

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

“On the Pawsitive Side”

Welfare News for Animals & People
Sunday, March 23, 2008

The March 13th Sun News article “Shelter Fixes Need Time” would have the community believe that little or no progress is being made in our public animal welfare services. Here is the positive side.

City and County staff have completed national recruitment for an experienced shelter director. The interview panel includes community members and animal advocates. Proposals for veterinarian services and a volunteer coordinator follow the shelter director selection. These three selections could have a very positive impact on animal care and welfare at the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley.

Dona Ana County Animal Control Reserve Officer program continues to grow. The county is purchasing a mobile van to help address animal disaster response, animal hoarding response, and mobile spay & neuter services.

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico has renewed the PetSmart Charities cat adoption program at our local PetSmart store on east Lohman. The first HSSNM Dog Adoption event was held yesterday at the Farmers Market. These events will take place every Saturday at the Market from 8:30-12:30. Professional groomers have stepped forward to prepare animals for adoption events and the City Manager authorized the purchase of supplies just last Tuesday. This is the beginnings of life saving activities by HSSNM volunteers. To volunteer call us at 521-3642 or email memberhssnm@zianet.com

The Free Spay Neuter Program and the Spay Neuter Action Program continue to offer affordable altering of companion animals. The mobile spay & neuter van from Santa Fe has been a great success this winter.

The Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley has developed a customer complaint resolution process to improve community relationships. The complaint forms and the policy are available on the city and county websites. Dr. John Romero, DVM will begin an assessment of the ASCMV this Tuesday. Dr. Romero is with the Albuquerque Animal Care Services Department.

Years of hard work lies ahead. The City and County are regularly meeting with advocates and taking good faith steps forward. There is momentum and interest in a “No-Kill” community. Disagreement exists about urgency and strategies. But there is a very positive side.

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Look for the animal welfare column in the Sun News each Sunday.