



On the Positive Side: Finding new county pet licensing and permit information

By Frank Bryce

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A concern of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and the Coalition for Pets and People groups is to provide information about new county animal-control permits and licensing information along with pet care and responsibility guidance.

In a positive action, county Animal Control Officer Paul Richardson has developed what he calls a "Universal Tool Kit" consisting of pet pamphlets and fliers.

These publications are available for distribution in the field from county animal control officers and from the animal control office at 2024 E. Griggs in Las Cruces — available in Spanish and English.

Everyone is encouraged, whether a county resident or someone living in an incorporated area throughout Doña Ana County, to review this information.

"I wanted to share the attached documents with everyone ... regarding pet ownership responsibility," Richardson said, in a written statement.

"I distribute a combination of these at virtually each 'call' I go on, depending on the specific circumstances of each location/ incident. These are not just for officers, though. I think a lot of these could be very helpful to all of us for spreading information.

Please save, print, and distribute them," he said.

To assist with distribution of the information, HSSNM has posted all of these on our website at hssnm.org. In addition to the permit and licensing information, these publications cover a wide range of pet-care and program-assistance information.

One pamphlet is called "Surrender to Foster Program!" When a pet owner in Doña Ana County has an animal in need of a new home, the ASCMV takes ownership while keeping the animal at its current location and out of the ASCMV's shelter. The pet owner becomes a foster parent to the animal for the ASCMV. ASCMV becomes the owner of the animal, assuming the responsibility for providing health care and nutrition for that animal.

The ASCMV schedules and provides necessary medical exams and treatment. When the animal is deemed healthy, the ASCMV works with the foster parent to find the animal its new "fur-ever" home.

The pet owner must give ownership of the animal(s) to the ASCMV and agree to the conditions of the ASCMV's foster program, including signing the ASCMV foster-parent agreement. This includes transporting the animal(s) to scheduled exams and treatments.

The ASCMV works with the foster parents' schedule as much as possible. As the animal becomes property of the ASCMV, the ASCMV will take all action necessary under the law to protect animals from theft and mistreatment.

The pet owner must allow the ASCMV staff to make the decisions regarding the health and well being of that animal, including those such as euthanizing the animal if ASCMV staff deem such action is appropriate.

ASCMV staff shall be responsible for the final approval of who will be allowed to adopt the animal and the conditions of such adoption.

To take part in this program, if you are willing meet the requirements of the ASCMV to save the life of an animal, contact ASCMV staff at 575-382-0018. Specify the program by name so the ASCMV can quickly and effectively assist you.

Frank Bryce is President of HSSNM. Interested guest authors may contact HSSNM at 575- 523-8020.

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