

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

Event aims for happier, healthier pet population

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LAS CRUCES - From tiny teacup poodles to muscular Rottweilers, it was a dog-stravaganza Tuesday on the north lawn of the Doña Ana County Government Building.

The Doña Ana County Special Projects Office, the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, Action Programs for Animals, the Spay/Neuter Action Program and the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico banded together to offer \$5 vaccinations, \$35 alterations, \$75 adoptions and \$20 microchips to hundreds of Doña Ana County pups (and a few cats) for World Rabies Awareness Day.

"Gina is getting the whole works," said Evelyn Terry, who was arranging for shots and a spaying for her 2-year-old pug Tuesday. "I think it's great."

As volunteers rushed around the lawn, handing out bowls of water to thirsty pups and bottles of water to their owners, Terry estimated the county project would save her "hundreds" in pet care - and was a nicer way to get the job done.

"You don't have to wait in a doctor's office," she said, "and she gets the opportunity to see lots of other dogs."

The event also kicked off a month-long drive to fill APA's pet food bank.

"It's good that the various animal groups are getting together," said Curtis Childress, head of the county's animal cruelty investigation team, who was manning the mobile hospital Tuesday. "If you want information, this is the place to get it, because everyone in the animal world is here."

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Missed Tuesday's event?

- Humane Society of Southern New Mexico Pet Helpline, (575) 523-8020
- Action Program for Animals Resource Guide, (575) 644-0505
- Spay Neuter Action Program, (575) 524-9265
- Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, (575) 805-5338
- Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley, (575) 382-0018