

**On the Positive Side (March 7)**

**Seminar to provide training about cases of animal abuse**

**By Phyllis G. Blazer / For the Sun-News**

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Most of the readers of "On the Positive Side" articles know much of its content is on work being done or what projects have been accomplished by the many dedicated and compassionate animal advocates of our community. Today's article is like the movie titled "Paying It Forward" in a sense.

Keenly aware of the difficulties and intricacies of presenting and prosecuting animal abuse and cruelty cases and cognizant of the relationship of these issues to family abuse and human violence, the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico (HSSNM) will be sponsoring a two-day seminar "Investigate and Win Animal Abuse Cases" on March 15 and 16, here in Las Cruces.

This seminar will assist everyone who is interested in bringing animal abuse and cruelty violations to justice.

This includes animal control officers, law enforcement officers, humane educators, animal rescue and shelter workers, veterinarians, prosecutors and judges. Participants are expected from across the state and southwest Texas.

The seminar will reinforce systems and procedures for investigation and prosecution that are traditional while providing novel, unconventional approaches that are also practical and effective.

The seminar encourages the participants to think, conduct smart investigations and make effective presentations of evidence. Participants should come away enabled to handle more cases and do so successfully.

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico has enlisted top notch animal abuse attorney and author Catherine Wolfe to conduct the seminar.

Wolfe brings with her an impressive career background in this area of law enforcement and prosecution and has presented material at several National Animal Control Association (NACA) Annual Conferences.

She has a dynamic personality, love of animals and dedication to correcting abuse and cruelty that should provide the "Pay It Forward" positive benefit for every community from which participants come.

Law enforcement professionals will be given priority for attendance.

However, the seminar is open to the public while space is available.

For additional information and inquiries about attending this seminar, go to the Humane Society's Web site at [www.hssnm.org](http://www.hssnm.org) or contact the coordinator MaryIn Zahler HSSNM at 575-647-1477.

Phyllis G. Blazer is a member of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.