

On the Positive Side: Guide can help with animal rescues

by Frank Bryce

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In my last column, I thanked the Good Samaritans, animal welfare volunteers, nonprofit organizations and government agencies for their involvement in saving animal lives, reuniting family companions to loving homes, seeking appropriate adoptive situations and stretching scarce dollars.

In the 24 hours covering the New Year's Eve partying and celebration, the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico directly assisted Good Samaritans who helped four dogs. This does not include information and Pet Helpline assistance. It was not a good start for 2017, but on the other hand, it's a super indication of the concern, compassion and willingness help animals in need. These are actions we can document, but are betting many more occurred over the holidays.

One dog was microchipped and a microchip scan successfully routed the dog home immediately. She had suffered minor injuries while breaking through a window to escape from the house she was in, probably due to fear of fireworks on New Year's Eve. Two dogs were found without identification and are being guests of the Good Samaritans, until hopefully the owners can be located. If you are missing a small mostly white terrier mix who obviously enjoys the royal treatment or a slightly shy, very bedraggled, possibly Bischon mix, call the HSSNM.

The fourth dog had much less acceptable circumstances, although it is impossible to determine the issues involved. A law enforcement officer observed someone on the Mexican side of the border fence push a small bag through the fence onto the Texas side and leave. When officer approached to investigate, the bag was moving. Having seen the worst-case scenarios myself from law enforcement situations, I can imagine what the officer thought he might find. It was, however, a little chocolate lump of a Chihuahua. Cold, underweight and with possible medical issues, the little dog was rescued by a caring person. Being late evening far from the officer's residence, and unable to leave the area, the officer enlisted his wife and her mother.

Contacting the rescues open and or available proved to no avail, as the holidays can be tough on everybody or any critter in need. Finally, through our Pet Helpline, a foster placement was arranged. Trekking down to Sunland Park from Las Cruces, the two ladies picked up the dog and delivered it to the HSSNM foster for evaluation and hopefully successful adoption.

The little guy seems to be doing all right, but is being checked out by a veterinarian.

These circumstances highlight the need for easy access to information for animals missing, found, ill, injured or otherwise in need of assistance. Another avenue has been added with the Doña Ana County and Las Cruces Animal Resources Guide being provided by the Coalition for Pets and People.

The coalition hopes the guide will be made available through all interested animal welfare website listings, and is now on the hssnm.org site with a link and also available under "Resources" at the website.

The guide points those in need of help to a wide array of resources for your pets and to animal rescue groups. Please check out this guide. Your awareness and use of it will benefit animals and the community.

Frank Bryce is president of Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested guest authors can contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.