

On the Positive Side: Pet life saving resources are within easy reach

By Frank Bryce / For the Sun-News

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LAS CRUCES — Just recently, the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico was again involved in providing microchip scanning for a dog rescued off the street by a private resident. The resident contacted the Humane Society and after the dog was scanned for a possible microchip, it was reunited with its owner in a matter of minutes. With the kindness of the rescuer and the availability of a microchip scanner, the dog was spared a trip to the animal shelter, saving the dog owner, the animal control department and shelter both time and money, while eliminating all the possible hazards of that scenario even with the best intentions and efforts.

The very next day, the Humane Society received another call that involved a dog with a microchip. When scanned by a local organization it appeared that the chip was perhaps not properly registered, but the rescuer doggedly pursued the issue and a second attempt and a couple of calls resulted in finding the owner. Again, the dog was returned promptly with the same happy ending. The warm and fuzzy feeling of seeing a beloved pet run back into the arms of the family dearly missing it is a simple pleasure with its own reward.

If you find a stray cat or dog in good health, that's friendly but without tags, take advantage of the opportunity to get the animal microchip scanned before relinquishing it to animal control or the shelter facility. With a little time, effort and at little expense, anyone finding and rescuing a stray cat or dog can take steps to return the animal to its home quickly and safely.

Other agencies that provide micro-chip scanning include most, if not all, the local veterinary clinics; Spay Neuter Action Program at (575) 524-9265, and Doña Ana County Humane Society at (575) 647-4808, which share a scanner; Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary at (575) 805-5338; Action Program for Animals at (575) 644-0505; Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley at (575) 382-0018; and HSSNM at (575) 523-8020 or (575) 647-1416. There may be others close to you that you can call to see if a scanner may be available.

Although Sunland Park animal control does not currently have a microchip scanner (the Humane Society is working on getting them one), the Southwest Animal Complex at (575) 589-2233 and El Abrigado at (575) 589-1818 do provide this service in that area and indicated they do so often. Any of the services may depend on hours of operation and other factors, so more than one resource may need to be contacted to assist you.

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico appreciates all the individuals, agencies and organizations that participate in microchip scanning efforts and recognizes the added burden these folks accept to help return animals to their homes. If you have not already done so, you can help by properly vaccinating, tagging and microchipping your pets. If they are tagged and chipped, check the tag to ensure it is current and secure, and call the microchip company to ensure they have current information about your address and pet. This ensures a happy outcome for all of us.

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