

On the Positive Side: Four days of spay and neuter

by Frank Bryce

August 5, 2016

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and its partners engaged in another recent event to help reduce the overwhelming numbers of cats and dogs entering the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley.

HSSNM wants again to thank all those involved, especially for the expertise demonstrated by Dr. Neal and Dr. Barrett and the entire veterinary team of Asavet Charities and the Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic of Tucson, Ariz.

In four days more than 200 spay-andneuter surgeries were completed, reducing the possibly astronomical number of unwanted puppies, kittens, dogs and cats that may have ended up in the ASCMV shelter.

These veterinarians and their team came prepared for extremely hard and intensive work. And as a bonus, HSSNM, with its cadre of volunteers, may be on the edge of completing the Coalition for Pets and People PetSmart Charities grant numbers. Tremendous thanks has to be given the PetSmart corporation and the store staff and management for allowing us the use of the veterinary clinic and the resources they made available.

When you ignore the barriers and the risks, there is no limit what can be done. I do not have the actual results nailed down, but I believe there was over 500 free surgeries in eight days. It was not cheap, not easy, and took a lot of dedication by everybody, but it was effective for the price and effort involved. It brings me pride to be a part of HSSNM board's efforts and part of the cooperative and collaborative success of all those involved.

With a remaining list of well over 1,000 families, many with multiple animals, seeking assistance for spay-andneuter services, HSSNM needs your help to fund these cost effective events and is asking for your donations to continue to turn the tide for the need for euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals at the ASCMV, reduce the cost to the city and county for related animal control operations, and directly affect the relationship between animal abuse and family violence.

Donations for spay and neuter support can be made to the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, P.O. Box 13826, Las Cruces, NM 88013 or HSSNM at Pay Pal.

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