



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

Barks and Mews

October 2019 Newsletter

APAS Spay/Neuter Program Gets a Boost from the State

APAS had a very nice surprise this summer! In June we received a check for \$6000 from the state of New Mexico to augment this year's spay/neuter program. This money is a welcome addition: it boosts our spay/neuter budget by more than 20% for the year, and will enable us to help another 40 needy Socorro animals.

The money comes from the New Mexico programs supporting spay/neuter work throughout the state. New Mexico residents can support these programs by buying dedicated spay/neuter license plates for their cars, and/or by contributing part of their yearly income tax refund to support dog and cat spay/neuter statewide.

Since 2014, the funds from these two programs have been administered by New Mexico's Animal Sheltering Board. This hard-working, all-volunteer group was created by the legislature to formulate standards for animal shelter operations and to address the state's serious pet overpopulation problem. In 2018 the group was relocated within the state's bureaucracy and renamed the Animal Sheltering Committee. It now operates within the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine, from a small office on Jefferson Street in Albuquerque (where your author visited twice in person, finding very kind and helpful people).

The \$6000 for APAS did not just appear out of the clear blue sky. Several people in Santa Fe and Albuquerque worked hard to follow the money when the Sheltering Board moved to the NMBVM, and to help connect the NMBVM staff to the community-based animal organizations meant to receive the funds. Here in Socorro, we are especially grateful to Kathe MacLaren (an APAS member, now living in Santa Fe, who works for animals at both local and state levels) and Leslie King (Chief Program Services Officer for Animal Protection of New Mexico).



2018 PIT-D

NEW MEXICO VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE

New Mexico residents are supporting spay/neuter programs throughout the state by purchasing special license plates and contributing part of their state income tax refund.

While the money APAS received is very good news for this year, we can't count on this level of support in future years. License plates and tax refunds bring in a modest amount of money, but there are more than 40 spay/neuter programs in New Mexico, and they all need financial support. The Sheltering Board—limited by money and manpower—did the

best it could to distribute funds to these groups, but not every group can get funded every year. We may have to wait for the "pet food fee bill" (which levies a fee on large-scale pet food manufacturers and uses the money to support spay/neuter throughout the state) to become law in New Mexico.

—Jean Eilek

Facts About Parvovirus

Parvovirus (parvo for short) is a very contagious infection that affects a dog's gastrointestinal tract. It is often fatal, especially to young dogs, but it is also easily preventable. Here are some facts about parvo, and some tips to protect your dog from the virus.

How is Parvo Spread? Parvo is spread from one dog to another via direct or indirect contact with an infected dog's feces. The virus can survive in the environment of an infected dog, meaning a contaminated leash, bowl, kennel, bed, or even his owner's clothing and shoes could potentially spread the virus. Humans cannot contract parvo from dogs. Urban areas may see more outbreaks due to the denser population of dogs and the presence of more stray dogs. Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, American Pit Bull Terriers, English Springer Spaniels, and German Shepherds are believed to be at elevated risk¹ of infection with parvo.

Symptoms and Treatment. Symptoms of parvo include lethargy, decreased appetite, vomiting, fever, and bloody diarrhea. Colin Parrish, Professor of Virology at the Baker Institute for Animal Health, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and an expert on parvovirus, writes:² "If you suspect your dog has parvovirus, take him or her to the veterinarian as quickly as possible. There are diagnostic tests the vet can perform in the clinic using a swab or a fecal sample. If the dog is infected they'll be able to tell right away, and early supportive treatment will give the best outcomes." Meanwhile, infected areas of the home will need to be cleaned thoroughly³ with a solution of one part bleach to 32 parts water, in order to disinfect the area. Even with aggressive treatment parvo can be fatal. This is especially true for young dogs.⁴ They have still-developing immune systems that are often not strong enough to fight off the infection.

Prevention. The best way to avoid infection, long vet hospital stays, high vet bills, and possibly the death of a pet is quite simple—vaccination. At 6–8 weeks old, puppies can receive a combination vac-



Three puppies from the same litter: Miss Bambie Buttram, Miss Fuzzy Orange, and Miss Rose Alice Lane, without their brother Mr. Blue Boy. The four puppies and their mother were rescued in Baja, Mexico. One of the puppies became infected with parvo but survived with veterinary care. Credit: Photo by Wonderlane, 2009, CC2.0. Flickr, Creative Commons.

cine⁵ that protects against parvo and other canine diseases, including canine distemper virus, leptospirosis, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and coronavirus. Four "boosters" are generally recommended every 2–4 weeks until the puppy reaches 16 weeks. After 16 weeks, boosters are typically recommended annually to maintain protection.

If you are unsure whether parvo was included in your dog's vaccination protocol, consult your veterinarian. And if you are bringing a new dog home, be sure to inquire about the dog's vaccination history and schedule a vet appointment right away to fill in any gaps. For puppies too young for a parvo vaccine, consider keeping them in the home or away from other dogs until they are old enough for the vaccine.

Finally, if you or someone you know is having trouble affording the cost of vaccinations for their dog, consult your local animal shelter or animal hospital. Many organizations offer discounted vaccinations

for pets in their community, sponsoring clinics at local vet hospitals, vet schools, or in neighborhoods via mobile pet clinics. The Humane Society of the United States⁶ has a state-by-state list of these resources. The risk of a parvo outbreak decreases with every vaccinated dog. Keeping your dog protected from parvo not only helps her stay healthy, but also protects the dogs in your community.

—Connie Robnett

Sources

- ¹ Merck Veterinary Manual, <https://www.merck-vetmanual.com>
- ² Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, <http://www.vet.cornell.edu>
- ³ ASPCA, <https://www.asPCA.org>
- ⁴ The Boston Globe, <https://www.bostonglobe.com>
- ⁵ PET MD, <https://www.petmd.com>
- ⁶ The Humane Society, <http://humanesociety.org>

Humane Education Teaching Compassion for Animals

Compassion for animals is part of the broader human capacity to feel compassion or empathy for all life—being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of another being. Recent studies have shown a sharp decline in empathy over the past decade, and in 2017 Merriam-Webster included “empathy” as one of their Words of the Year.

Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) sponsors humane educational presentations that foster empathy toward animals in school children from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. The lessons children learn about compassionate care of pets they take home and pass along to their family and friends, and more pets are adopted from shelters, vaccinated, and spayed and neutered.

APNM offers presentations on a variety of topics. Their most popular are “Care and Responsibility” and “Loose Dog and Bite Safety.” For other audiences, topics include “The Link” (between animal abuse and human violence), “Read to the Dogs,” “Americans with Disabilities Act/Service Dogs and Therapy Dogs,” and more.

APAS has been working to bring these presentations to young people in our area, and this year we sponsored two separate visits from APNM. In June Sherry Mangold, the Education Outreach Director of APNM, brought her rescue therapy greyhound Whitaker to Socorro Public Library as part of the library’s summer children and youth program. The



Sherry Mangold with Whitaker meeting children at Socorro’s Parkview Elementary School in 2016.

small group of children, who ranged in age, came with their parents. The children learned how to safely approach a dog, and they loved meeting Whitaker and giving him a treat. They learned the importance of dogs having identification. Sherry brought a microchip, the needle used to place it under the dog’s skin, and a scanner. Then they got to scan and read Whitaker’s microchip.

Early in December APNM will visit the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Cottonwood Valley Charter School.

—Jane Love



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

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