

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Pet help line is busy with calls for assistance

by Frank Bryce

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Averaging almost 100 calls a month, the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico's pet help line continues to keep busy. This past week or so, the phone has been even more active with calls about lost dogs and cats, dogs and cats needing to be placed in new homes and inquiries about who to contact for assistance and how to re-home a stray pet showing up in a compassionate neighbor's yard or on their front porch. Perhaps the monsoon season with its lightning and thunder creates many of the situations about which we get calls for assistance. Two large and lovely dogs showed up at a friendly farm north of Las Cruces about half way between Radium Springs and the city. HSSNM was contacted through our network of volunteers to assist finding their owners. The dogs were scanned for microchips which they both had, and very quickly the two roving scamps were on their way home to Mesilla.

A bonus was the opportunity for HSSNM to microchip a dog at the rescue residence coincidentally with the rescue return of the other two. Such rescues occur almost daily now with more and more pet owners taking advantage of all the microchip opportunities offered by a number of participating nonprofit organizations and all the microchip scanners being available. Dr. Elizabeth Carver through her mobile vaccination program has been a super provider of chips in cooperation with HSSNM.

One of our recent pet help line rehoming situations involves Ginger, a 6-year-old Pomeranian mix with red hair who is not sure what is going on. Ginger's owner passed away several weeks ago and her companion, Penny, a loving little poodle, was adopted recently at a HSSNM adoption event. Ginger currently is staying at her former owner's residence but obviously misses her former companions, dog and human. A truly generous and caring neighbor, Patricia Kinny, is seeing after her as HSSNM attempts to find Ginger a new home.

What Ginger does not understand is that her human owner died and her companion was adopted.

Now Ginger is alone.

There are no relatives or friends to take her in.

The neighbor lady, Pat, comes over every morning and evening to give her food and fresh water. Ginger sometimes barks at Pat at first because Ginger is partially blind. But as soon as Ginger sniff's Pat's leg, Ginger stops barking and stays close to Pat. Ginger even rolls on her back so Pat can give her a tummy rub. Ginger loves tummy rubs and being petted behind her ears. When Pat sits in the chair and stays a while, Ginger lays down near Pat's feet. Ginger likes to check out the people who walk by the fenced-in yard and she never tries to get out of the yard. Ginger has a sweet disposition, is mellow, and loves people. Pat is not able to adopt Ginger, so Ginger needs a forever home.

I have spent time with Ginger myself and can tell you she is a loving little sweetheart. If you are interested in meeting this little gal, she will be at the HSSNM adoption event at PetSmart on Lohman and Walnut this Saturday.

HSSNM is imitating the no-tax free adoption effort also being conducted this weekend by the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley adoption sites, so there are going to be plenty of great dogs and cats for adoption. Come by and check Ginger out on Saturday. She will happy to visit with you.

Frank Bryce is president of HSSNM. Guest authors are invited to contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.