

## **On the Positive Side: Businesses aiding animals**

**By Frank Bryce / For the Sun-News**

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LAS CRUCES — Over the past two weekends, animal welfare advocates and agencies have enjoyed continued demonstration of concern and support from area businesses. Kristi and Wes Lane of Wild Birds Unlimited in the Arroyo Plaza and manager Jorge Guzman and event coordinator Ashley Collins with Tractor Supply Company at Valley and Picacho opened their businesses and hearts to help animals and the community.

Wild Birds Unlimited hosted a three-day event for the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary where their clientele provided several hundred dollars of pet food, supplies and cash donations. These much-appreciated items and donations will support a variety of programs conducted by both organizations. The donors were thanked by Kristi and Wes with cookies and drinks and given the opportunity to learn more about the efforts of the organizations.

The Tractor Supply Company hosted a one-day event for a number of organizations and provided shade tents and drinks to participants. The event, named PAW, for Pet Appreciation Week, provided dog training information from Mesilla Valley Pet Resort; therapeutic horse riding information from Freedom Riders out of Truth Or Consequences, NM; program information from Humane Society of Southern New Mexico; and a vaccination clinic and a cat and dog adoption event sponsored by Action Programs for Animals. A very long line of loving parents waited patiently as volunteers efficiently performed vaccinations and micro-chipping for dogs and cats of various sizes, shapes and colors.

These examples are indicative of support for the events held throughout the city being generated by partnerships between local businesses and animal welfare organizations. Regular adoption events for cats and dogs were literally scattered across the city over the weekends at the Farmers and Crafts Market, PetSmart, Pets Barn, PetCo, breed-specific rescue sites and as always conducted at the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley. Every animal adopted receives its vaccinations, or the parent learns of resources that are working collaboratively at such events to contribute to the reduction of the pet overpopulation and unnecessary euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals at the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley. Participating companies are helping pet parents meet their responsibility for proper care of their animals and animals throughout the area.

The partnerships being developed are exemplified by the continuing efforts of the Coalition for Pets and People. City, county, public and private entities are actively pursuing all avenues and available resources to achieve the common goals that serve to protect both animals and people. The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico applauds these efforts and encourages everyone, pet parent, animal lover, interested by-stander and animal professional, both public and private, to get involved in this effort to whatever extent you can. A little help from a lot of folks will make the job easier for everyone.

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