

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

## ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Safe Haven a sanctuary for our animals

By Mike Hainer For the Sun-News

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In every community there needs to be one or more places where homeless dogs, cats and other companion animals can live while they are searching for another home and loving relationship. In Dona Ana County the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary provides such a place for up to twenty five dogs and thirty cats while the many volunteers work to find them a new home. This is a welcome alternative to the harsh realities of our current taxpayer-funded animal welfare system where most animals have only a few days of care before they are destroyed for lack of space or no home available.

Juanita Fisher, Gitte and Ken Cronin and over 150 other like-minded animal advocates shared a vision for such a place and participated in the development of Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary in 1996. According to Janet Frame, current President of the Board of Directors, "Our goal has been the same from the start — we are a not-for-profit, no-kill sanctuary. Our purpose is to receive and care for animals that are abandoned, abused, or homeless due to changes in the pet owners' conditions and circumstances."

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary does not receive financial support from any government entity. Volunteers are at the Sanctuary helping daily. Funding for pet care and operations at the Sanctuary, as well as adoption events, web site work, and other activities comes from community donations, animal welfare grants, from Thrift Shop revenues, and from events for raising funds. Safe Haven has received an occasional bequest made by committed animal lovers who wish to honor the invaluable labor of love at Safe Haven. Of course, tax deductions are available for donations.

The Thrift Shop at 114 Wyatt Street in Las Cruces is open Tuesday to Friday from 9AM to 3PM. Off-site adoption events are at the Las Cruces PetCo store on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, and at the PetSmart store on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. This great team of animal advocates has found homes for over 100 dogs and 50 cats so far in 2008, which is a 55% increase over 2007. Recently Safe Haven has been able to rescue animals from the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley. This is a tremendous help in rescuing homeless pets from our community shelter.

Go to <http://www.zianet.com/safehaven>, or drop by the Thrift Shop to visit, or call them at 527-4544 to get involved in the lifesaving work of the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary where you can meet new friends, have a good time, and be a life-saver!

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