

On the Positive Side: Recent happenings and upcoming events for animal advocates

By Frank Bryce

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Due to a scheduling problem, today's article is sort of an eclectic rambling of events and notices. It was a heartwarming spay and neuter event in Chaparral that was the high point of the past two weeks, however.

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico teamed up with the Enchanted Pass Animal Rescue to accomplish 25 spay and neuter surgeries, 15 microchip implants and a dozen rabies vaccinations in the continuing effort to help some of the dogs rescued from a recent tragic hoarding case in that community. The majority of the more than 200 animals involved in that case have been rescued by the Enchanted Pass and other cooperating rescues and fosters.

The volunteers, as usual, worked diligently with a wide range of sizes, shapes and colors of these now happy and healthy critters to prepare them for adoption events coming up. Trish Anderson, Yvonne Dominguez and Iliana Guzman, president of the Enchanted Pass organization, completed paperwork, weighed and assessed the dogs, getting them effectively on and off the Paws and Hooves surgical van out of El Paso in almost military precision.

They already knew every dog personally and treated them each with family love and caring. A really amazing day-long scene demonstrated their dedication and professionalism with these animals. Many of these four-legged bundles of joy and love will be available for adoption through the HSSNM Saturday adoption events at the Las Cruces PetSmart store on Lohman from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether you are interested in a small bouncy little terrier or Chihuahua or a larger Lab or shepherd mix, you can find just about any companion animal to meet your family situation at these adoption events. The companion animals come with spay or neutering, current vaccinations and microchipping that meets the new county ordinances. Adoption fees are \$75, which is a real bargain considering everything involved and that you are providing a home for these loving creatures while helping keep the numbers at our local animal shelter down.

We would love to see you at PetSmart this Saturday.

And we have not forgotten those of you who already have a companion animal or two but who would like to help us continue to provide needed services for the animals.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, HSSNM will be offering the opportunity to have your pet's photo taken with "Wild West Friends" at Cow Town Boots, 1248 El Paseo, next to Walgreens. "Wild West Friends" in period costumes, will pose with your "Two-gun Willy" or "Saloon Sally" for a five dollar donation. You can use your camera or we will take the photo and send it to you via the Internet.

HSSNM is always seeking new volunteers and members to grow and expand our programs such as the dog adoption program, the cat adoption facility at PetSmart, the education outreach, pet helpline operation and response work and fundraising. Guest authors for this "On The Positive Side" column describing local animal welfare success stories are invited. If you are interested, please call 575-523-8020, because the animals and we can use your help.

Frank Bryce is president of HSSNM. Interested guest authors can call 575-523-8020.