

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

## **On the Postive Side: Rabies in retreat: Vaccination clinic in Las Cruces**

**By Dr. Judy Long For the Sun-News**

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One of the most basic responsibilities of pet ownership is vaccinating your animals to protect them and others.

On Tuesday, an all-day clinic (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) will provide free rabies vaccinations for the first 100 pets (dogs or cats) whose owners can provide proof of residency in Doña Ana County. The clinic will be on the north lawn of the Doña Ana Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd.

On this day, a number of local animal welfare groups will join forces to protect your animals from one of the most dangerous of animal diseases. Sept. 28 is recognized as World Rabies Day.

The rabies vaccine for this event has been made available through grants from the World Rabies Day Campaign to each of the sponsoring organizations: Humane Society of Southern New Mexico (HSSNM), Spay & Neuter Action Program (SNAP) and ACTion Programs for Animals (APA).

Dr. Carver and her staff from the Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic will perform the vaccinations. If your animal is too young or too sick to be inoculated, it will not receive the shot on Tuesday, but it may be eligible at a later date.

At Tuesday's event, Doña Ana County will kick off a monthlong food drive to fill up APA's pet food bank.

In addition, at this event SNAP will issue spay/neuter vouchers to qualified low-income families. SNAP's accepted income documentation is proof of government assistance or a federal tax return and a photo ID. Cash co-pays are \$35 for dogs and \$25 for cats.

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley will also be present at the event, with adoptable animals dogs or puppies (\$75) and cats or kittens (\$50). ASCMV will also offer to microchip your animal so that it can always be identified. This service will cost \$20 and is permanent. Pet licenses are also available: \$5 for spayed or neutered pets and \$25 for unaltered pets.

The event is first-come first-served. We will vaccinate as long as supplies last. There will be shade and water for the comfort of yourself and your animals. If your animal has not been vaccinated for rabies, you don't want to miss this chance.

Judy Long is a retired professor of sociology and a board member of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.