veterinary Hospital completed:

126 spay/neuter surgeries, including core vaccinations. ■

These efforts and outcomes underscore APNM's commitment to community. A community is only as healthy as its most vulnerable humans and animals. Let's continue to work together for abundant health for all. Thanks to our generous donors who help make this happen.

Two sisters with their dog at a Bro & Tracy Animal Rescue spay/neuter clinic. *Photo courtesy Bro & Tracy.*



ALBUQUERQUE: APNM co-sponsored and participated in New Mexico Beaver Project's inaugural Beavers and Beer event. Nearly 100 beaver-curious attendees came to hear from leading beaver experts. APNM later co-sponsored additional Beavers and Beer events in Santa Fe and Taos.

FOUR CORNERS: On September 22, APNM Chief Humane Communities Officer Judy Wolf and Senior Director of Community Partnerships Daniel Macy tabled at the Four Corners Veterinary Symposium. The annual event is one of the largest local continuing education events for veterinary professionals, and APNM served as one of the event's sponsors. Senior Program & Policy Strategist Jessica Shelton was also in attendance and gave a presentation on the New Mexico veterinarian shortage and upcoming legislative session.

QUESTA: In September 2024, APV's Senior Program & Policy Strategist, Jessica Shelton, presented on two panels before the Water & Natural Resources legislative interim committee: one recommending significant state agency reforms needed to modernize wildlife conservation in New Mexico; and another advocating for the creation of two new state-managed trust funds to generate revenue to fund animal welfare projects and equine shelter and rescue work.

OHKAY OWINGEH PUEBLO: Sherry Mangold, APNM's then Senior Humane Educator, presented "The Link" to a 4th-grade class at San Juan Elementary. Sherry's presentation reached 19 students at the school.

CORRALES: APV's Hearts & Hooves Happy Hour, sponsored by a generous donor, was hosted at Ex Novo Brewing Company in September. We celebrated our past legislative victories and shared a preview of our plans to strengthen animal-related policies and increase funding for essential services and infrastructure in the 2025 legislative session.

EDGEWOOD: APNM Cruelty Response and Advocacy Director Alan Edmonds and Chief Government Affairs Officer Stacy Sutton Kerby tabled at the Woofstock adoption event on September 21. This annual event was sponsored by Friends of Estancia Valley Animals. Over 30 animals were adopted at Woofstock.

Peanut enjoys a sunset walk in Roswell, NM. Photo: César Diaz/APNM

See cruelty or neglect?

Call **APNM Animal Cruelty Helpline**
877-5-HUMANE *We can help and refer*
(877-548-6263) *the situation to the right*
agency in your area.

CONFIDENTIALLY.





Mary Trimble

Animal Protection New Mexico will always be grateful to have been in the “orbit” of long-time donor and staunch animal rights supporter, Mary Trimble, whose legacy lives on because of her compassionate heart and warm spirit.

Born in Dallas, TX, she discovered a wonderful life with the “love of her life,” Robert “Skip” Trimble. Together they poured their souls into helping animals in remarkable and generous ways in both their home state of Texas and their adopted state of New Mexico. Skip, himself a force for enormous and positive change for animals, always credited Mary with inspiring him—early on in their relationship—to become an animal advocate. Mary was known for bringing out the best in everyone. From then on, advocating for animals and other vulnerable individuals was always something they both did with fervor, grace, and humor.

Mary and Skip lived part time in Ruidoso, NM, and were singularly devoted to helping the efforts of both Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters. Because of Mary and Skip’s generous early investment in APNM’s CARE program services (Companion Animal Rescue Effort) in 2000, for more than two decades, APNM has been able to help many hundreds of animals and their human caretakers who have survived the scourge of domestic violence. Also in 2000, APNM recognized Mary and Skip’s remarkable support with our Board of Directors’ Milagro Award for lifelong commitment to animal rights. APNM will forever be grateful to Mary for her life well lived, for believing in and supporting our mission, and for sharing her hopeful vision with APNM and APV.

(To read our tribute to Skip Trimble, see Making Tracks 2022 - Issue 2: : apnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Making-Tracks-2022-Issue-2.pdf)

Photo: Courtesy of the Trimble family



Kent Salazar

Animal Protection New Mexico was saddened to learn of the passing of Kent Salazar in September. Kent spent his life in service to his community and was beloved by so many people from a wide variety of backgrounds. His ability to connect with and support other people is something that those of us at Animal Protection New Mexico will always remember about Kent. His passion for nature was far more than academic, but he also brought unique knowledge and skill to his passion, having earned a degree in Biology from the University of New Mexico.

APNM staff worked with Kent in a variety of settings, including when he served as the director of the city of Albuquerque’s Environmental Health department, which originally housed the city’s Animal Welfare division. APNM will never forget Kent’s fierce support of its efforts in 2007 to investigate and ensure an effective resolution to what was eventually determined to be an avian botulism problem in ponds at a Rio Rancho golf course. Numerous ducks, coots, and other wildlife had been dying at the location over a period of many months, and the issue was not initially being taken seriously. When no one else would help APNM with the investigation, Kent offered to help, along with offering the use of his row boat and rowing skills! The NM Environment Department eventually got involved and as a result issued the first groundwater discharge permit in state history to include wildlife protection measures.

Later, APNM would work with Kent in his capacity as a New Mexico Game commissioner, where he served as a voice of reason for wildlife policies. Because of his deep involvement in land and wildlife conservation efforts, Kent’s life will always be remembered as being deeply meaningful to the betterment of our state and the land and wildlife we all hold dear.

Photo: Courtesy of Jesse Deubel

Encore Fellow to Enhance *Promoting Plant-Based Eating* Program



Welcome, Beth!
Photo courtesy of Beth

APNM is excited to introduce volunteer Beth Canton, an Encore Fellow who will spend the next year assisting our Promoting Plant-Based Eating program with a variety of projects.

The Encore Fellowship Program matches experienced and talented retired corporate employees with the non-profit sector, and Beth comes to us with over 30 years as a Supply Chain Project Manager in the high-tech arena. Six years ago, Beth adopted a whole food, plant-based lifestyle out of respect for fellow animals and as a way to achieve optimal health for herself and our planet.

Beth has been hard at work reviewing all of APNM's plant-based eating collateral, ensuring that our information is updated with

current data. This has been no small task, and this work constitutes the beginning of an online plant-based eating reference library.

Beth will also play a key role in the coming months as we work to encourage New Mexico schools to offer students plant-based milk alternatives and to help schools understand the many benefits of that kind of choice. Beth's tremendous research skills are a true asset to the program, and she is a natural fit for our plant-based eating initiatives.

We are thrilled that Beth has chosen to partner with APNM in her first, post-retirement year.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia

"I've renewed my [monthly] support because I am convinced that APNM is trustworthy and deeply committed to the protection of all animals wild and domestic in New Mexico. I am proud to live here because of it."

-Cynthia Seyb (with her beloved dog)

Photo courtesy of Cynthia

HELPING NEW MEXICO'S VEGAN CHEF CHALLENGE

GROW AROUND THE STATE



APNM's Promoting Plant-Based Eating (PBE) program recently concluded a successful collaboration with national organization, Vegan Outreach, to launch the Vegan Chef Challenge across New Mexico, making the state one of the country's most reliable challenge contestants. The Vegan Chef Challenge is a month-long event in mid-sized cities across the United States that showcases new vegan menu items created by chefs at local restaurants.

APNM and Vegan Outreach planned and implemented the events in the state's most populous cities, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces. This year, the Vegan Chef Challenge also welcomed Ruidoso, one of New Mexico's most important tourist towns. APNM and Vegan Outreach met with restaurant managers and chefs in all four cities to recruit and answer questions about "veganizing" existing dishes.

In Ruidoso, several restaurants were curious about offering vegan dishes, but they didn't know how, so APNM's PBE program manager provided impromptu cooking demos for various chefs using vegan ingredients.

Ruidoso was an exciting place to launch a Vegan Chef Challenge because, for the first time, APNM was engaging with those local businesses to help them realize the importance of providing plant-based alternatives on menus. Many tourists from all over Texas, Colorado, and beyond visit annually, so it was essential to approach conversations with restaurant managers such that they realized they're missing out on many potential customers who follow only a plant-based diet. For years, restaurant association surveys have shown that a

substantial percentage of diners, including non-vegetarians, report they are more likely to choose a restaurant with plant-based options on the menu. The Ruidoso restaurant managers became curious.

APNM's efforts in Ruidoso resulted in nine participating restaurants for the inaugural event in April, including a steakhouse, a Mexican and Sushi restaurant, and a local brewery.

All locations had never offered vegan dishes before the Vegan Chef Challenge, and the inaugural Ruidoso event attracted over 200 participants/diners.

New Mexico also saw successful Vegan Chef Challenges in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces in March, May, and July. In Albuquerque, many chefs were amenable to reaching wider audiences, including vegans. "It's an exciting and rewarding experience," said one Albuquerque chef. "A beautiful way to get out of our comfort zone."

Another Albuquerque chef said, "The vegan and non-vegan community really showed us a lot of support and love!"

APNM and Vegan Outreach plan to continue this year's Vegan Chef Challenge success across the state in 2025, and are eager to see what collaborations await us next. ■

Photo: AdobeStock



Let's Make 2025 Better for New Mexico's Animals

Since the adjournment of the 2024 session last February, Animal Protection Voters has been working diligently on several bills, including legislation focused on establishing long-term, sustained funding streams available for animal programs and projects across the state. The legislation that we hope to see introduced in the 2025 session includes:



- Establishing an Animal Welfare Trust Fund
- Establishing an Equine Welfare Trust Fund
- Promoting the Humane Management of Free-Roaming Horses
- Reforming and Modernizing the State Game Commission & Department
- Renaming the Family Violence Protection Act

Read our blog to learn more:

apvnm.org/lets-make-2025-better-for-new-mexicos-animals/

APNM YOUR GIVING MATTERS

End of Year Giving Makes a Memorable Gift

As 2024 draws to a close, give a gift that makes a difference. Whether you want to reduce animal overpopulation, provide ways for people to better coexist with wildlife, or help pass stronger state laws to protect animals, a gift to Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) and/or Animal Protection Voters (APV) can support a cause close to your heart, while honoring someone you love.

★ Did a friend or family member recently lose a companion animal?

A gift to APNM in that animal's name is a thoughtful way to say you care about what matters to your loved one.

★ Have a family member who wants to see our state lead the way with strong animal protection laws?

Giving in their honor allows them to be a part of the powerful work of changing laws that change animals' lives.

End-of-year giving is incredibly important in helping to promote our statewide animal advocacy programs, both those in APNM and APV. Our full-circle advocacy approach has demonstrated time and again that when we commit to change and work together, we can make sure animals are protected in every New Mexico community. ■

Give to Animal Protection New Mexico:
apnm.org/donate

Give to Animal Protection Voters:
apvnm.org/donate



Photo: Heidi Baxter/APNM



PO Box 11395
Albuquerque NM 87192

BIG THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!



APNM **FACES**



Nina checking in attendees at an equine clinic in Tohatchi, New Mexico.

Photo: Heidi Baxter/APNM

Nina Eydelman

Determined to start a new career devoted to helping animals, Nina Eydelman joined Animal Protection New Mexico's staff as its Chief Program & Policy Officer-Equines and Wildlife in 2021. As an attorney licensed to practice in New Mexico, Nina brought to APNM many years of experience that have translated to and greatly benefitted our work. Nina served as an assistant trial attorney and a senior trial attorney in the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office over the course of seven years.

Nina was inspired to apply both honed skills and natural talents to APNM and its mission after interning with us in 2013 and 2014, assisting with the Animal Cruelty Helpline, conducting research on equine issues, and helping support the resurgence of APNM's Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) services. Since joining our staff, Nina has led initiatives, supported by other staff, to develop and ensure delivery of remarkable program services for the benefit of equines, dramatically expanding service delivery to Native Nations in New Mexico and even Arizona. Nina also has contributed substantially to APNM's long-term work to improve policies and practices that impact New Mexico's equines and wildlife.

Nina enjoys exploring, discovering, and hiking in the many inspiring landscapes the Southwest has to offer, as well as expressing creatively through painting and writing. Nina shares a home with two adorable rescue cats who often show up on zoom meetings as busy "staff assistants."