



*"Bringing the Community Together for the Animals"*

## **Press Release/Announcement**

August 4, 2008

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico (HSSNM) is holding a LifeSavers dog and cat adoption event—featuring adoptables from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV)—at the Boys and Girls Club, 330 W. Las Cruces Ave., on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At that time, the Club is also having its back to school registration as well as hosting a fundraiser with Las Cruces Motorsports.

HSSNM and the Boys and Girls Club are partners in the Roots and Shoots humane education program along with the local Free Spay Neuter Program (FSNP); Roots and Shoots is sponsored by the Jane Goodall Institute. Since January 2008, HSSNM has worked on a weekly basis with the Snooter group at the Club, which is made up of about 10 children. These children read and study "The Adventures of Snooter," a local children's book written by HSSNM/FSNP board member Vanessa Bryce, which features her rescue dog Snooter as the main character and talks about the importance of spay/neuter, responsible pet ownership, adopting from shelters, and more. The Snooter group also visits the ASCMV and Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary to get hands-on socialization experience with homeless animals waiting for adoption. When this group "graduates" by completing the lessons/sessions led by Jean Gilbert—a longtime humane educator, HSSNM board member, and 2005 recipient of a Milagro Award from Animal Protection of New Mexico—they take the story of Snooter to their peers and read/teach it to younger children. Then, a new Snooter group is chosen at the Club to start the process over again, which continues the important thread of humane education from older youth to their peers and the upcoming, younger generations.

Join HSSNM, the ASCMV adoptables, the Boys and Girls Club, and Las Cruces Motorsports for this day of lifesaving at the Club on August 9<sup>th</sup>! Dogs and cats will be available for adoption from the ASCMV. For more information about LifeSavers, Roots and Shoots, and more—visit [hssnm.org](http://hssnm.org). To become a volunteer at LifeSavers events, call Michel Meunier at 644-0505. More LifeSavers adoption events are planned for the last Saturday of each month at the new HSSMN Community Office at 403 S. Melendres Street, and the business community is invited to sponsor their own LifeSavers events. The more off-site adoptions held throughout our community, the more we can help reach our no-kill goal.