

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the Positive Side: Spikey heads success stories that made my day

By Frank Bryce

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It is always gratifying to write about the positive things involving animals as there seem to be more than enough negative issues to significantly weigh down all involved in animal welfare. I would like to take a quick look at several efforts that seem worthy of relating.

First, there is a multimedia campaign to solicit the public's assistance to let the Las Cruces City Council know of the wide support for accepting the animal control ordinance revision as proposed. Way too long in coming to this stage, the revision includes methods to address long-standing and undeniably ignored issues that need to be addressed in positive ways. With the animal welfare organizations indicating their willingness and desire to assist the city animal control, the adoption of the proposed revision of the animal control ordinance provides a positive avenue to reach the goal of reduced stray animals, provide increased public safety and reduce animal control costs through support with private donations, grants and volunteer services. Las Cruces City Council needs to hear from you in support of this effort.

In addition to the animal control ordinance revision, greater efforts and resources are being put in place to provide permanent off-site adoption sites, especially concerning cats. The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico has successfully expanded its own adoption program to include every Saturday dog adoption events through its partnership at PetSmart along with everyday cat adoptions at the store. Additional adoption counselors and more program options for adoption have proven very popular. Along with the increase in successful adoptions has come the need for more volunteer services to assist with the cat socialization and condo maintenance, so if you love cats and have some spare time, please look into our volunteer program to see how you could get involved.

The last story involves the successful return of a family companion— that happened literally as this article was being written. An HSSNM board member came upon a little blind and very macho male Chihuahua wandering the street. Not particular happy with any attempt to be rescued, the little guy was taken in despite his obvious objections. While it was being decided how to handle this unique little guy without identification and no good way to rapidly find a foster that could provide a separate and safe holding place, he decided this was not such a bad deal with lots of attention and obvious concern by a number of nice folks who tolerated his initial bad behavior. After all, this was in his best interest, we are sure he finally realized. Suitable overnight lodging was found, a found dog report was made to the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley and his profile was put on to the Internet. The daddy of this little chap did check with the ASCMV the next day, which referred him to the found dog reports along with the DOA log book and there he was in all his arrogance and cuteness.

A little problem with a wrong number listing on the found dog report was fortunately corrected by an HSSNM member through a follow-up call to the ASCMV and "Spikey" was reunited with his family.

The following kind statement was provided by Mark McGuffin, Spikey's daddy.

"I'd like to thank the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico who just happened to find my lost blind Chihuahua and returned him to me safely and quickly. I was also informed about microchipping and had it performed when I picked up Spikey," he said. "I was surprised how easy it was for a dog to be microchipped. The small fee of \$7 was very, very reasonable."

McGuffin plans to get his other dogs microchipped. This story made my day!

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