

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Humane Society expands its animal welfare service

by Frank Bryce

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A few weeks ago, the On the Positive Side article described a quickly arranged, funded and hugely successful spay and neuter effort in Chaparral supported by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, the Coalition for Pets and People and the Spay and Neuter Program.

Two events have been held and another is scheduled for Sept. 14, which will result in about 75 low cost spay and neuter procedures for that community. These events have been made possible with the support of the Doña Ana County Parks and Recreation Department and dedicated Chaparral volunteers.

When the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico was established the long range goal was to provide animal welfare assistance, resources and volunteer services across the southern counties of the state. It appears this is positively beginning to flourish and grow. With HSSNM outreach steadily being established in the communities throughout Doña Ana County in conjunction with the Coalition for Pets and People and its affiliated organizations, other nearby counties are cooperating and collaborating with HSSNM to address similar and serious animal welfare concerns and deficiencies.

This past weekend with the coordination of HSSNM board of directors member Marie Hallock-Sweet, HSSNM was invited to provide a microchip program in Deming associated with the Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic mobile surgical van from Tucson, Arizona. Utilizing donated services of Las Cruces veterinarians, veterinary assistants, Deming shelter staff and volunteers, the Deming community supported and funded the two-day event that resulted in 125 low cost spay and neuter surgeries, dozens of vaccinations and 148 microchips being implanted by HSSNM. A Deming resident, Irene Eagle, was trained in microchip implantation procedure and will soon begin to serve as an affiliate of HSSNM to provide microchips at cost on a regular basis to Deming and Luna County residents. This was a really remarkable and much appreciated collaboration by a wide range of organizations and individuals across county and state lines.

This month, HSSNM will be conducting a microchip event in Truth or Consequences in Sierra County at the Fur Fest from noon to 4 p.m. on Sept. 27. Over several past months, HSSNM members have been visiting with the Truth or Consequences city animal control and interested parties concerning planning, development and resources for a new animal shelter facility. Plans are being discussed for HSSNM to conduct microchip events pets in Alamogordo, Anthony, and El Paso County in addition to ongoing events and "pupperwear parties" in Las Cruces and throughout Doña Ana County.

For the past year, HSSNM has been spreading its wings in a wide range of work positively impacting the care and well-being of companion animals and communities throughout the southern portions of the state and reaching out to communities and counties to the north concerning statewide animal welfare issues. At our annual membership meeting Sept. 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ramada Palms, 201 E. University in Las Cruces, the HSSNM board of directors will summarize the past year's projects and successes and goals to accomplish with your help and support in the coming year. Our guest speaker will be Rebekah DeHaven with Alley Cat Allies, a national community cat management organization located in Bethesda, Maryland.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a no-host bar will be available. The public is invited but due to limited seating, please RSVP by voice mail or text to 575-640-6867, or email jean@hssnm.org.

Frank Bryce is president of HSSNM. Interested guest authors can contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.