

## **ON THE POSITIVE SIDE**

### **Las Cruces community gets involved in dog rescue**

**By Kelly Sweetser**

**Special to the Sun-News**

**January 23, 2015**

A want to give a big “thank you” to the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and Frank Bryce for helping me rescue a lost dog and reunite him with his owner.

While driving home behind A mountain on the evening of Jan. 5, my kids spotted a lost dog off University between the old state police station and NMSU driving range. We turned back and tried to catch the dog. But the dog was scared and ran across street. We didn’t want the dog to get hit, so we stopped trying to catch it. We saw the dog again the next day inside the fence of the old NMSU driving range. This time the dog ran into the golf course. NMSU was very helpful and allowed us to drive two carts around the golf course in order to catch the dog. Although some of the golfers had seen the dog, we could not find him again. However, the dog seemed to always come back to the driving range, but would run off before we could even get close. We spent the next two days visiting the driving range four to five times a day making sure the dog was still alive and trying, unsuccessfully, to catch the dog.

On Wednesday, I contacted Bryce, who was able to meet me and set up a dog trap where the dog seemed to always return.

My hopes were down after not seeing the dog at all on Thursday. The employees at NMSU had informed me they were surprised the dog had survived one night because there are two packs of wild coyotes that visit the golf course at night. But Friday morning the dog was back. He had set off the trap trying to get the food from behind without having to go inside. Again, Frank met me and he repositioned the trap. Early Saturday morning, to my surprise, he was inside. Finally, on the sixth day of tracking him, we were able to capture him safely. He was very scared and shaking, but also very sweet once you earned his trust. He had tags, was microchipped, and we were able to contact the owner who had also been looking for him. He had lost him at the medical centers off University Ave. and Telshor Boulevard, which explained why the dog stayed in that area. The owner came immediately and we were able to reunite them.

Without a doubt, had it not been for the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and Frank Bryce, this dog would have not survived. Thank you for not only helping me save this dog, but for all the effort and care that is put in on a regular basis to help save the welfare of all animals in Southern New Mexico. Note from HSSNM: Micro-chipping is now mandatory in Doña Ana County and helps ensure every pet is returned to its home safely. A HSSNM \$6.35 per pet microchipping event is scheduled for from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 31 at Better Life Natural Pet Foods, 315 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces.

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