

On the Positive Side

Busy summer ahead for animal advocacy

by Frank Bryce

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Closing out the school year May 17 at Loma Linda Elementary in Anthony, the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, along with representatives of the U.S. Border Patrol, Doña Ana County Extension Service, Calista Animal Hospital, pet advocates and military personnel from Fort Bliss in El Paso, conducted a daylong Pet Care Day for 150 first- through sixth-grade students at the school.

There were live pets and stuffed animals to help the students understand the needs of their pets and how to care for them as the programs covered feeding, cleaning, spaying and neutering, microchipping, vaccinations and licensing requirements. Students had also collected a pickup load of dog and cat pet food for donation to support animal advocacy operations in anticipation of the program.

Having that event as a kick off, HSSNM invites participation in the following activities in June and July. At 1 p.m. June 13 at the invitation of the mayor, City Council will host a work session to discuss the possibility of developing an animal advocacy committee to work with the Las Cruces Animal Control, the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley, local animal advocacy groups and the public on information and improvements involving pet care and public safety.

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico will be participating in the Doña Ana County Community Fair at the Radium Springs Community Resource Center, 12060 Lindbeck Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 15. We will provide information on efforts, programs and involvement opportunities. While HSSNM cannot provide microchipping during the event, an opportunity to have pets microchipped is expected to be arranged after the event ends. The microchips will be available for \$6.35.

A tremendous selection of stuffed animals and Hollywood memorabilia will be offered by HSSNM at the Tresco Yard Sale at 8 a.m. June 18 (no early birds) on 1800 Copper Loop, Las Cruces. The funds raised will support Tresco activities and HSSNM spay and neuter events. Tresco will be allowing HSSNM to provide microchipping for pets during this event.

The biggest event scheduled for early summer is another free spay and neuter event July 11-12. This event is open to residents of Doña Ana County and the incorporated areas within the county. Dogs and cats must be 3 months of age and in good health. There will be the opportunity for rabies vaccination and microchipping, which will be charged to the pet owner.

Registration is being accepted now and interested participants should contact HSSNM by leaving contact information and description of their pets at 575523-8020.

Pet microchipping for \$6.35 will be from 6 to 8 p.m. every other Thursday at PetSmart store on Lohman and Walnut throughout the summer. We hope to see you and your furry friends at one or all of the HSSNM events.

Frank Bryce is president of HSSNM. Interested guest authors should contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.