

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE-Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary Thrift Store

by Lorna Harris-SHAS

May 31, 2009

What does your unwanted treasure and gently used stuff have to do with dogs and cats? The Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary (SHAS) Thrift Store is a major source of revenue for the operation of our sanctuary and we rely on your generous donations.

Even though the Thrift Store is located in Las Cruces, several miles away from the Sanctuary, it is a part of SHAS in a very important way. 100% of the profits from the store go directly towards the operation of the Sanctuary.

At our Thrift Store, you will find all sorts of unique treasures, one-of-a-kind knickknacks, furniture, books, art, gifts, jewelry, small appliances, bed linens, and clothing. If you have large items to donate, we are able to offer pick up service by appointment.

Safe Haven is a non-profit corporation so all donations whether monetary or in the form of goods, are tax deductible. The organization was founded in 1996 and has continued to grow to meet the needs and demands of the community for the re-homing of cats and dogs. We are the area's only "no kill" facility. Animal visits and adoptions are by appointment by calling the manager at 575.805.5338.

The sanctuary is located on the east mesa on three acres of land. The dogs and puppies are housed in large outdoor runs with plenty of shade. We have constructed a dog park where we work with the dogs on behavior modifications and overall training and the boy scouts recently built an obstacle course for the dogs to train on.

The cats at Safe Haven live in a large indoor/outdoor Cattery. Volunteers have made sure they have structures to climb and plenty of play areas. This facility is climate controlled and each cat gets much needed attention on a daily basis. We are severely limited by our size as to the number we can accommodate.

Most of our animals come to us from families who are no longer able to care for them for one reason or another. Some come from the elderly who are moving. Often, we take in pets from people being deployed with the military. There are many reasons and added to the list this year is home foreclosure and job loss. And, lastly, there is always the cat and her kittens dumped at someone's home, or the dog found wandering by the roadside or chained and abandoned by its owner. These pets go into foster homes before coming to Safe Haven. When they receive a clean bill of health, they are ready to come to the Sanctuary. If you or someone you know has the time and desire to foster a pet for a few weeks at a time, we would love to talk to you. It is a very rewarding activity.

Volunteers are always needed at our Thrift Store and Sanctuary. If you have some free time you'd be willing to donate, and you'd enjoy working in a friendly retail environment while providing valuable help for needy animals, please consider stopping by the store for a volunteer application or visit us on-line at www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net.

The Thrift Store is located at 144 Wyatt Drive and hours are: Tue-Frid. 9am-3pm and Sat. 9am-1pm. Phone: 575.541.4942. Email: shaspets@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Lorna Harris, Executive Director, Safe Haven