



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

# Barks and Mews

April 2014 Newsletter



## The Importance of Identification

Newspapers are full of heart-warming stories of family pets finding their way home across great distances, usually with the aid of microchips, to be reunited with tearful family members. Even family cats. Although we may think these devices and identification tags unnecessary in our small, rural, well-acquainted New Mexico town, they really do serve the same purpose even at our small scale.

Just the other day, long-time APAS member Dave Love told me about a lost dog he and his wife, Jane, discovered Sunday evening. A very friendly female pitbull showed up in their yard with no id, not even a collar. This is the way many stray dogs arrive at shelters or they have a collar but no tags. The pitbull they found "was very sweet and obviously just wanted to come inside." They felt she had to belong to somebody. So they kept her on the porch overnight and spent much of the next morning walking the neighborhood trying to find her owner. It wasn't until Jane was at the laundromat later that day that she saw the poster for the lost dog. It was the dog she and Dave had! She quickly called the number on the poster, and shortly thereafter tearful family members were reunited with a happy dog. She was a pampered, inside dog alright. Thank goodness the family thought to put up posters.

Not all lost dog stories turn out with a happy ending, however, and owners need to take action to ensure their pet is properly identified. A microchip is the best, most permanent way to ensure your pet gets back home, and they cost \$43-\$61 (without the office visit) at the vets here in Socorro. However, simple identification tags can serve the same purpose, as long as they stay attached to your dog or cat.

There are some things you can do if your pet goes missing:

- 1) Contact the Socorro Animal Shelter and file a lost pet report. The phone number is 575-838-3103.
- 2) Make posters and put them around the area where your pet was last seen. Animal Humane New Mexico and other websites offer templates for lost pet posters. Just add a photo and your pet's information. [http://animalhumanenm.org/pets/resources/lost\\_and\\_found/](http://animalhumanenm.org/pets/resources/lost_and_found/)
- 3) Contact the veterinary offices in town to let them know you have a missing pet and post a flyer there as well. If someone does find your pet, they may take it to the shelter or a veterinarian's office to see if it has a microchip to scan.
- 4) Look for your animal and let others out in the neighborhood know about your pet. Other dog walkers are a great resource as they are usually very familiar with the area and the dogs around.
- 5) Lastly, try offering a reward. This worked for a neighbor when we lived in Tucson. A relative of the person who found the dog called to say the dog had been found and claimed the reward.

Shelters are full of stray dogs with no identification or way to reconnect them to their owners. If a microchip is too costly, get an engraved id tag with the dog's name and your phone number. At the very least, put the rabies tag on the collar. This is another way to trace the animal. Just make sure Fido and Fluffy have some id!

# A Mannerly Dog

*Jan Gribble ©2012*

Manners and obedience are two separate things. Unfortunately, most obedience instructors focus solely on obedience when what dog owners really want is manners.

So, what is the difference between obedience and manners? Quite simply, the difference is whether or not one has to “tell” the dog how to behave. An obedient dog will take direction from its owner: come when called, sit, down and stay when directed. For example, you can teach an obedience trained dog not to jump on people by always telling the dog to sit as it approaches a person. However, a mannerly dog understands that not jumping on people does not require being told to “sit” and is not contingent upon the owner’s presence.



While I require both manners and obedience from my dogs, I also recognize that many dog owners simply are not going to invest the time and energy into obedience training their dogs. However, most do want their dogs to exhibit manners and are willing to teach those basics if they are provided with easy to follow instructions on how to accomplish that training.

Teaching a dog not to jump on people is easy IF there is consistency in what is expected and allowed. Make it easy for the dog to be successful and to get positive attention for not jumping and make it difficult for the dog to do the wrong thing.

Since the goal is to teach the dog manners, there is no command associated with this exercise and the only words used are those of praise.

The reasons dogs begin to jump on people are varied. The reasons dogs continue to jump can be condensed down to one – the dog has found the consequence to the behavior reinforcing. Therefore, in this case it isn’t as important to know why the dog began to jump but only to know how to make the behavior unrewarding. To teach your dog that putting his front feet on people is unacceptable, you must first be committed to being consistent about not allowing the behavior. This is another exercise where you are teaching a “default” behavior which is not contingent upon a verbal cue. If there are times when you don’t mind if your dog jumps on you, you can teach this behavior on cue AFTER you have first stopped him from jumping on anyone at any time.

If your dog jumps on family members at home, simply cross your arms and walk into your dog. It is difficult for your dog to jump when he is trying to back up at the same time. Do not look at, talk to or pet your dog unless all four feet are on the ground. Using your hands to push away the dog is perceived by the dog to be a positive, not negative, gesture. Keep your hands off your dog! Attention is only given to your dog when all four feet are on the ground. (This also means that if you are seated, the dog is never allowed to put its front feet on you.)

When anyone comes over to visit put your dog on a leash or if you are walking your dog (your dog is on a

leash, right?) and someone approaches, you can use the leash to control any attempts to jump. With your dog close to you, simply let the leash between you and your dog touch the ground and then stand on it. If your dog attempts to jump, he will self-correct himself. You can then tell the visitor or person approaching to only talk to and pet your dog if all four feet are on the ground.

If you start to pet your dog, and he starts to jump up, immediately turn around and leave or cross your arms and walk into him. If someone else is petting your dog, tell them to take their hands off and remove all attention from your dog unless he has four on the floor.

Repetition of correct behavior will instill manners in your dog. If you don't fall into the practice of telling your dog not to jump, but simply reward him for good behavior with attention he will soon learn that jumping is not allowed.

## **Dog Training Classes**

### **Are you interested?**

**APAS has the opportunity to offer two dog training classes this summer in Socorro. We want to know how much interest there is from our membership for such an event. There would be a fee involved for both classes, but we would like to keep the fees minimal.**

**The first class would be a 4-hour workshop, held on a weekend day that would focus on dog manners rather than dog obedience.**

**The second class would be a course held over a six week period, meeting once a week for one hour on a weekend day focusing on dog obedience.**

**Please give us your opinion, and let us know if you would be interested. Simply go to the following link, and answer three short questions.**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9G9NDDN>**

## **Pet First Aid App**

There seems to be an app for just about everything these days, and I'm still exploring this Smart Phone world. While reading the Albuquerque Journal a few months back, I saw an article for a new pet first aid app by the American Red Cross in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. Being owners of multiple cats and dogs, we have two voluminous books on the shelf titled Cat Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook, and one for dogs. They've come in handy over the years, but they're not something you want to carry around. So I was intrigued to check out the Red Cross first aid app for pets.

In searching for the app, I saw that there were a couple other pet first aid apps out there, but they either cost more or weren't rated very well, and a couple threw humans into the mix, but I didn't want to muddy the water. The American Red Cross has some credentials in the first aid arena, so I went with the one that was recommended. The download cost me about \$1.00.

The app is divided into two sections; one for cats and one for dogs. The first couple of categories focus on understanding what's normal for your animal and knowing ABC's, which they refer to often in the other sections, and stand for airway, breathing, circulation. First aid topics include allergic reactions, bleeding, choking, burns, car accidents, smoke inhalation, poisoning, shock, and many other things you hope you don't ever need. There are photos, videos, quizzes, and frequently asked questions. Most sections end with a phrase like "take your pet to a veterinary hospital immediately," but it is the next important step in first aid. The app will also use gps to locate the nearest veterinary hospital or pet-friendly hotel in the event of an emergency. There are sections on traveling with your pet, disaster preparedness, and winter tips for your pet. You can also put your pet information into the app with a photo, in case Fido gets lost you have that information. All and all, for the price of a dollar, I think it will be handy to have around should it ever be needed. Now I just need them to work on an app for "My dog ate \_\_\_\_\_" and you fill in the blank and it tells you if you should worry or not. :)

## **The yardsale is coming! April 26-27!**

**The annual APAS yardsale is our largest fundraising event of the year, and there are lots of ways you can help.**

- 1) Hang up a copy of the flyer on the next page at your work place. Let people know we are still collecting items.**
- 2) Bring us your items you no longer want/need. You can either call 835-0259 and set-up your own convenient drop-off time, or drop items off April 19-24 from 1-5 pm. Call 575-418-5979 or 505-440-9488 for help with large items.**
- 3) We are also in need of items for our silent auction. We've had people donate a travel trailer, boat, jewelry, art work, telescopes, and other fine items in the past.**
- 4) Come and shop for bargains and bring your friends!**

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

**The APAS Yard Sale &  
Silent Auction is coming!**



**Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & 27**

**8 am - 2 pm**

**901 Duggins Lane**

**From California, east on Otero,  
north on Chaparral to Duggins Lane.**



*Animal Protective Association of Socorro*

All Proceeds benefit Socorro animals through our spay/neuter program!  
It's not too late to donate. You can drop off items between 1-5pm starting  
April 19-24, or call 575-835-0259 for an appointment. Have large items?  
Call 575-418-5979 or 505-440-9488.



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

**Thank You!**



For your contribution to APAS enabling us to publish this newsletter. On behalf of APAS members and the animals we work to protect, thanks for your commitment to the Socorro community.

### Membership/Donation Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by email.    Yes        No

Individual Membership \$5.00 (one vote) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Membership \$5.00 (one vote per organization) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships are \$5 and each membership type is entitled to vote and receive one newsletter per address/email. Should you wish your donation to be anonymous, please mark so clearly on this form. ***Please mail this form and donation to: APAS, PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801.***

Donation:

\_\_\_\_ \$50 Silver    \_\_\_\_ \$100 Gold    \_\_\_\_ \$150 Platinum    \_\_\_\_ \$250 Platinum Business

\_\_\_\_ Other (Any amount is greatly appreciated!)

**Membership and Donation Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Membership Year is January 1 to December 31, 2014.**