



Humane Society of Southern New Mexico
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Humane Society of Southern New Mexico 2012 Report on Programs/Services

Background Information:

Organized in 2007, the work of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico is in response to board of directors' position statements. These are designed to address community and area animal welfare needs and issues, and to assist the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley in meeting its responsibility and goals as a county and city animal shelter.

HSSNM Position Statements:

1. The welfare of companion animals is the primary concern of HSSNM, and that concern is most effectively addressed by advocacy and dissemination of humane education throughout the community.
2. The entire community shares responsibility of humane treatment of companion animals; such responsibility includes but is not limited to increasing adoption from shelters, widespread and affordable spaying/neutering of companion animals, facilitating implementation of best practices in responsible pet ownership, and ensuring best practices in the operation of our public animal welfare systems.
3. Discharge of community responsibility rests not only on awareness of needs but also on equitable public and private funding and on timely justice for abuse.
4. HSSNM demands public accountability in meeting industry standards of best practices on the part of all involved in animal stewardship.

HSSNM Advocacy Work for ASCMV:

HSSNM assists the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley by reducing intake of animals at the shelter through preemptive work with the organization's pet help line (phone & internet service) to assist lost/found animals, re-home animals in need, and provide callers with needed resource information to aid animals.

HSSNM holds monthly adoption promotions for animals in the organization's foster care program as a partner with PetSmart Charities. HSSNM was awarded, through an application process, a two-year PetSmart grant (beginning summer 2012) in the amount of \$21,000 for free spay-neuter surgeries for dogs (total allocation 750) in the underserved community of Chaparral in the South Valley. A total of 115 surgeries (69 spays, 46 neuters) have been performed, with five clinics held during 2012.

In addition to these functions, HSSNM plays a vital role as team members of the "Community Coalition for Pets & People" (with mission "zero in seven", zero euthanasia of healthy & treatable animals in seven years) in providing needed off-site services for community animals to reduce shelter impoundment numbers. HSSNM was instrumental in the formation of the Coalition through meetings with the mayor and city/county officials.

HSSNM Statistics Summary for 2012:

- Adoptions Total: 73 animals adopted (464 total number adopted for years 2009-2012)
- Foster Animals: 31.0 average number of animals per month in the foster care program
- Pet Help Line Calls Total: 1,175 calls received (97.9 average number of calls per month)
- Volunteer Numbers & Volunteer Hours:
- Volunteers: 33.25 average number of volunteers per month
- Volunteer Hours: 10,838.5 total hours for programs/services (903.2 average number of volunteer hours per month)

Ongoing Programs & Services:

HSSNM ongoing programs/services include the cat adoption program at the PetSmart Charities store location, a foster care program with temporary homes provided for animals in need by authorized HSSNM fosters, monthly adoption promotion events for foster animals, pet help line services (call line & website postings), a bi-monthly "On the Positive Side" column for the newspaper, humane education services and critter clubs with "Diggity Dog Learning" and "Critter Connection" programs reaching more than 70 children a week in public and private school settings and youth centers, "Cans 4 Critters" service projects and collection with C4C fund (money raised from aluminum can reclamation) providing financial assistance for pets with medical needs, information and outreach work with tabling and events throughout the year, fundraising and special events.

Other Accomplishments:

A proposal initiated by HSSNM over two years ago came to fruition this year. With purchase and utilization of computers, air cards, and micro-chip scanners (over \$7,000 in value) city and county animal control officers have the tools to return stray animals to their homes in lieu of taking them to the shelter. An important adjunct to animal control efforts is a negotiated agreement, through facilitation of HSSNM, to acquire micro-chips almost at cost through the shelter for use by cooperating animal welfare organizations. Literally thousands of micro-chips will be available to aid animal control in their program to return animals to their homes.

Compiled & Submitted by- Jean Gilbert, secretary HSSNM (Feb. 4, 2013)