

On the Positive Side: The small things continue to add up

By Frank Bryce

For the Sun-News

Sept. 5, 2014

Regular readers of this column know that measuring successes in inches is mandatory for animal advocacy, as is dogged persistence. A recent message reminded some of those involved that we are not going to leap tall walls in a single bound, but instead have to cling stubbornly to every nook and cranny as we climb the darn thing.

It is important that we see how that climb is proceeding. Realizing the correlation between animal abuse and family violence, and working to address and reduce them, contributes to a better community for all of us.

Two new nonprofit pet adoption centers are being put into action by the Cat's Meow and Action Program for Animals. Both are big steps. Successful pet-adoption events continue with such programs as the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico partnership with the local PetSmart store. Wonderful extended and expanded collaborative and cooperative programs and events are being carried on by a wide range of pet-advocacy organizations with support from local businesses such as Tractor Supply and Horse and Hound Feed 'N' Supply. Improvements continue in the city and county animal control departments and in the administration and facility upgrade of the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley shelter.

Expansion of pet microchipping at a low cost, and continuing efforts to develop low-cost spay and neuter resources, are key to reducing intake at our government shelter and effectively lowering the euthanasia numbers at the shelter. Working together, both public and private entities seem to be making progress toward that goal.

Adding to all of this activity are the countless compassionate and caring individuals who take time to step into the fray and contribute their time, energy and resources to assist with the myriad incidents involving animals and their families.

In some respects, it is almost as "if you build it, they will come." Cupcake (the injured cat you recently learned about), the tremendous number of found pets housed by their rescuers until returned to their homes that you never hear about, the contributions of resources of veterinary clinics, drop offs of collected aluminum cans at designated sites, and donations of funds and other materials by seemingly just about everybody at all levels are a few examples of the many folks involved. The most recent example is a family that could not take a large chainlink fenced kennel during a move and donated it to HSSNM. The kennel was hardly delivered to a foster site when neighbors showed up with an errant lovable little hound needing a place to stay until it could be reunited with its family. A few posted flyers and a few knocks on neighborhood doors resulted in a family reunion.

This was just in time for a second homeless, but extremely sweet, female pitbull mix to take up temporary occupancy in that kennel. And again as soon as a foster situation was arranged, two more, cute wanderers popped up in need of help and a temporary kennel.

Victories in inches is the best way to describe these successes. Let's do what we can to add more inches.

Frank Bryce is President of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested guest author are invited to contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.