

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

## Las Cruces group seeks pet food donations

### Sun-News report

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LAS CRUCES - An animal welfare group in Las Cruces is in need of pet food donations to stock its pet food bank.

ACTion Programs of Animals, a new nonprofit, began distributing pet food to needy families in June, according to activist Michel Meunier, providing about 1,500 pounds of food to 30 families.

A July event brought in more than 70 families, Meunier said, and the food bank's supply is depleted.

The charity has not yet received its official nonprofit designation and can't seek donations from major national companies yet, so it must rely on community donations and food drives conducted by area businesses.

Meunier said one goal of the program's outreach is to dispel the idea that families that can't afford to feed their pets have no business having them.

"When you start getting out in the community ... you get to see the world is not so black-and-white," Meunier stated by e-mail. "... A person that might have been employed and making good money five years ago when they did adopt their pets may be struggling at this time due to ... any number of reasons. That is no reason to have to give them up."

The group is planning another food distribution on Aug. 8, and is most in need of dry cat and dog food. Other pet items and cash are also appreciated. For more information on setting up a pet food drive at your business or making a donation, visit the group's Web site, [www.actionprogramsforanimals.org](http://www.actionprogramsforanimals.org).

## You can help

Pet food donations are accepted at all these locations:

The Bean of Mesilla  
2011 Avenida De Mesilla

Better Life Pet Foods  
365 Avenida De Mesilla

Branigan Memorial Library  
200 E. Picacho Ave.

Calista Animal Hospital  
1889 Calle De Ni-os

Doggy Dude Ranch & Cat Farm  
1428 Burke Road

Encantada Park  
1000 Coyote Trail

Happy Paws  
1773 Sumner Ave.

Horse N' Hound Feed N' Supply  
991 W. Amador Ave.

Mesilla Valley Feeds  
1800 W. Amador Ave.

Mountain View Market  
1300 El Paseo Road

PetSmart  
2200 E. Lohman Ave.

Toucan Market  
1701 E. University Ave.