



Petroglyphs

 **New Mexico's Award-Winning Resource Publication for Animal Lovers**

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New Mexico ACT Against Cockfighting

by Heather Ferguson

Early in 2007, when the law to ban cockfighting was being debated by the New Mexico State Legislature, many cockfighting supporters claimed a ban would be "impossible to enforce" due to the number of cockfighters in the state. They even boldly proclaimed that the passage of the law wouldn't stop them from conducting their bloody business "underground." The reality is, even if individuals take their illegal activities underground, they aren't beyond the watchful eye of law enforcement, nor are they safe from arrest and prosecution.

veterinary board, state legislators, City of Albuquerque Animal Services, Animal Protection of New Mexico, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Animal Humane Association and Four Corners Animal League. Through its comprehensive membership, ACT can provide law enforcement with the training and resources required to safely conduct raids of animal fighting operations, and can provide expert witnesses and guidance for successful prosecution of these unique cases.

Investigating, filing charges for and prosecuting animal fighting can be complicated. Cases often require lengthy investigations and undercover work, as well as large numbers of law enforcement and animal control officers to raid and process these remarkably complex crime scenes. Each case might yield a large variety of charges covering many areas of criminal activity such as felony extreme animal cruelty, misdemeanor animal cruelty, felony criminal conspiracy, narcotics trafficking and illegal gambling. This can make prosecution tedious and time consuming.



Heather Ferguson transports a seized gamecock.

Late in August 2007, ACT opened a statewide, toll-free hotline, operated by APNM. The hotline receives information concerning animal fighting operations. Any information called in to the hotline on dog or cock fighting is kept confidential. Callers are eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000 from HSUS for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those involved in animal fighting operations.

In December 2007, information collected on the ACT hotline assisted law enforcement in the first coordinated task force raid on one of New Mexico's long-established cockfighting clubs, the Otero Game Club, located in Chaparral, N.M.

After Governor Richardson approved the ban on cockfighting, Attorney General Gary King, Bernalillo County Sheriff Darren White and Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) coordinated resources to give law enforcement the support they need to fully enforce animal fighting laws. From this effort, New Mexico's Animal Cruelty Taskforce (ACT) was established.

The Otero Game Club was the third-largest cockfighting pit in the state. It offered arena-style seating around three Plexiglas-enclosed cockfighting pits, a full kitchen and concession stand, and more than 25 "cock houses"—rental rooms with cages where roosters were kept until it was time for them to fight. According to informants, hundreds of spectators would park their vehicles in a large dirt parking area across the street from the club, and cockfighters stationed refurbished trailers there with built-in cages for rooster transport.

ACT is chaired by New Mexico's "Top Cop," Attorney General King, and is a coalition of every law enforcement agency in the state. ACT members include: the state police, sheriffs and municipal police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Inspector General, New Mexico's Animal Control Association and all of its member agencies, the New Mexico District Attorneys Association, members of the state

Cockfighters didn't know how seriously their continued illegal activity would be viewed, or how quickly the new law would be used to take down a major ring.

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From the Editor



Spring is here. It's time to get outside and have fun with your dog. Chase balls in Albuquerque's newest dog park or hike through the forests and mountains. Whatever gets your blood going will work for your dog, too. Take your canine companion along and double your fun.

We are excited by news of the New Mexico Animal Cruelty Taskforce's (ACT) first cockfighting raid under the new law to ban cockfighting. Read about the raid and what it signifies for people who think they can ignore the ban on animal fighting. The number of agencies and animal groups involved in this effort is amazing. We at PETroglyphs wish them success with their activities. News of their continued exploits will be featured in future issues.

Our communities are bursting with animal-related businesses and services. Get to know them and give your pet a treat. "Pet Quick Picks," a new feature beginning in this issue brings you news of these businesses. If you haven't heard of the business before, visit and see what they do. If you are familiar with them, visit again and tell them you saw them in PETroglyphs.

Have you ever wondered about Interspecies Telepathic Communication and whether you could learn to do it? Read about the basics and why this activity can help you and your animal understand each other better. Parrots are beautiful but are they the right animal for you? We attempt to answer

that question by giving you some things to think about before you are lured in by those gorgeous feathers. "A Date with the Dentist" explains why having your animal's teeth checked is important. Don't forget our animals can suffer from serious teeth and gum problems, too. While your dog might enjoy an occasional grape, is it safe for him to eat? "Sour Grapes" answers that question. Robanne Harrison, our "Unsung Hero," has dedicated her life to advancing people's interest in and understanding of social justice for animals. Whether it's the inhumane practice of factory farming or other types of animal cruelty, she has been in the forefront of change in New Mexico. "Rescue Me" focuses on a raven who appeared in a Las Cruces yard. Follow his adventures on his journey to becoming an "education bird" at the Roswell Zoo.

Keep watching our website (www.PetroglyphsNM.org) for the new format. It should be up and running by April. We like the new look and hope you will, too.

If you appreciate what you read in PETroglyphs and what we are trying to do for animals, please donate whatever you can to help us keep publishing. We depend on you.

For the love of animals,
Nancy Marano



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Understanding Our Animals Through Animal Telepathic Communication

By Karen Taylor Waters

When your otherwise well-behaved dog decides to eat the couch cushions, he's probably trying to tell you something. But when your veterinarian reveals no physical issue, questions remain. What's causing him to act this way? Consulting with an animal communicator might hold the key to finding out what your dog has on his mind.

Animal Communication, also known as Interspecies Telepathic Communication, is the practice of communicating telepathically with another species. More specifically, it's the idea of intentionally exchanging thoughts and feelings energetically between two beings. The roots of the word telepathy are 'tele' meaning "at or over a distance" and 'pathy' meaning "feeling or perception." This suggests that mind-to-mind communication can be transferred from any distance, so an exchange can occur between individuals thousands of miles apart. We could compare it to radio waves...it's just a matter of tuning in to the right frequency.

The story about the dog with the cushion fetish happens to be true. The communicator translated to his people that his current feline friends were not the kind of playmates he desired...he preferred a companion of the canine variety. The perfect match was found at the local shelter and now there's harmony in the house once again. Big problem, simple solution.

Interspecies Telepathic Communication is not limited to the professionals. Most believe that they are not special in what they do and offer workshops to prove it. Colleen Dougherty attended such a workshop and was very happy with her results. "I was skeptical and couldn't imagine how we'd know if we were actually doing it. The class was presented with several challenges that were coupled with viable ways to test our results. We practiced on everything from a generic photograph, each other, a live animal and it's owner, and finally on pictures of one another's pets. Our individual results were then checked and validated by direct feedback. Lo and behold, we were all doing it!"

Physical and emotional trauma, behavior, life transition, and bringing new animals into the family are just some of the reasons that people contact animal communicators. The list of scenarios is as varied as the combinations of animals and people living together.

Sometimes behavior challenges can be a direct result of animals picking up on our human emotions. And whether we realize it or not, our animals often serve as a reflection of how we behave towards others in our everyday relationships. "People don't understand that our animals feel our emotions so powerfully", says Sandy Lagno, an animal communicator in Fort Collins, Colorado. "It's like they're getting an emotional punch. Animals don't have the ability to filter out the world like people do, so it goes in uncut to them."

Looking at what is going on in our own lives can often help us understand why our animals are behaving in a certain way. Using an animal communicator can help bring clarity to the situation, and often prove what wonderful teachers our animals can be.

Gaining closure after an animal has died is another reason a communicator may be contacted. Niki Nicholson had to have her dog Shadow euthanized for health reasons. "After the animal communication session, the guilt that I was carrying for years left me! I didn't have to wonder anymore if I should have done this or that. I could go on knowing that I didn't let my best buddy down."

Information received from our animals through telepathic communication can profoundly change the way we think and feel about them. Lisa Farrand wanted to find out what really happened when her two dogs were in a dogfight that she didn't believe was started by them, so she contacted an animal communicator. "I had to come to the realization that I had an aggressive dog and had to deal with it. Once I realized the truth about the situation, I could use that information to help her. I feel like understanding my dogs' thoughts has deepened my relationship with them, and made me realize how much they have to offer and how wise they are," Farrand said.

No one can promise an animal will change a behavior just because we want them to, however change often happens once both animal and human understand the others point of view. People can be as big a part of the problem as the animal. According to ani-

mal communicator Annette Betcher of Port Orchard, Washington, people may need to make some changes themselves. "Animals don't just do something to be naughty, they have a reason for it and I find out the reason and become the mediator. It's not up to me to fix their animals; the people have to make the changes. I try to offer some alternatives of what the human can do to partner up with their animal".

Each animal communicator has different ethics and methods so it's important to get to know and feel comfortable with whoever is going to be talking with our beloved companions. Interviewing different communicators to find the right match may sound time consuming, but can be well worth it. Professional communicators will welcome your questions and understand why you are asking them.

If you can't locate someone in the local Yellow Pages, you can always do a search online. Penelope Smith, a well-known pioneer in the field of interspecies communication provides an online directory of professional animal communicators at www.animaltalk.net. There, you will not only find communicators listed by state, but you can read information on what to expect from a communicator, find books on animal communication, and even list your animal companion in an online prayer circle in times of need.

When health or behavior challenges arise with members of your animal family, seeking veterinary assistance is a good first choice. But when traditional methods are unable to provide answers, an experienced animal communicator may be your best bet in resolving the issue.

Karen Taylor Waters is a professional animal communicator and facilitator of workshops on animal communication. She shares her home in Santa Fe with her husband and their 18 year old cat.



*Karen Taylor Waters and Naga the Ball Python.
Photo by: Elizabeth Rose*



A DATE WITH THE DENTIST

Article and photo by Nancy Marano



Sammy after his date with the dentist

"Looks like Sam needs to have his teeth cleaned," our veterinarian said when he finished Sammy's regular yearly exam.

Sammy always passes his physicals with flying colors but now he is becoming a "senior cat." At nine years of age Sam still plays like a kitten. But I knew he was reaching an age where I needed to be more vigilant about health problems that might occur.

He'd never had any dental flare ups and the veterinarian said these

looked mild. But he needed to come back for a thorough teeth cleaning and a dental exam under general anesthesia to determine just how significant the problems were.

Seventy percent of cats show signs of dental disease by the time they are two or three years old. Due to the prevalence of feline dental disease, early attention to warning signs benefits your cat in later life. Veterinarians watch for several types of dental problems.

Plaque and tartar:

Bacteria combine with saliva and food debris to form plaque between the tooth and gum. If plaque accumulates, it hardens to form tartar. Plaque is soft and easily brushed off the tooth, but within 24 hours it begins to harden into tartar and can no longer be brushed away. Unless you take proper preventive or therapeutic measures, the buildup of plaque and tartar can lead to periodontal disease.

Periodontal Disease:

This gum disease is the number one diagnosed dental problem in cats and dogs. Symptoms of periodontal disease are red, swollen gums, receding gums, bleeding, pain or bad breath. Bad breath in cats isn't normal. If your cat has bad breath, it is a warning that his teeth should be checked by the veterinarian.

Untreated periodontal inflammation and infection is often called a "silent killer" because it is associated with other serious diseases such as heart attacks, strokes, kidney disease, emphysema, liver disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and pregnancy difficulties, according to Dr. Brook Niemiec, a board certified specialist in veterinary dentistry.

Cat Cavities:

"Cat cavities," also are known as Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions (FORLS) or cervical line lesions. They are found in 60% of cats and are the second most common dental disease. FORLS are erosions in the tooth enamel at or below the gum line. They cause a hole to form into the root canal. These are painful and often make

a cat stop eating. The cause of FORLS is not known with any certainty. Some veterinarians treat them with special fillings but usually these teeth are pulled to prevent further disease and to allow for healing.

Imagine what your teeth would be like if you didn't brush them for nine years. I hate to think of that scenario in my case. Unfortunately, that often happens with our cat's teeth. People don't realize an animal's tooth problems, if left untreated, can lead to other more serious diseases.

All the veterinary dental experts advise brushing your cat's teeth daily, just as you do your own. This goal may not be possible for you and your cat. If you can only brush them three times a week, you may reduce plaque by 90%. For those who can manage a once a week brushing, up to 75% of plaque may be removed. Those are impressive statistics. Brushing is easier to accomplish if you start your cat when he is a kitten. Getting my nine-year-old cat to open his mouth while I brush his pearly whites is going to be a real challenge.

If you want to try the brushing routine, here are some helpful hints.

1. Put the cat in your lap but avoid forcibly restraining him. Keep your tone of voice low and conversational. Make the session pleasant, short and positive.

2. Rub the cat's cheeks and the outside of his mouth. If he doesn't resist, put your finger inside his mouth. Next, open his mouth. When you manage that feat without being bitten, you are ready to brush his teeth.

It may take quite a while before you and your cat feel comfortable with these steps, but if you can prevent your cat from having dental disease, they will be worth it.

3. Associate these brushing sessions with something pleasant such as dinner or a cat treat. Positive reinforcement will help you reach your goal.

4. Have the right tools. Use a circular-ended brush designed for a cat's mouth. There are many veterinary products available for brushing your cat's teeth. **DO NOT use human toothpaste**, though. Human toothpastes contain ingredients that may make your cat sick. There are foods, available from your veterinarian, designed specifically to aid in maintaining dental health. Fluoride rinses also can be added to a cat's drinking water to help prevent dental disease. Ask your veterinarian what he would recommend for your cat.

5. Brushing techniques. Place the brush at a 45 degree angle to the gum line and brush with a circular motion. Try to reach the entire outside surface of the tooth. Most cats won't let you brush the inside of their teeth but this may not be a problem because periodontal disease usually occurs on the outside of the teeth.

Brushing doesn't eliminate the need for your veterinarian to examine your cat's teeth regularly and do a professional cleaning when necessary. However, brushing does allow you to detect potential problems while they are still small and easily treated. All of this effort will help your cat keep his teeth and not suffer pain from dental disease and broken teeth. An oral check-up should be part of

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SOUR GRAPES: Grape & Raisin Toxicity in Dogs



DOG WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
MAXWELL AWARD 2006

by Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D.

Tasty little orbs of juice, grapes come in many varieties - green, red, and black, seeded and seedless. They're sweet and rich in vitamins C & K. Dried as raisins, they grace everything from cereal to muffins to cookies. They are used in most of the world's cuisines. Humans love them. Yet grapes and raisins are toxic to dogs.

How do we know this? The ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) maintains a computerized medical database of animal medical conditions. About 20 years ago, the APCC noticed an alarming trend - the development of acute kidney failure in dogs who had eaten grapes or raisins. Prior to this time, no one had suspected that grapes were harmful to dogs. But as the evidence mounted, grapes and raisins were added to the list of substances toxic to dogs.

How much is toxic? We've all dropped a grape or two while putting away the groceries. My ever-ready chowhounds have scooped them up and eaten them with great relish - usually after a brief game of grape hockey. We've been lucky. None of the dogs have ever become sick from snagging a grape or two. But don't assume that it's okay for your dog to eat a couple of grapes. Reports from the APCC confirm that for some dogs even a few grapes can be toxic.

What causes the toxicity? No one knows why grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs. When the cases of reported grape poisoning are analyzed, no clear causative factor emerges. The variety of grape, where it was grown, organic or conventional, fertilized or unfertilized, stored or directly from the vine, pesticides or no pesticides - all types of grapes are culprits in canine renal toxicity. Dr. Steven Hansen, a board-certified veterinary toxicologist and Senior Vice President of the APCC, warns, "We don't know the mechanism yet or if certain types of grapes are to blame. Our current recommendation is to avoid all grapes/raisins until more information becomes available."

What are the symptoms? Initial symptoms of grape toxic-

ity are gastro-intestinal in nature. They include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, loss of appetite and lethargy. When blood tests are run, increases in levels of blood calcium, creatinine, phosphorous, and urea nitrogen, are indicative of kidney problems. Left untreated, the kidneys fail resulting in death.



What to do if your dog has eaten grapes. If you suspect that your dog has recently eaten grapes or raisins, try to induce vomiting. If the grapes have just been consumed, you may be able to purge the stomach of the offending fruit. If it has been more than a few minutes, take your dog to the veterinarian immediately. The quicker treatment is started, the more likely your dog will recover.

Treatment. Your veterinarian will approach grape poisoning like other cases of serious poisoning by inducing vomiting or stomach pumping if ingestion has been recent, administering activated charcoal to absorb toxins, IV fluid therapy for at least 48 hours and concurrent monitoring of blood measures of kidney functioning. If the blood chemistry is normal after three days, kidney failure is not likely to occur.

Prevention. This is simple. **Do not feed your dog grapes or raisins in any form!** Prevent accidental ingestion. Wash grapes in the sink so any that fall will not roll onto the floor. Store grapes and raisins out of reach of your dog. If you grow grapes in your yard, contain them so that the dog cannot eat grapes directly from the vine. Educate your entire family about grape and raisin toxicity so that no one unwillingly poisons the dog. Make sure that your children do not feed grapes or raisins to or drop them within reach of your dog.

Many foods that humans can eat are toxic to dogs. Some foods like chocolate are well known to be toxic. But there are many other that are less well known. Keep the information for the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center handy and periodically check the APCC list of current known toxins to pets. An informed pet guardian is the best defense your dog has for staying safe and healthy.

ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center

Contact them at (1-888-426-4435) or

http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc_poisonsafe and
http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc.

UNSUNG HERO: Robanne Harrison

by
Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D.



*Robanne Harrison plays with her dogs Carson and Salty
Photo by: Patricia Lewis*

When important social issues are at stake, it takes a special person to see the big picture. When the well-being of New Mexico's animals is at stake, Robanne Harrison not only sees it, but backs it up with action. Robanne has been a stalwart force for Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) for over twenty years. She joined the board of directors twelve years ago and has been the board president for ten years. She helped shepherd APNM through major changes as the organization evolved from Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection to become APNM, the state's premier agent of change on behalf of animals. She has been instrumental in the development of Animal Protection Voters and is also president of their board.

Robanne's personal journey toward animal activism began in college. She spent much of her formative years in the south. In 1974 she was a sophomore pursuing a degree in art from the University of Georgia (UGA). It was during her time at UGA that she had an "aha" moment. As an art major, she was required to submit 25 drawings a week to her professor. After several weeks of students' artwork depicting primarily dormitory scenes, the professor urged the class to get out of their dorms and sketch other aspects of life. He offered the opportunity for students to go to a local dairy farm where they could set up undisturbed and sketch rural life. Robanne took him up on the offer. As she sketched she became fascinated by the social behavior of the cows. She watched them interact, play, and nuzzle each other affectionately. They were as curious about her as she was about them. She realized that they were not dissimilar to dogs, and it completely flipped her thinking about livestock. Her family was supportive of her ethical commitment to become a vegetarian. It took a few years to complete the transition, and she has been a vegetarian for over three decades.

Robanne came to Albuquerque in 1987 to pursue her master's degree in cultural anthropology at the University of New Mexico (UNM). She recognized immediately that New Mexico's animals were in need of help. She became involved with Sangre De Cristo Animal Protection. Her interest in broader social justice for animals such as inhumane factory farming, fur farming and other forms of animal cruelty led her to become more involved

and she eventually joined the board of APNM. Her vision helped APNM focus on systemic change. Robanne wanted change that was revolutionary. "To me, revolution means a change in society so that you can't go back to the old way. That's what I wanted to do for animals," she says emphatically.

Robanne is proud of APNM's work, particularly the legislation raising animal abuse from a misdemeanor to a felony, and the concurrent education of law enforcement and judicial officers about animal abuse. She is pleased to see so many issues that were considered fringe or inconsequential twenty years ago such as the relationship between animal cruelty and domestic violence now accepted as part of the mainstream. "Others see that we are a serious movement of intelligent, eloquent, committed and effective people."

APNM is equally proud of and grateful for Robanne's work. "Important movements have always been sustained by the unwavering and consistent efforts of those working away from the spotlight, and Robanne Harrison is just such a presence. Her steady hand has helped shape and reinforce the direction APNM has taken, and has contributed to its success over the years," says APNM director Lisa Jennings.

After completing her master's degree at UNM, Robanne decided to stay in New Mexico. She is a member of the faculty of the Social Studies Department of Manzano High School in Albuquerque where she teaches economics and Advanced Placement world history. She leads with an intelligent and thoughtful demeanor, and is a stellar example to her students of how one person can make a difference in the world. The animals and people of New Mexico are fortunate to have Robanne Harrison as their champion. Brava, Robanne!

(A Date with the Dentist, Continued from page 4)

your cat's regular, yearly physical.

Never underestimate the importance of your cat's dental health. Dental disease leads to pain for your cat and may lead to other serious medical issues.

Sammy did well with his teeth cleaning session. He has beautiful white teeth again as well as two teeth the veterinarian is watching. Don't take a chance on your cat's dental health when help is as close as your vet.

Nancy Marano is an award-winning author who is owned by two cats, Sammy and Rocky, and a Westie named Maggie May.

WARNING SIGNS OF FELINE DENTAL DISEASE

- Bad breath
- Brownish teeth
- Change in chewing or eating habits
- Pawing at the face or mouth
- Any unusual growth in the mouth
- Swollen or bleeding gums

RESCUE ME: Quoth the Raven

by Geri Tillett



This summer a nice couple brought a Chihuahuan raven to me. He appeared in their yard and made himself comfortable sitting on the man's shoulder. Then the bird flew over to where two painters were busily painting the couple's home and perch on their shoulders supervising the painting procedure. While this was very entertaining to everyone who watched, it was clear this bird was someone's pet. He was obviously hand raised from a very young age. It was decided to call a wildlife rehabilitator for assistance in caring for this visitor.

I was delighted to receive such a friendly bird. I gave him a private room (my small aviary) of his very own and spent about two weeks feeding and interacting with him. I introduced him to all of my volunteers and visitors who were very impressed with this

friendly, loving creature! He liked to sit on my back and rearrange my hair, sometimes hopping right on top of my head with both feet. He also liked to be hand fed tidbits of fruit, chicken and ground round. He loved cherries, too. One day after he arrived, he



Quote communing with Geri Tillett and volunteer Chris Dahlin

accidentally escaped from the aviary and flew off. I alerted Animal Control and the

next morning they got a call from an apartment complex two blocks away about a big black bird that was following everyone up and down the stairs.

He was returned promptly and I began calling zoos in New Mexico to see if they would like to have this bird for an 'education bird' since he could not be released to the wild. Fortunately the Roswell Zoo had room for him and he was transported to their facility. The zoo director called me several days later with the news that everyone at the zoo had fallen in love with this new member and he started his career educating people at the Bitter Lake Wildlife Refuge the next weekend. I was informed that they named him "Quote."

Geri Tillett runs Wild Bird Sanctuary in Las Cruces, New Mexico



(New Mexico ACT Against Cockfighting, Continued from page 1)

On the morning of December 22, 2007, more than 75 sheriffs' deputies, 25 animal control officers, a forensics veterinarian specialist and representatives from APNM and HSUS launched the state's first large-scale effort to dismantle animal fighting operations in New Mexico. The thoroughly choreographed effort included deputies from the counties of Otero, Doña Ana, Bernalillo, Luna and others, as well as animal control officers provided by the City of Albuquerque and the counties of Otero and Doña Ana.

Despite being tipped off just prior to the arrival of law enforcement teams, six individuals were captured and charged under the new cockfighting law. According to witnesses, other individuals fled the scene abandoning cars, family members and roosters. Over \$25,000 in cash was

seized, as were gambling ledgers, large quantities of cockfighting paraphernalia—including the knives that are strapped to roosters' heels for fighting—and performance-enhancing drugs.

Owners released custody of 144 roosters to local animal control. A forensics veterinarian on scene conducted a medical evaluation of six roosters, and determined that their health was compromised from exposure to steroids and other drugs used to enhance performance and aggression. These six roosters were humanely euthanized. Unfortunately, it has been established in this and many HSUS-led raids across the country that humane euthanasia is the only possible solution for roosters born into fighting operations. There are no sanctuaries for fighting roosters and it is unlikely any could be established due to the roosters' in-bred aggression. If cockfighters continue to break the law by breeding and fighting these beautiful birds, they will continue to create a tragic situation for the roosters.

The arrests and confiscation of money and birds in December's Otero raid sent a clear message to cockfighters: the cockfighting ban will be strictly enforced and those who force roosters to mutilate each other for entertainment and profit will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

tent of the law.

Following this effective enforcement activity, \$77,900 was appropriated by the state legislature to the attorney general's office for its task force work. New Mexico's Fifth Judicial Court dealt the cockfighting industry another blow by striking down a legal challenge to the ban based on whether the law's passage in the 2007 legislature met the state's constitutional standards. APNM and HSUS have jointly filed "Friends of the Court" briefs to help defend the state's case against the challenge. Cockfighters have filed an appeal with the New Mexico Court of Appeals. As of publication date, no hearing date for the cockfighters' appeal has been set.

ACT is developing its capacity to further support law enforcement efforts. New Mexicans can expect raids to continue as long as illegal animal fighting rings exist in the state.

Those with information about animal fighting in New Mexico are encouraged to report it anonymously to the hotline at 888-260-2178.

Heather Ferguson is a founding member of the Animal Cruelty Task Force and a task force media spokesperson. She is the Legislative Director of Animal Protection of New Mexico and lobbied for the passage of the cockfighting ban in New Mexico.



Otero Game Club's Cockfighting Pit stained with blood

Petroglyphs

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