

## **ON THE POSITIVE SIDE**

### **Do your part with second-chances fosters or adoptions**

**By Frank Bryce**

**FOR THE SUN-NEWS**

LAS CRUCES — Another heart-warming story came to us this past weekend. A three-month-old stray little female lab mix walked up to a home in Mesilla Park and immediately the homeowner took steps to return the puppy to its former home. The rescuer, known as “Fast Eddy” for his interest in automobile restoration, began calling agencies and putting up signs throughout his neighborhood. Fast Eddy called a local rescuer who contacted the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico to scan the little puppy for an identifying microchip. Unfortunately, this little girl did not have a chip, and while Fast Eddy was scouring the neighborhood, another local resident told Eddy about a similar young male dog turning up in another yard. It appears the pups were from the same litter and possibly abandoned or dumped in the neighborhood. The question becomes what do these good Samaritans do with the unwanted puppies?.

If you become involved with rescuing stray animals, authorities have suggested the following: First, the safety of the animal and the safety of others is paramount. Do not panic and cause a more dangerous situation for the animal or yourself, especially if traffic or other conditions exist. If the animal is calm and friendly and you can safely get the animal under control, at this point you need to decide to take the animal to a local shelter, call animal control or bring the animal into your home. Regardless, there are options for micro-chip scanning in any of those situations. Micro-chip scanning is offered by local veterinary clinics, animal welfare organizations, animal control officers and the animal shelter.

If this fails and no chip is found, along with no lost dog report filed at the shelter, you can hit the Internet, post fliers and whatever you can do to get word out that the stray is safe and can be returned home. If no owners are found within a reasonable time, you can consider adopting the stray yourself. If this does not fit your situation, there are organizations with fosters that may be able to help care for the animal until it can be adopted by a suitable family.

Fostering gives an animal many options for survival and a chance to be loved.

From the time Fast Eddy found the first puppy and acquired the second young pup, these young dogs were well into a system that provides a second chance. By Eddy contacting the rescuer and HSSNM, a fostering situation for both puppies was found. Subsequently, both puppies have had their vaccinations and been spayed and neutered. The little black female and the brindle male appear to be boxer/Labrador mix and according to everyone who has met them, they are wonderfully social and loving pups. They are now in the HSSNM adoption program and will be available for adoption at upcoming HSSNM events or you can check them out on the [HSSNM.org](http://HSSNM.org) website. To become a second chance foster, please check Las Cruces animal organizations on the Internet or on this page to find the organization that best fits your interests.

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