

**On the Positive Side: Humane Society Says Good Bye to Positive Force  
by Frank Bryce, President, Humane Society of Southern New Mexico  
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The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico is sad to announce the passing of a unique and valuable member of our Board of Directors and a truly positive force for animal welfare in southern New Mexico. Long time animal advocate John Jones passed away on October 20, 2011 after a relatively short illness.

Born 1935 in Berkley, California, John spent much of his early life in California and Ohio. After serving four years in the army, John graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in mechanical engineering. He had a successful career as a computer programmer and software developer with Xerox Corporation. John had three kids, Mark, Mike and Laura, loved the desert, ocean, and cosmos. John built his own 42 foot trimaran sailboat which he lived on for several years and attained a master carpenter status in the process. I never understood from his description of the boat building experience how he got it out of his basement if it ever was really in there. John was outspoken, deeply thoughtful and weighed his decisions carefully.

For much of the nearly fifteen years I knew John during his retirement in Las Cruces, John served on the Board of directors of the Free Spay and Neuter Program before becoming a founding member of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. On both of these boards, John acted as the computer guru and never ceased to be amazed and probably disappointed with my personal lack of computer skill and teachability. He was kind enough to tolerate this flaw but very willing to tell me about it. John contributed to most every effort of both these organizations with hard work and dedication to achieving the organizations' goals. His compassion for animal welfare was extraordinary by any measure and certainly contributed immensely to both our community animals and residents with his accomplishments.

Most impressive about John was his best friends, Chaco and Zola, two loving and dedicated large canine companions that John quite simply doted on. Chaco, a well-mannered German shepherd mix, and Zola, a large, also well-mannered perhaps Chow mix appeared to be the other two of the three musketeers these inseparable buddies appeared to form. John's daughter Laura said John "probably liked dogs more than most people". I have always had a fondness for two edged statements like that and it is true of John either way you want to interpret it so it fits him well. The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, companion animals and our community have lost a valuable resource and John will be missed.

Frank Bryce is President of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested authors for "On The Positive Side" can contact HSSNM at (575) 523-8020.