



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

# Barks and Mews

April 2017 Newsletter

## New Mexico House Bill 123 Animal Food Fee for (Pet) Sterilization

Many APAS members actively followed and promoted House Bill 123 (HB 123) as it made its way through the recent legislative session. HB 123, introduced by Representative Carl Trujillo (D, Santa Fe), would levy fees on commercial dog and cat food products sold in the state. The state's Animal Sheltering Board (ASB) would distribute the funds to help low-income New Mexico residents sterilize their pets.

The proposed fee was \$100 per year per brand name product distributed by large pet food manufacturers. Prescription food ordered by a veterinarian, and specialty products from small manufacturers, would be exempt. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) estimated the fee would bring in \$830,000 each year. A few percent would be used to support the ASB's administrative costs; the rest would go directly to spay/neuter support. Estimating \$100 per procedure, this money would support sterilization of more than 7,500 pets in low-income New Mexico families.

APAS is very aware that spay/neuter support is a critical need in our state, where so many people live close to the poverty level. For instance, a 2012 study (summarized in the LFC report on HB 123) found that animal shelters and other euthanasia agencies took in 118,000 dogs and cats in 2011. Nearly half of these animals were euthanized that year, primarily because there were not enough homes for them. The

state spent \$27 million on shelters and euthanasia agencies that year—money that could have been usefully spent elsewhere if there had not been so many unwanted dogs and cats.



HB 123 received broad support, but to no avail. Both the *Las Cruces Sun* and the *Carlsbad Current-Argus* ran supportive articles. The *Albuquerque Journal* ran a supportive op-ed piece shortly before the bill's full vote on the house floor, and also included the bill in a list of "critical legislation" shortly before the mid-March

end of the legislative session. Unfortunately, HB 123 did not survive. It was heard and supported by the House Committees on Business and Industry, and Taxation and Revenue. After that it went to the full House of Representatives, where it passed on a 50-17 vote. APAS was pleased to note that Socorro's new Representative, Gail Armstrong (who replaced Don Tripp), voted for the bill. It then went to the Senate, where it was heard and supported by the Senate Public Affairs Committee. Finally, it was forwarded to the Senate Finance Committee, where it languished until the legislative session ended. Thus, it "died in committee."

We hope HB 123 garnered enough momentum and public support to be introduced again in a future legislative session.

—Jean Eilek

## APAS remembers Patti McLain

Longtime APAS member Patti McLain passed away on February 8, 2017. Patti was an accomplished artist, avid golfer, and dog lover. She actively supported Socorro's animal shelter where she adopted her two beloved dogs. Patti also regularly volunteered at APAS's annual spring yard sale, and you could usually find her helping customers from behind the jewelry display.

Patti and Phil's family generously invited APAS and the Socorro Woman's Golf Association (SWGGA) to organize and run an estate sale at the family home. The proceeds from the sale benefitted APAS and SWGGA, two organizations that Patti and Phil supported during their lives.



## APAS Yard Sale—Coming Soon

Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

901 Duggins Lane

The annual yard sale is our major fund-raising event for APAS's dog and cat spaying/neutering programs for low-income families. APAS currently covers 75% of the cost of the surgery for qualifying residents.

Please stop by and help make the yard sale a success. See page 3 of our newsletter for drop off and sale details. On yard sale days, please park courteously.

## APAS Officers and Board Members for 2017

This past January a slate of officers for 2017 was presented and unanimously elected. Connie Robnett became president, Jean Eilek became vice president, Stephanie Mitchell agreed to continue as secretary, and Mary Templeton took over the position of treasurer. The three members of the board are Dorothy

Brook, Jane Love, and Cecil Abel. The board extends its heart-felt thanks to outgoing president, Kitty Pokorny, and treasurer, Nelia Dunbar. The board also welcomes APAS members' active involvement in our worthwhile animal welfare efforts.

Find APAS on Facebook with the link, <https://www.facebook.com/apaSocorro/> and visit our webpage at <http://www.socorroapas.org/>

Follow the shelter on Facebook too, <https://www.facebook.com/socorroanimalshelter/> and learn about opportunities for important volunteer work

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

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



**Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30**  
8 am - 1 pm

**901 Duggins Lane**

From California Street, go east on  
Otero, then 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. Open drop off is Sat-Sun, April 22-23 from 9 am - 2 pm and  
Mon-Thurs, April 24-27 from 1-4 pm, or call 575-835-0259 for an appointment.  
Have large items? Call 303-842-0344 for pick-up.



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

**Thank you**  
to our business sponsors

Animal Haven Veterinary Clinic  
Beckham & Penner, CPA  
Indian Hills Farms  
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Sundance Gifts  
Thrifty Tienda  
Tripps, Inc.

### Membership/Donation Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Individual Membership \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Membership \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each membership type is entitled to one vote in APAS elections and motions and will 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 Business sponsor\*

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

\* Business sponsors will have their logo included on our Business Sponsors page of our website.

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

**Membership year is January 1 to December 31.**