

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the Positive Side

By Maryln Zahler / For the Sun-News

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Growth of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico's efforts to solve issues with pet over-population continue to expand. The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico currently provides a wide range of services including the Pet Help Line, its PetSmart Cat Adoption Program with PetSmart Charities and associated in-store dog adoption promotion efforts, special animal abuse and cruelty legal education seminars, humane education programs for local schools and youth organizations, and fostering and re-homing assistance.

These are all designed to actively attack and reduce the number of animals that have to be taken to our government shelter already overwhelmed with the pet over-population issues we face here in Do-a Ana County.

In another positive development, the Humane Society has developed an additional adoption resource facility with a local boarding kennel corporation. The Doggie Dude Ranch and Cat Farm Inc., has become an official adoption site for the Society's adoptable rescues and re-homing program.

A longtime supporter of animal welfare programs and organizations, the company has accepted responsibility for donating additional services to include offering temporary housing for adoptable animals with special needs and making them available to the public for adoption during regular business hours 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The management of the facility says while they are not "dog whisperers", the kennel staff have been able to work with a number of animals that may not have been selected as adoptable at other facilities and killed because of eccentricities not understood immediately. The staff can and does take the time to properly assess and rehabilitate some of the most wonderful animals and find great homes with understanding and caring new parents.

A number of the rehabilitated dogs have been adopted and returned to the facility for participation in the day care activities with other guests with great success. Two of the chained dogs now at the facility, Cole and Charley, want nothing more than to please the staff and get the unconditional love they have been denied at the end of a chain.

At this time the facility has four rehabilitated semi-feral cats and six dogs with interesting and heart-warming rescue stories all waiting for the right family situation. Four of the dogs are rescues from chained environments and from as far away as Hobbs, N.M.

They all have vaccinations and are either spayed and neutered or scheduled for that. Word of mouth is already reaching folks interested in this resource and dropping by the ranch to check out the adoptees. People interested in learning about these adoptable critters can call the Humane Society at 523-8020 or the Doggie Dude Ranch at 647-4471.

Maryln Zahler is vice president of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and a longtime animal welfare activist.