

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On The Positive Side: Help out Humane Society by volunteering time

By Frank Bryce

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This column regularly relates the positive events and actions being undertaken or accomplished by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico or the many other organizations and individuals working to help companion animals and their families throughout Doña Ana County.

Most often such events and actions are not hard to find and report as these are repeated many times daily, weekly and monthly. There are so many it becomes difficult to report them all and give credit where credit is due. And yet there is still more to do.

Unfortunately the negative incidents of animal abuse or cruelty and associated family violence can and often does overshadow the good work of the caring individuals involved.

The long list of the positive efforts includes free or low-cost spay and neuter efforts, low-cost vaccinations, free microchipping, rehoming, fostering, rescuing and adoption events, humane education, veterinary medical assistance, aiding and assisting city and county animal control departments, and improvements at the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley shelter. These good works can be easily overlooked when cruel cases such as those involving the recent burning and scalding of the young cats take center stage. Such cases, slow movement and resistance to change, and other setbacks can be discouraging but those helping animals and seeking to improve our community environment persist.

If you have been wondering how to best help the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and lend your support, please consider becoming a member or serving as a volunteer in HSSNM's county-wide programs and services. Positions on the board of directors are available now and vacancies open at the beginning of the year when the terms of two directors end. Inquiries can be made by calling our office phone at 575-523-8020 for information to talk to a board member about your interest or by attending events or board meetings to discuss your questions, ideas and experience.

We encourage you to strongly consider this invitation as a means to serve animals and the community by being a member of HSSNM board of directors. It is an opportunity of far-reaching magnitude, as reflected in our monthly reports showing the steady increase in numbers of animals rescued or helped through our foster-adoption program and pet help line services, animals assisted with low-cost or no cost spay-neuter services through grants secured by HSSNM, and youth engaged in volunteer work for the greater good through service learning projects that help animals. A look at our most recent monthly report of activities and events available at hssnm.org demonstrates and illustrates the variety of areas with which you, too, can be involved. Your help and involvement are needed.

Frank Bryce is President of HSSNM. Interested guest authors can contact HSSNM at 575- 523-8020.