



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

Barks and Mews

Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter

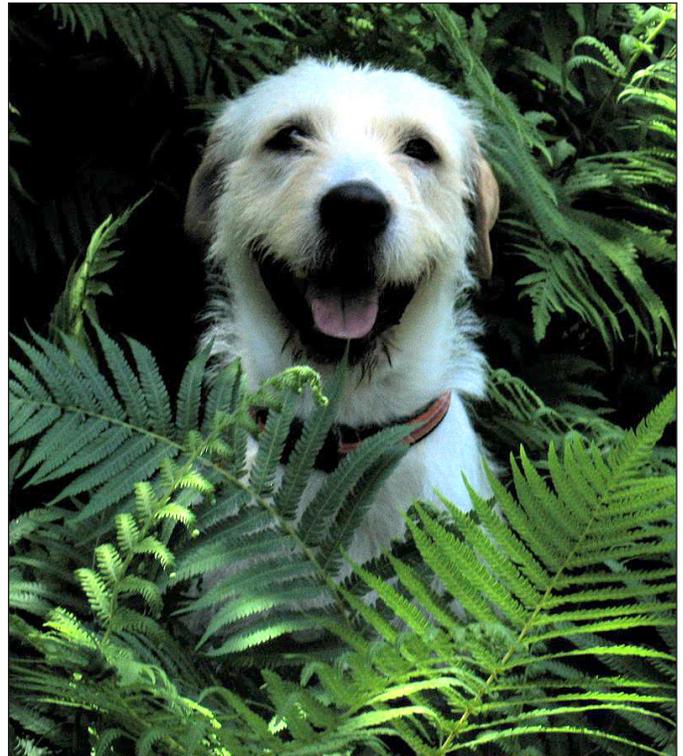
Dear APAS members and friends,

We hope you and your families have weathered the unprecedented challenges of the past two years. While many of us have had our daily routines upended, we've also found opportunities for compassion and charity. Thank you for your devotion to our community animals, whether they are your pets, or you're fostering a homeless shelter pet, or you're caring for some neighborhood cats or a neglected dog. Any act of kindness may be life saving to an animal in need.

Public APAS meetings were abruptly cancelled in March 2020; however, the board was able to conduct business via Zoom and at two outdoor meetings until the Socorro library reopened in July 2021. Meetings are currently open to the public at 5:15 on the second Monday of each month.

Your unwavering generosity this past year has enabled APAS to continue to offer spay/neuter services to low-income city and county residents. Over the past 12-month period, we have provided \$150.00 subsidized spays or neuters of 172 dogs and cats for 91 city residents and 81 county residents. APAS also paid up to \$200.00 for 10 medical emergencies. In 2020 an anonymous donor established a dedicated fund for homeless and feral cats to help our friends practicing TNR (trap-neuter-return). This year we've neutered 35 homeless cats. Specific donations made to this fund will allow APAS to continue to help these underserved cats and their caregivers.

This summer the APAS friends helped organize a successful yard sale July 31 and August 1, donating merchandise, pricing, as well as shopping. It was a community effort to restart APAS's fundraising events. The State of New Mexico was able to award about one-third of grant applications they received in 2021 from the sales of spay/neuter license plates and state tax check-off donations. (In 2019 APAS received a \$6,000.00 grant from this Animal Care



Our friend, Barbara, rescued Hula from the streets of Austin, Texas.

Fund.) The revenue being raised by the passage in 2020 of Senate Bill 57—fees on pet food products sold in New Mexico—has yet to be distributed.

Our committed members and friends remain the force behind APAS's successes. Your membership renewals and donations are vital to our humane work. Membership renewals can be made on the form at the end of this newsletter. PayPal memberships and donations can be made at our website www.socorroapas.org.

—Connie Robnett, President

—Jean Eilek, Vice President

—Norene Boykin, Treasurer

—Stephanie Mitchell, Secretary

—Rosemarie Murray, Membership Coordinator

—Kelly McLain, Lou Ann Jordan, Jane Love,
Board of Directors

Our community cats

Wherever you go in Socorro County, it's likely you will see the quick form of a free-roaming cat, or too often, the still form of one that was struck by a car. The problem of unowned, stray, and feral cats is a constant in our communities, and the number and size of feral colonies appears to be increasing. APAS receives calls virtually every week from individuals looking for assistance with capturing and sterilizing the feral cats abounding in their neighborhoods.

TNR, or Trap-Neuter-Return, is widely accepted as a means of stabilizing feral cat populations and is well-supported by non-profit organizations and clinics in large communities such as Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Small communities like those in Socorro County are not well funded, and our low population density makes a non-profit TNR clinic hard to establish and sustain. One APAS member has provided dedicated funding for feral cat sterilizations for most of this year. APAS is now beginning to explore other avenues that may help us continue and expand on this generous initial outlay.

Meanwhile, Street Cat Hub and Animal Humane New Mexico are two Albuquerque organizations that will receive and sterilize feral cats from Socorro County.

Street Cat Hub is a non-profit organization that accepts feral cats for neuter and return to free roaming. Street Cat Hub primarily serves customers in Bernalillo County but will take cats from outside the county for a \$75 per cat fee or when funding is available. For details and their application, see their website: <https://www.streetcathub.org/>



Leah with some of the homeless cats in her San Antonio, New Mexico, neighborhood.

Animal Humane New Mexico indicates that they endorse “TNR as the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies.” They provide free sterilization of cats through their donor-subsidized clinic. For details about their TNR support and additional information about the wide-rang-

ing mission of Animal Humane, see their website: <https://animalhumanenm.org>

—Connie Robnett

Support APAS—Shop

Amazon shoppers, whether regular or infrequent, can put their shopping dollars to work for APAS when they visit the retail giant through smile.amazon.com. Simply sign into your existing account and select Animal Protective Association of Socorro as your charity, or visit Amazon.com and type “amazon smile” into the search window. Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to APAS. Each time you shop, be sure that you’re on the AmazonSmile shopping portal. Instead of remembering to go to the site, consider bookmarking “smile.amazon.com”.

As you shop, go to each product’s detail page and look for “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” under the price. When you purchase the item, it will automatically generate a tiny gift for APAS.

These individual donations are very small but can add up over time. So far this year Amazon has made charitable donations of \$128.76 to APAS; however, as of August 2021 APAS had received a total of \$854.72. AmazonSmile offers another (invisible) way to support APAS, while you shop.

—Jane Love

Advocating for animals

If you need assistance with or information on an animal humane issue or if you have questions about legislative actions affecting animals, Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM.org), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and Animal Protection Voters (APVNM.org), a 501(c)(4), are important statewide resources.

Together these affiliated groups work to protect animals and eliminate cruelty throughout New Mexico and to promote animal-protection legislation. Through APNM you can find

- spay and neuter resources county by county;
- an animal cruelty hotline: 1-877-548-6263;
- humane education presentations teaching compassion for animals;
- an equine-protection fund helping people care for horses, donkeys, and mules;
- Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE), a network of safe havens for animals of domestic-violence victims;
- and much more.

As the legislative arm of APNM, Animal Protection Voters has been instrumental in the passage of many animal-friendly bills. Their recent victories include

- in 2019 Senate Bill (SB) 76, which bans coyote-killing contests in New Mexico;

- in 2020 SB 57, which establishes a new funding source for low-cost spay/neuter procedures statewide by collecting a small fee on pet food products sold in the state;

- in 2021 SB 32, Roxy’s Law (officially The Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act), which restricts traps, snares, and poisons on public land. A warning to those of you who will be hiking with your dogs this winter: Roxy’s Law doesn’t take effect until April 2022, after the current trapping season. Be watchful for traps.



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
NEW MEXICO**



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
VOTERS**

—Jane Love



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

Thank you
to our business sponsors

Animal Haven Veterinary Clinic
Beckham & Penner, CPA
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Raks Building Supply

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.