

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Opinion: Humane Society conference provides invaluable training

By Mike Hainer For the Sun-News

Article Launched: 08/31/2008 12:00:00 AM MDT

- To read the "No Kill Revolution" blog, click here: <http://nokillrevolution.blogspot.com/>

New Mexicans who are working in animal shelters, with public animal control services and for non-profit animal welfare organizations were joined by individual advocates and concerned citizens at the third annual New Mexico State Humane Conference in Albuquerque last week. Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States was the keynote speaker.

ASPCA representatives addressed "temperament testing" animals at shelters. Presentations in animal handling, volunteer program coordination, shelter medicine and other great sessions were made by seasoned professionals.

Attendees from all over the state received invaluable training and information as well as the opportunity to network with colleagues and people leading the way for positive changes in animal welfare throughout New Mexico. Wow, what a positive step forward for our animal friends! Visit www.nmhumane.org to learn more about the conference.

Doña Ana County has a new secret weapon for continued progress in sheltering practices in the campaign to save lives of healthy and treatable animals. Michel Meunier, a volunteer with Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley and HSSNM authors a local blog called "No Kill Revolution." Michel provides us with reliable information and reader opinions about saving companion animals from unnecessary suffering and death. Michel's blog examines progressive animal sheltering information, including real live examples of what is working. Ten programs and services in the no-kill equation will be featured. Each individual part saves lives, but when implemented together our community can rapidly decrease pet overpopulation, animal homelessness, and unnecessary killing.

Visit this leading resource for learning, discussion and action at www.nokillrevolution.blogspot.com. Michel's tireless advocacy and hard work is a very positive step forward! We also extend a big thanks to the Sun-News for providing this forum in spurring positive movement for our animal friends.

Mike Hainer is president of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.