

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the positive side

COMMENTARY: Find love in time for Valentine's Day

By Mike Hainer/For the Sun-News

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We have all read a similar ad at one time or another. "Handsome and young at heart male who loves to play, trips to the country, even a quiet night on the couch for a movie and a snuggle. Searching for that special, lifelong relationship. I care more about you than how you may look. Accepting of others how they are today."

Oh, the hopes of a wonderful relationship with the most affectionate and attentive partner fill our dreams; the possibility of a loving greeting when we come home, ready to romp when we are, available to us when we feel down and out.

Then we realize the ad is from a boxer mix. Or the gorgeous blond is a golden retriever. The one that loves rainy days snuggling is the adoring calico cat. The young exotic female with enchanting blue eyes is a Siamese kitten. But the ads are truthful. They all are really looking for a long-term relationship that enriches both your life and theirs. They do love unconditionally.

Buddy up

Yes, dreams can come true. A second chance at love is available to you today — and your current human partner won't be too jealous. Hundreds of adoptable dogs, cats and occasional birds, rabbits and others are waiting at your local animal shelter, rescue sanctuary or adoption event. Waiting patiently for you to find them so they can give their all to you in a new relationship — a second chance at love.

Love is in the air

February is the month for love. We are meant to go out of our way to express our love, to reject being too busy to immerse ourselves into a loving relationship, and to seek out a loving companion during Valentine's Day. Companion animals love back. Unconditionally; even when we may forget to do so for a day or two.

If you are ready to explore the opportunity for a new love, then visit the places where you can find a pet that gives all their love to you.

No shortage

You may choose to visit the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley at 3551 Bataan Memorial West (U.S. 70 east) in Las Cruces, or call (575) 382-0018. You can also visit the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, where both dogs and cats are available for adoption from a sanctuary where daily care and affection prepares them well for their new relationship and home.

Adoptable animals can be easily viewed at www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net by selecting the Adopt page, or call (575) 805-5338 to visit the Sanctuary to meet your next love.

Adoption events are also scheduled on most weekends at both the PetCo and PetSmart store locations in Las Cruces. For times of adoption events, call PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman Ave., at (575) 532-5200, or call PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman Ave., at (575) 523-1154 about their weekend

adoption events, or just drop by the cat adoption center to see cats available for adoption every day of the year.

To learn about animal news in Doña Ana County and beyond, locate animal events and activities on the community calendar and locate other animal nonprofits and resources in the area visit www.hssnm.org or call (575) 523-8020.

Contact Debbie Hands at handsdeb@gmail.com if you would like to post an event on the HSSNM Web site calendar or visit dogcruces.com for everything dog and cat.

Wishing you all the very best with your new love. May it be more loving and fulfilling than you ever dreamed.

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