

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the Positive Side (April 25)

By Win Jacobs / For the Sun-News

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The annual "Adoption Weekend" sponsored by PetSmart Charities is coming to Las Cruces next weekend, April 30-May 1. Staffed locally by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, at the Lohman Avenue PetSmart location from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, the event will offer both canine and feline companions looking for love in some very right places. Will you find a perfect match?

It is no secret that a companion animal walks a two-way street. Rubbing and stroking, variety of play and snacks, and quiet time together can give the animal lowered blood pressure, pain relief, calm self assurance (aka acceptable behavior).

The human companion who gives strokes and treats receives the same back in full measure, as well as better health through exercise, increased defenses against allergies and asthma, and even children who can put others ahead of themselves.

To strengthen the possibilities of such bliss, Animal Humane New Mexico offers some advice:

- Consider your lifestyle, and how you'd like your future pet to fit in with your daily routine;
- Discuss your views with an adoption advisor (available through HSSNM);
- Bring animals already a part of the family to the event to meet the "applicant;"
- Discuss responsibilities with the whole family;
- If you rent, review (and bring with you) documentation relating to pets;
- Ask adoption advisers for any known pet history;
- Be prepared to pay for adoption fees (and also license, spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchip).

Spouse, child, or companion animal-each must be shown love, not just told about it. Whether the pet's place is a spot on the bed quilt or a well-shaded run, the role as part of your family deserves honor as well as maintenance. Adoption must be not a whim but a mutual commitment. Are you ready to do your part?

Yes? Then come on down to Petsmart next Friday or Saturday. Or call 523-2080 anytime.

Win Jacobs is a member of the board of directors of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.