

On the Positive Side: APA's Doña Ana Pets Alive! Campaign: It's time for a change

Michel Meunier

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The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV) has an overwhelming task of saving all the animals taken into their custody. With this in mind, ACTion Programs for Animals (APA) launched its Doña Ana Pets Alive! (DAPA!) Campaign, which was created to work in conjunction with ASCMV in helping our community become the next No Kill success story in the United States and the first in New Mexico.

We have all heard about the issues the ASCMV faces and the help they need to make an impact on the number of animals saved in Doña Ana County. We are here to do just that – help rescue the most at risk, sheltered animals. We want to help the community move in a positive, urgent direction toward saving more lives.

We recently started with a first, modest rescue of 10 shelter animals: 3 cats and 7 dogs. We need foster homes and help with the adoption events we hold at various locations in the city every weekend (such as the Tractors Supply Company, PETCO, etc., and we are always looking for other locations and sites)

We have seen some success already. With just two weekends of DAPA! adoption events so far, we have found loving homes for 9 animals. Coming up this weekend, we will be having an adoption at the Convention Center on Saturday during their Community Garage Sale, and then we will be at PETCO again on Sunday. Our focus is on helping people find their match with a customer-friendly and service-centered environment.

During the initial quarantine period after we get the shelter animals, they are monitored by our veterinarian for health, and our special quarantine foster homes monitor their behavior. We then place the animals into compatible longer-term foster homes until they can be adopted out during one of our local adoption events or via many outlets of marketing we have in place.

But it does not stop there; we continue to provide support through counseling and training for our adopter's new lifelong companions. We also offer community education and assistance through vaccination clinics and the pet food bank.

Contact us if you want to be part of the DAPA! Campaign. We are in need of fosters, adopters, volunteers at adoption events, donated specialty services (trainers, photographers, etc.), and donations. Reach us at 575-644-0505, or visit us online at www.actionprogramsforanimals.org.

Guest author Michel Meunier is Director of Action Programs for Animals (APA). Interested guest authors can contact Humane Society of Southern New Mexico at 575-523-8020. Activities that promote the goals of the Coalition for Pets and People are of particular interest.