

## **On the Positive Side: Celebrate this year's accomplishments**

**by Frank Bryce**

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This column by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico for the past year has focused on the positive happenings involving animal welfare, pet owner responsibility and animal advocacy organization actions. There has been a lot to report and it can be said it appears much has been accomplished.

During the year, spay and neuter events conducted by a number of hard working and dedicated organizations have strived in similar efforts aided by the Doña Ana County and PetSmart Charities to provide low cost services throughout the county with significant success.

The pet microchip program probably approaches nearly 3,000 pets microchipped when all involved organizations, veterinary clinics and events are totaled for this year.

Off-site adoptions with all the logistics involving transporting, along with the bathing, barking and tail wagging, the shelter adoptions, the rehoming of pets and the rescues achieved have undoubtedly hit all time highs.

All these efforts contribute to a happier holiday and anticipated brighter new year for pets, people and agencies. Our sincere thanks to all involved and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and great new year.

If Santa or any of his elves, support staff, or cohorts are reading this article, the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico wish list asks the following for our companion animals. If your pet is not yet spayed or neutered, please do so as soon as possible. Microchip your pet to ensure a quick return home and eliminating a trip to the shelter, vaccinate as appropriate for pet health and public safety, socialize and train your pets for their well-being and everyone else's, support your favorite animal welfare organizations to the extent and manner you are able, and please prevent animal neglect, abuse and cruelty wherever and whenever it is seen.

These gifts will contribute to a safer, happier home life and better communities for all.

HSSNM's resolutions include involvement with expanding mobile veterinary surgical resources, contributing \$10,000 funding for low cost spay and neuter services, widening our low cost microchipping program, assisting with pet rehoming and adoption efforts, implementing and institutionalizing a strong community cat program, working to enhance animal control and shelter operations, developing a city and county animal welfare advisory committee, and building a stronger working and mutually beneficial relationship with other organizations and agencies. You are urged to get involved with accomplishing these new year's resolutions, too. The animals need to your help to make a difference.

Please note: Upcoming low-cost spay/neuter clinics are Jan. 5, and Jan. 12 in Mesquite for dogs only. These low cost spay-neuter clinics (\$7) are sponsored by the Coalition for Pets and People through the generosity of a PetSmart Charities grant. All clinics require an appointment. Call 575-386-9212 for more information and to schedule an appointment. This special offer applies only to residents in these six ZIP codes: 88044, 88046, 88047, 88048, 88052 and 88072. This is a requirement of the grant. If you do not live in one of these ZIP codes, keep reading!

Spay-Neuter Action Program hosts low cost spay-neuter clinics and provides vouchers for those qualify based on income. For more information, call the SNAP office at 575-524-9265. The Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley offers low cost spay-neuter surgeries based on availability of contract veterinarian. Call 575-382-0018 for more information.

*Frank Bryce is president of HSSNM. Interested guest authors are invited to contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.*