

**On the Positive Side: Free dog spay, neuter registrations this weekend**

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**by Frank Bryce**

The Coalition for Pets and People is winding up its PetSmart Charities grant operation for dogs that live in six ZIP codes in south valley needing to be spayed or neutered. The goal of the "Zero in Seven" campaign is the dramatic reduction of euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals at the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley animal shelter, creating a no-kill community and county environment.

The coalition needs to register over 150 dogs from the ZIP codes involved from Mesilla and Mesilla Park to Vado to complete the grant numbers for the free spay and neuter services. This registration effort is being assisted by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico in a series of special events conducted this past week and again this weekend.

The registration started with an event at the Del Cerro Community Center in Vado this past Thursday, and events are scheduled for this Saturday, April 2, at the city park in Mesquite on N.M. 478 and Sunday, April 3, in the Casa Mexicana Tile Co. parking lot on the southern edge of Mesilla Park, off N.M. 478. Both Saturday and Sunday's events are scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. Participants are not required to bring their dogs for the registration.

The Coalition for Pets and People and the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico invite owners with unspayed or unneutered dogs from the following ZIP codes of 88044, 88046, 88047, 88048 and 88072 to stop by the events sites and register their dogs for the free services.

While it will only take a few minutes to register, there will be free hot dogs and drinks for the owners and families of dogs from these ZIP codes when they register their dogs. There will be an age appropriate children's activity where youngsters can compete for dog toys and accessories. All participants in this program will be entered into a random drawing for a 42-inch flat screen television. The drawing to select the winner will be after the grant is completed.

Successful completion of this grant helps assure a positive outcome for future grant applications seeking funding for further low cost spay and neuter programs. Community help and participation is critical to accomplish this grant's goals. Please spread the word of this program.

*Frank Bryce is president of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested guest authors who wish to share On the Positive Side articles can contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.*