

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the Positive Side

COMMENTARY: Come to the No-Kill Study Group

By Mike Hainer For the Sun-News

Article Launched: 09/14/2008 12:00:00 AM MDT

To view the No Kill Revolution blog authored by Michel Meunier, click [here](http://nokillrevolution.blogspot.com/) (or go to <http://nokillrevolution.blogspot.com/>)

Citizens concerned about humane treatment of pets and wise use of our tax dollars understand that our current public policy of "catch and kill as many animals as you can" is not effective in addressing our huge pet overpopulation crisis.

We appear to be killing more pets, despite the desire to be a no-kill community with a no-kill shelter. Some dogs and cats are being saved through adoptions at the shelter, rescue of animals to other communities and local off-site adoption events with shelter animals. Hurray for all the people contributing to these saved lives!

Unfortunately, this very positive element alone is not effectively decreasing the overwhelming number of healthy and treatable animals that arrive daily at our shelter. Animal control services and public shelters seldom succeed in reducing the killing without strong community and citizen involvement and direction. On the positive side, a no-kill revolution is gaining momentum in Doña Ana County under local citizen leadership.

The first No-Kill Study Group meeting is being held on Sept. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2000 S. Solano Drive. The focus is on the methods of successfully implementing the proven no-kill equation here in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. The no-kill equation includes feral cat programs, high-volume, low-cost spay and neuter services, pet rescue groups, pet foster care, multiple pet adoption programs and help to increase retention of pets in their current homes. The equation also includes medical and behavioral rehabilitation for pets, widespread public relations and media outreach, citizen involvement, organized volunteers, and the leadership of compassionate animal control and shelter directors with support from elected officials. An accurate description of the elements of the no-kill equation are available at the No Kill Revolution blog at www.nokillrevolution.blogspot.com authored by Michel Meunier.

Come to the kick-off meeting for the No-Kill Study Group and join Michel Meunier and the team of dedicated citizens who are rolling up their sleeves to continue our steady movement toward a no-kill community. Become one of the many people building a better community where pet overpopulation is controlled and healthy and treatable homeless pets are placed and retained in homes, rather than being gathered up, killed and disposed of at great cost to the taxpayers. Information on other animal welfare events, helping with off-site dog and cat adoptions and a calendar of local events go to the Web site of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico at www.hssnm.org.

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