



HSSNM "Members & Friends Meeting" with TNR Panel (Trap-Neuter-Return of Feral Cats) January 22nd, 2011

A panel of experts on the topic of TNR, Trap-Neuter-Return of feral cats, spoke at the HSSNM "Members & Friends Meeting" held at Encantada Park Community Center on January 22nd. The topic is considered very important by the community due to the high euthanasia rate of cats (85%) at our municipal shelter (Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley). And TNR is a measure ranked #1 by the No Kill Advocacy Center as a program for dramatically lowering shelter euthanasia rates.

Representatives from ACTion Programs for Animals, the Spay-Neuter Action Program, Animal Welfare & Responsibility Education, Animal Control Reserve Officers' Program, private citizens, and animal advocates attended the meeting.

Panel members (shown below, left to right) were NMSU Feral Cat Management Program director Michel Corella, HSSNM president Frank Bryce, ACTion Programs for Animals' president Michel Meunier, Dona Ana County Animal Control officer Joe Herrera and City of Las Cruces Animal Control officer Ellie Choate, and panel moderator MaryIn Zahler.

The panel provided a range of information on the topic, based on areas of individual expertise. They noted issues related to unmanaged populations of free-roaming cats with interventions currently used to reduce numbers. TNR was presented by panelists as a recognized method and program used nationwide and abroad to effectively manage feral colonies and a proven method at home on NMSU campus.

Our thanks to all who attended the presentation, to the panelists for sharing their expertise on the subject and engaging us in lively debate and discussion, and to the HSSNM board of directors for hosting the meeting.



Joanne Smith (front), Karen Mabry, Dee Kristian, & Bill Smytte (back)



Julie Miller, SNAP & APA, Janice English, SNAP



HSSNM Board Members Win Jacobs, John Jones and Judy Long