

**On the Positive Side: Immediate pet transport effort paying dividends**

**by Frank Bryce**

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For the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, this past week has been marked by a much greater number of calls for re-homing pets, returning lost or stray pets, where to microchip pets, registering Community Cat Colony management sites, and seeking information on spaying and neutering availability. On one hand, this is indicative of the serious plight of pets and families all across our communities and throughout Doña Ana County. However, on the positive side, there is a continuing growth of awareness of where people with pet issues can get information and assistance, the wider cooperation of the various animal advocacy organizations and government agencies and acceptance of pet owner responsibility.

In recent days, through the HSSNM's Pet Help Line, five dogs have been returned to their homes or placed in safe foster for care and future adoption. One sweet little terrier mix was rescued from a busy intersection by a traveler on his way through town bound for Colorado. The traveler took the time to retrieve the dog, go through a number of calls until he got HSSNM's help line and was able to deliver the dog to the foster situation. The terribly matted little guy had no collar or tags, no microchip and not neutered but he has already been groomed and cleaned and rewarding all involved with a tremendous amount of love and affection. So far no owner has been located and "Sparky" will be seeking a permanent home soon through HSSNM's adoption program.

Even more remarkable was the recent cooperative effort of Action Program for Animals, Uncaged Paws and HSSNM to quickly and effectively arrange for a transport of 16 dogs and cats to adoption facilities in Albuquerque and Monte Vista, Colorado. Three cars of volunteers took the dogs on the four-hour drive to the Albuquerque organizations and meet the Monte Vista transport volunteers for the trip back to Colorado. HSSNM was contacted about the need to find homes for the eight puppies, Action Program for Animals had several dogs and cats ready for transport for adoption, which had not found homes locally over time, and Uncaged Paws contacted Sherri Prujillo, Conour Animal Shelter in Monte Vista and made the immediate transport arrangements. Thanks to Michel Munier, Action Program for Animals director and her volunteers, Kelly Barker, Uncaged Paws director and her volunteers, HSSNM was able to take in and literally instantly move out the eight puppies along with six other pets needing homes.

A silver lining resulting from their actions, and the photographs of the puppies sent ahead, is six of the eight puppies already have potential adoptive families waiting to meet them. Additionally, contact was made by Barker with Colorado Puppy Rescue in Aurora, Colorado, to develop another transport/adoption site near Denver. To facilitate the transport effort, HSSNM will be paying the low cost spaying and neutering of the eight puppies in Monte Vista. It is hope this sort of cooperative rescue effort will also expand with greater collaboration between all private and public agencies.

Despite the heartwarming successes like this quickly organized rescue transport effort, the plight of many animals remains ominous and the organizations involved in their rescue and other assistance provided need your help, so please consider volunteering and donating to the organization of your choice.

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