

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the Positive Side

You can support HSSNM's positive efforts

By Frank Bryce

For the Sun-News

Wow, the time has flown by! And with August already here, it marks the start of a new fiscal year for the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and the time we remind you of membership renewal to HSSNM, or the opportunity of first time membership and participation as the case may be.

Your support means a lot to us and will ensure the continuation of important services such as our pet help line (1,000 calls a year), foster and adoption program (current average 4 adoptions a week), and spay-neuter clinics (over 600 surgeries this year, to date) helping community animals in need while reducing intake at the municipal shelter.

With only four more scheduled spay and neuter events during August in Chaparral, HSSNM will have completed the 750 free dog spay and neuter procedures for a two-year PetSmart Charities grant in a short 10 months. Along with the spays and neuters, HSSNM will have provided about 500 micro-chips and over 600 rabies vaccination in the course of this grant completion. More importantly, HSSNM has well over 250 more dogs still on a waiting list for this area of the south valley in Doña Ana County.

Your membership and support will allow HSSNM to continue to address the overwhelming numbers of dogs that need spaying and neutering by expanding our efforts throughout the county. We understand times are a little tough economically so we greatly appreciate your annual membership or first-time membership, or a monthly contribution. We remind ourselves it's hard for defenseless, homeless animals to make it without your support of programs and services like ours to aid them.

Please renew your membership now or make a first-time membership. A renewal membership form is being mailed to our members and new members can pick up a membership form at our off-site events, by calling 575-523-8020 or visiting our website at hssnm.org. Every membership and dollar you donate helps save the lives of animals!

We invite you to attend HSSNM's 'Annual Members & Friends Meeting' on Aug. 24 at 1 p.m. in the Great Room of the Unitarian Church (2000 S. Solano). We have a special program planned with Larry Stocker, a songwriter playing original music he's has written about animals. Curtis Childress, with the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department and supervisor for the animal cruelty task force, will follow in the program with commentary on animal welfare work here in Doña Ana County. Questions you have about animal ordinances, chaining dogs, the completion of the new animal holding facility and other important topics will be addressed. This will also be a great time to learn about the HSSNM animal advocacy work being accomplished and plans that you can be a part of during the upcoming year. Refreshments will be served.

We thank you for your consideration regarding membership renewal or first-time membership because the animals need every one of us for the services and the help we can provide! We hope to see you at our 'Annual Members & Friends Meeting' on Aug. 24.

Frank Bryce is president of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested guest authors can contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.