



**On the Positive Side: Pets and Santa photos cap a thankful year
For the Sun-News
November 29, 2013**

Santa Paws is coming to town. He's making a list and checking it twice.

That's right — our own "Santa Paws," the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico President Frank Bryce, will be on hand at two events for photo opportunities for your pet and family members.

The first photo event is at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 during the Cruces Canines people-pet social at Andele's Dog House, 1983 Calle del Norte. For Cruces Canines, admission is \$5 and door prizes and raffles are part of the event.

This event is in partnership with Action Programs for Animals.

The second appearance of "Santa Paws" will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 14 at PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman Ave.

A \$5 donation is suggested and all proceeds will be used to for animal advocacy efforts. Bring your camera to both events and join in the holiday spirit camaraderie of animal friends.

It's been a remarkable year for the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, thanks to your support. The pet help line of HSSNM provided for the community with an average of 100 calls a month, helping people find resources for animals in need.

By the end of December, the New Mexico society will have provided almost 1,000 spay-neuter surgeries in a little more than a year in the underserved community of Chaparral.

Our work in foster and adoption has increased significantly with the placement of more than 100 rescue animals (to date) in furr-ever homes.

Our cat-adoption program with our PetSmart Charities partnership and cattery volunteers has maintained a steady adoption rate with increases in other adoptions made possible through collaborative work with Enchanted Pass Rescue of Chaparral and authorized fosters in the community through weekly promotion events held at PetSmart.

Humane education saw an increase this year with the addition of two adult community groups to include Tresco consumers and Montana Meadows residents. Critter Connection sessions are ongoing for youth at the Boys & Girls Club and in public/private school classrooms, with community presentations arranged on request.

In addition to these accomplishments, HSSNM has maintained a strong and active role with the Coalition for Pets and People, composed of representatives from the animal welfare community working together to decrease the euthanasia rate at our municipal shelter through multiple efforts including low cost spay-neuter clinics and foster-adoption work.

The county and city animal control departments have received dozens of pet toys through HSSNM's Good 360 program for distribution to families contacted by their officers.

The return of pets from the animal control trucks and emphasis on microchipping's continuing success resulted in almost 150 pets returned from animal control trucks in October alone.

With the holiday season upon us, please consider a contribution now to support HSSNM's work for the animals. We know it's not easy in this competing world for dollars and it is especially hard for animals.

Please help with a donation within your range.

Any amount is acceptable because every dollar received towards animal welfare contributes to an overall better community for everyone.

Happy Holidays and best wishes from the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.

Written by Human Society of Southern New Mexico President Frank Bryce and board of directors members Emile Bourdet, Jean Gilbert, Bill Smith and Marlyn Zahler. Interested guest authors can contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.