

On the Positive Side

Cooperation among animal groups gets results

2 incidents show agendas can come together to help pets

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Two recent positive incidents deserve mention and recognition as it could be perceived animal advocacy organizations often appear to have similar but disassociated agendas as they strive to help our pets in need.

Rick Hawn, a volunteer with the Coalition for Pets and People, shared a note with folks about his encounter with a former rescue animal adopter. Rick's note demonstrates the importance of the web of cooperation between organizations to save animals that is actually more often the case than not.

His note said, "As I was leaving one of my favorite restaurants ... a women ran up and asked if I was the guy that had fostered Feynman. Feynman was a heart-worm positive dog at the shelter I had learned about via the Pet Network. With help from the Doña Ana County Humane Society Animal Relief Fund, I was able to get him the treatment and get him back to health.

"When he was ready, the broadcast was sent out on the Pet Network and social media that he needed a forever home. I got the call and took him over to the home of Nicole and her husband and it was love at first sight. A few weeks later they sent me a family photo with the new addition.

"This was four years ago and Feynman, now called Rio, and Nicole are inseparable. This never would have happened without the Pet Network email list and the wonderful people in our community and the ladies that devote precious personal time to maintain it."

The long term results reported by Rick elicited a flurry of appreciative comments from the recipients.

A more recent incident this past month demonstrates this web of cooperation continues with the re-homing of a robust 6-year-old male yellow Labrador named "Ranger" whose loving family had reached a point that they could not provide a home situation any longer that included Ranger.

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico was asked to assist with rehoming Ranger and a process of finding the connecting rescue strands started with posting Ranger's situation on the Pet Network identified in Rick's note. Marie Hallock-Sweet, a Humane Society of Southern New Mexico board member, working with a nationwide cooperative alliance of volunteer free transport programs, arranged for transporters, Rocky and Irene Eagle from Deming, to take Ranger to the Lovin Labs Rescue in Albuquerque.

Lovin Labs had found a new home for Ranger.

Prior to the transport and adoption, working with HSSNM, the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley provided low cost neutering and rabies vaccination for Ranger, which is standard requirement with almost all rescue and transport arrangements.

The threads in both reports demonstrate the Pet Network collaboration and cooperation working between local and national organizations supported by a myriad of individuals volunteering time and resources for the communities and pets involved.

And speaking of pets being rehomed, HSSNM will be conducting dog and cat low-cost microchipping events costing \$6.35 per pet every other Thursday evening, with the next event scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov 26 at PetSmart located at Walnut and Lohman in Las Cruces.

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