

On the Positive Side: SNAP golf tournament a success

By Linda Hall

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On Aug. 29, SNAP and the Animal Control Division of the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department partnered to bring the community the first-ever SNAP Classic Benefit Golf Tournament at Sonoma Ranch Golf Course.

The event was incredibly successful for a first-time golfing event, said the golf pro at Sonoma Ranch, as well as several of the players at the tournament.

The event drew 19 teams, all but two were foursomes. There were "side" contests on several holes, all at a nominal cost, to help increase the funds raised from this event. The final accounting is not in yet, but proceeds have passed the \$3,500 mark.

With the help of 30 volunteers on the course during play, and the committee of five, including myself, Joy Miller, MaryIn Zahler, Curtis Childress and Marilyn Grayson, the event went off without a hitch, and everyone had a great time.

Sponsors such as Crestline Building Association, Comcast, Las Cruces Sun-News, Premier Distributing, Better Life Pet Foods, The Pet Sitters Guild, Jack Key Motors, Doggie Dude Ranch, the Premier Club and others helped make this a successful financial event. Donations from vendors around the city added to the fun with valuable prizes for the raffle that took place after play in the pavilion at the picnic lunch and awards ceremony.

Proceeds from the tournament will fund upcoming SNAP projects and programs, including continued low-cost spay/neuter subsidies, outreach and education efforts and sponsorship of the mobile surgical van, in partnership with the Animal Control Division of the sheriff's department, which will take spay/neuter services to remote communities in Doña Ana County.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of you who worked so hard to make this event a success, all of the sponsors and contributors whose generosity will enable SNAP to continue its never-ending work in our community.

Thanks to all the players who came out and made this event a success and in so doing gave SNAP the ability to carry on, even in the face of shrinking funds as we lose city support for this important program.

Spay and Neuter Action Program of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, better known as SNAP, is the community's first line of defense in saving animals' lives and improving the quality of life for all. By proactively preventing unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, we can stop, and then reverse, the reproductive cycle.

Statistics verify that 85 percent to 90 percent of animals relinquished to animal shelters come from low-income pet keepers. SNAP subsidizes the cost of spay/neuter surgeries for pets coming from qualifying, low-income households in order to address pet overpopulation at its source.

Hope to see you at the golf tournament next year!

Linda Hall is a volunteer with SNAP and ACTion Programs for Animals and serves as a volunteer officer with the Animal Control Reserves Program. She also volunteers at the animal shelter.