

On the Positive Side: Good Samaritans start animal-saving process

By Frank Bryce

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When this article is printed, hopefully you'll have had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday with family, friends, support organizations and pets. This note today is the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico's way to express thanks to all those who have helped in some way with animal welfare and programs.

While there is jousting and juggling between high level governmental entities, administrative and enforcement agencies, and animal advocacy groups, along with the inevitable tension to address animal welfare, public safety and other costs with limited budgets, progress continues to be achieved. This progress, at whatever speed it may travel, makes our communities a better place for all of us.

In the past few weeks, there have been numerous examples of Good Samaritans stepping up to help abandoned, stray or unwanted animals. The simple act of rescuing Tyler, a lively little terrier, off the streets in Mesilla Park and getting him to a rescue organization brought together the Coalition for Pets and People and its PetSmart Charities Foundation grant, the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley, foster care and adoption through HSSNM for his happy ending.

Recently, a little Maltese named Mattie went through a convoluted process of rescue, custody determination, fostering, spaying and two adoption processes to find a loving home. Rescuers followed Mattie through her ordeal, giving her the name Mattie for the huge mats that covered her little body. Again, this action eventually involved more than one entity working together to resolve Mattie's needs, but the action of the Good Samaritans and their generous help were the catalyst for success.

Even more recently, a mother and daughter traveling from Colorado to Phoenix encountered a very young German shepherd puppy while passing through Albuquerque and attempted to help him. After unsuccessful efforts to locate the little guy's home, a thorough evaluation and vaccinations at an Albuquerque veterinary clinic, they felt they could not abandon the puppy.

During their trip, and after due consideration of the puppy's young age and possible exposure to parvovirus during their travels, they decided to give him up in Las Cruces. This in-take effort was refused at our shelter, since the puppy was not from Doña Ana County, and they were told to take the puppy with them. Being concerned about the health of the puppy and facing a time schedule to continue west, they called HSSNM for advice and assistance. Now, Jackpot Louie is in the HSSNM adoption program and will be neutered and vaccinated when age appropriate. This resolution will also involve an array of cooperating agencies initiated by the generous act of the caring mother and daughter going out of their way to find help for Jackpot. It is obvious this little pup hit the jackpot when he encountered these ladies.

Examples of good work such as these happen continuously in our communities and deserve recognition and thanks. This begins with the first person to encounter a situation that needs help, to the agencies and organizations that join to resolve the problem. Thank you!

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