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Petroglyphs

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

Top Animal Stories of 2007

by Nancy Marano

2007 was a big year for animals. Whether the issue was animal fighting, tainted pet food or mandatory spay/neuter legislation, people were asked to think about animals in a deeper way. These rankings are arbitrary but the issues are not. Everyone who loves animals and wants to see the world be a better, more humane place for them to live needs to pay attention to animal issues and take action wherever possible.

1) Animal fighting

Michael Vick's conviction on dog fighting and animal cruelty charges grabbed the headlines for months. It also focused attention on the whole issue of animal fighting. Supplying money for dog-related gambling activities and the possible brutal killing of dogs earned Michael Vick 23 months in jail and five years of supervised probation on federal charges. The loss of his career, his money and his freedom may make others understand the consequences involved in animal fighting. Perhaps they will also think of the horrors that animals face in these activities. At least we hope so.

New Mexico's law banning cockfighting has also gained national recognition. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) believes our law led to a ban in Louisiana and the increase of penalties for animal fighting at the federal level. In San Diego more than 5,000 birds were seized in the largest cockfighting bust in U.S. history. Locally, Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) has launched an animal cruelty/animal fighting task force in conjunction with the Attorney General and other law enforcement officials.

This increased visibility of law enforcement agencies actually making raids and bringing people up on animal fighting charges reminds people in a force-

ful, tangible way that animal fighting will no longer be tolerated. (For more information see *PETroglyphs, Spring 2007*.)

2) Tainted pet food

If your pet was affected by the tainted pet food scandal, you know how awful it feels to know the food you are feeding your pet to keep him healthy is actually killing him. People were amazed to learn how many brands were involved in the massive pet food recalls. Pet owners were afraid to buy any canned food. It was even more surprising to learn that no clearinghouse like the Centers for Disease Control exists for veterinarians to get information on animal health issues.

This tragic story spotlighted the need for 1) regular inspections of pet food manufacturing plants, 2) immediate reporting by manufacturers to the FDA any animal health problems reported to them, 3) the centralization of the agencies dealing with the pet food industry, 4) making pet food labels easier to read and 5) the establishment of a national clearinghouse for veterinarians to track pet illnesses. (See *PETroglyphs Summer 2007*.)



3) Emphasis on spay/neuter

California successfully passed mandatory spay/neuter legislation. The goals of the legislation are to reduce pet overpopulation and decrease the euthanasia rates for unwanted companion animals. Breeders and others opposed this controversial legislation because it was seen as a way of limiting breeders' rights.

New Mexico is working to improve the infrastructure to make spay and neuter both available and affordable to everyone. Groups are forming across the state to provide these services. There are groups in Las Cruces,

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Petroglyphs

From the Editor



Happy New Year everyone! All of us at PETroglyphs hope your new year is special in the ways that count and brings you lots of puppy kisses and purrs.

Before I tell you some of our plans for the New Year I want to send out a couple of huge thank yous to people who made our holiday season happy. In November Ellen Hutchins, of Tulliver's Pet Food Emporium in Santa Fe, held a "Saturday for the Animals" benefit for PETroglyphs. Then in December Kim Snitker and the folks at Three Dog Bakery in Albuquerque held a photo session with the Grinch to benefit us. Thanks to all the people who came out for these events to support PETroglyphs and the animals.

The PETroglyphs website will have a fresh look in the coming year. At the moment it is under construction. But, when it's finished, we hope you will find it interesting and helpful. Our aim is to aid you in locating items you need quickly and easily. Keep checking at www.PetroglyphsNM.org to see our progress.

If you are concerned about your animals eating poop or the possibility that microchips cause cancer in animals, you've come to the right place. These issues are treated in "Casa Canine" and "Cat Chat." We continue our "Rescue Me" series with an article about Keesha, a twice-lucky, peek-a-boo dog. Isa Coleman of Farmington rates as our "Unsung

Hero." Isa has spent her life loving and saving animals. How fortunate these animals were to have someone like Isa watching out for them. Review the top animal stories of 2007 and see whether our picks match yours. Books we think worthy of your attention are discussed in "Pick of the Litter."

A list of places where you can pick up PETroglyphs is on the back page of the Resource Guide. This list is for the Albuquerque area. In upcoming issues we will highlight distribution spots in other areas of the state. Our volunteer distributors do a great service by bringing each issue of the paper to you. Please patronize them and let them know you are glad to be able to pick up PETroglyphs there.

If you missed our "Un-Party" in December, you still have time to join us. We are able to provide PETroglyphs free throughout New Mexico because many of our readers donate to keep us printing. PETroglyphs is a 501 (c) (3) making your contribution tax-exempt. We also receive wonderful support from our advertisers and hope you visit them regularly. We threw an "Un-Party" that allowed people to donate from the comfort of their homes instead of getting all dressed up for a party. There is an envelope included in this issue for your convenience. Please join our "Un-Party," too. We enjoy your company and need your support.

For the love of animals,
Nancy Marano

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Cover photo: "Bella," by Deborah Schildkraut

UNSUNG HERO: Isa Coleman

By Nancy Marano

Saying Isa Coleman loves animals is like saying the sun rises in the morning. Animals have filled Isa's life since she was a child growing up in Kassel, Germany after World War II.

"My father owned twelve German Shepherd Dogs and a Jack Russell terrier. The Jack Russell was the boss of the whole group," Isa says. "My dad was crazy about animals. Once he picked up a crow with a broken wing. One of the Shepherd's befriended the crow and carried him around the yard in his mouth."

Isa married a U.S. airman stationed in Germany. They moved to the United States in 1964. In 1981 they left the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and moved to Farmington, NM.

"At first I was very unhappy in Farmington," Isa says. Luckily for Farmington's animals, she stayed.

Isa is a "hands on" type person who needs to be doing something for others. While volunteering at the local hospital, she was introduced to Sybil McDaniel, the head of the San Juan Animal League (SJAL). Isa worked officially with the SJAL for several years before becoming an independent dog and cat rescuer.

Picking up injured animals was the most difficult part of the job for Isa.

"One night I received a call from a woman on the Old Kirtland Highway. She said she was next to a dog who'd been hit by a truck. When I came over the hill, I saw a huge, white sheet in the middle of the street. I could see the dog was badly hurt so we put her on the board and got her into my car. I put her on the front seat next to me. Somehow she managed to crawl over next to me, put her head on my lap and sigh. When I got her to the veterinarian, I said, 'You do not put her down. That's my dog.' We'd just lost a dog a month before and I thought we needed another one."

When it comes to adopting kittens or spaying feral cats, Isa has definite opinions.

"A man wanted to adopt one of my kittens. I told him the kitten had to be neutered in two months but he told me he didn't want to neuter the cat. I said, 'You don't get him then.' He was angry but I didn't feel sorry one bit."

Isa gladly helps any animal, but she quickly learned she didn't always agree with groups' rules. "I don't mind rules. But I believe rules have to be made for the benefit of the animals not the group. An example is spay and neuter. I think spay and neuter should be done before the animal is adopted because people don't do it later."

Isa has fostered animals, picked up injured animals, transported animals to Colorado for spay and neuter, adopted out animals, run classes on humane animal care for 5th graders and visited nursing homes with her animals. Of course, she's kept a few of the animals herself. "I keep ones who won't do well in another place," she



Isa with Susie the dog and Alfie

says.

Her current household has nine cats and three dogs. "I think there is a sign on the house inviting them here."

The current dogs are a poodle named Susie Q., who was picked up on Blanco Highway. "She was very spooked when we got her. By the time she calmed down, she was our dog."

One day Isa was driving behind a truck with four Huskies loose in the bed. When Sasha, a Husky/shepherd cross, flew out of the back of the truck Isa took the dog home to stay.

Patty, a Sheltie/Basenji cross just showed up in the back yard. "A woman wanted to adopt her, but Patty just lay on her back and peed on herself. She's never done that before or since. I don't think she didn't wanted to leave."

She still mourns the recent death of Rosie, a Maltese/poodle cross. Rosie was left in her owner's yard with a heavy chain around her neck. The neighbor finally took the chain off and Rosie left home. Isa took her. She called the owner who yelled at Isa, "Do whatever you want with the dog but don't bring her back to me."

The Coleman cat menagerie includes Alfie, who came to her as a one-day-old and has been there ever since. Maynard, a 20 pound Maine Coon, who was adopted twice but brought back each time because he howled all night.

(continued on page 6)



(from top and l to r): Heidi, Onyx, incubator with kitten, drinking kitten, Alvin with bottle.



MICROCHIPS: ARE THEY A HEALTH RISK FOR OUR CATS?

by Nancy Marano



Recently I received a phone call from a worried friend. She'd heard reports on the news that microchips could cause cancer in cats and dogs. Understandably, she was concerned about the microchips implanted in her cats.

The current controversy stems from reporting done by the Associated Press (AP) and picked up by the New York Times, ABC News and others, about the VeriChip Corp. chip, designed to be implanted in humans. These chips allow doctors to access a patient's medical records. The chips, which are about the size of a rice grain, are encased in a glass capsule and implanted in a patient's upper arm. They are activated with an electromagnetic scanner. The chips are meant to be used in patients with various diseases as a way of providing necessary medical information to doctors.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved implanting the chips with a "reasonable assurance" that the chip was safe. According to the AP article, neither the company nor the FDA disclosed studies done in the 1990's stating that chip implants "induced" malignant tumors in lab rats and mice. The studies also listed a tumor found in a French bulldog that appeared to be directly related to the microchip.

VeriChip Corp. points out the studies were flawed because the mice used were genetically predisposed to cancer and thus didn't represent the general population of pets. They also say results in mice don't always correlate to what happens in larger animals such as dogs or humans. Also, whenever a substance enters an animal or human subcutaneously, it can cause irritation or inflammation thus becoming a possible trigger for a tumor. This would include vaccines or foreign bodies.

The reason these news reports have upset many animal owners is because the chips used for humans are similar to the microchips implanted in their cats and dogs for identification purposes.

For the last ten years the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), have participated in an ongoing study in the United Kingdom where microchipping animals is required and over four million animals are microchipped. The purpose of the study is to determine adverse reactions in animals from microchips. This study has shown only two cases of cancerous tumors in ten years.

People who say microchips are possible cancer causing agents stress that animals who developed tumors did so within the first two years after implantation. They urge longer studies be done to determine the long-term safety of the chips.

Emily Walker, D.V.M., operates The Albuquerque Cat Clinic. When asked whether she has seen any cases of a tumor being caused by a microchip, Dr. Walker's answer was emphatic. "I welcome the opportunity to debunk these irresponsible rumors. I have never seen a case of cancer caused by a microchip. I have also never spoken to or met another veterinarian who has seen this. I absolutely recommend all cats be microchipped," she said.

Dr. Craig Mabray, Director of Veterinary Medical Services for Albuquerque Animal Welfare, agrees. "Veterinary literature suggests that no correlation between microchipping and cancer exists. And I've never seen it personally in my 25 years of private practice experience."

Microchips are an increasingly accepted way to identify pets. The

chip cannot be lost, removed, damaged or worn out. It contains a serial number that positively identifies the animal. Owner information is accessed by reading the chip with a special scanner. A veterinarian implants the microchip with a needle in the subcutaneous tissue between an animal's shoulder blades. Once implanted, it needs no more attention, according to HomeAgain, one of the major chip makers. The chips are a stainless steel material similar to that used in repairing bone fractures.

Identification microchips are passive. They send out no signals of their own. They can only be read by a scanner that picks up the information encoded on the chip. This encoding gives an access number when scanned. The reliability and ease of use connected with the chips has made them the main system of identification in animal shelters.

According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), six to eight million lost pets are brought to shelters every year. HSUS believes microchips are like an insurance policy and provide one of the best chances that your lost pet will be returned to you.

Kat Albrecht is the founder of Missing Pet Partnership. This national nonprofit is dedicated to the research of behavioral patterns of lost pets and the education of owners about searching effectively. She advocates the use of microchips for identification, too. "Microchips are a safe, permanent form of identification allowing a pet to be traced back to the owner through a national database," Albrecht says.

Albuquerque requires animals to be microchipped. The chip number must be sent in with proof of an animal's rabies vaccination in order to get a city license. In 2007, 27,312 animals were brought into the Albuquerque Animal Care Center. For the first time more animals left the shelter alive than were euthanized. 14,677 animals left the shelter alive and 11,968 were euthanized. While the euthanasia numbers are still too high, they are turning around. The hope is that even more lost animals will be returned to their owners because of the chips. Bernalillo County has proposed a change to its animal ordinance to require microchipping. Santa Fe does not require microchips but the shelter strongly recommends them. If an animal is adopted from the Santa Fe

Animal Shelter and Humane Society, the animal can be chipped at cost.

Once the law requiring mandatory microchipping of pets went into effect in Albuquerque, lost animals with chips were recovered by their owners in greater numbers. Reclaimed animals who had chips went up from 33% to over 70%. In December

2007 alone, of the 269 lost pets reclaimed by owners, 211 were microchipped.

"The return of a lost pet may well be worth any risk involved with implanting the microchip," says Stephen Hopkins, D.V.M. of Albuquerque's Academy Animal Clinic.

For cat owners like me who worry their indoor-only cats might get outside accidentally, having them microchipped provides an extra level of security. Should my cats get lost, I am more confident they will be returned to me if the shelter can scan their microchips and determine how to contact me. The thought of losing my cats is devastating. Getting them back would be priceless.

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

"I welcome the opportunity to debunk these irresponsible rumors. I have never seen a case of cancer caused by a microchip. I have also never spoken to or met another veterinarian who has seen this. I absolutely recommend all cats be microchipped," - Dr. Emily Walker

POOPSICLES

by Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D.



DOG WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
MAXWELL AWARD 2006

Many dogs have the unpleasant habit of eating their feces. Disgusting to humans perhaps, but the eating of feces is common in dogs, many of whom do seem to enjoy it. Coprophagy refers to the eating of feces. In the animal kingdom, coprophagy can serve a purpose. For one example, some species eat the feces of their young so that predators cannot use the scent to locate a den or nest. This type of behavior in domestic dogs may have its roots in their wild ancestry but in the home environment, it is an unpleasant, bad habit.

Causes. The sudden onset of this behavior in an adult dog can have many causes. Hunger, boredom, need for attention and health issues like allergies or malabsorption problems are a few that are frequently cited. Sometimes dogs are said to learn this from other dogs in the family who engage in coprophagy. In most cases, it appears that the dogs just like the taste! With more than one possible cause, there are several different ways to try to stop the behavior and alleviate the problems that can be associated with coprophagy.

To our canine gourmands, the frozen feces, or "poopsicles," seem to be a seasonal delight. I have known even finicky eaters to imbibe.

Problems. Although generally not harmful to the dogs, coprophagy can cause problems. Dogs not only eat their own feces, but are also attracted to the stools of other animals. People who have both dogs and cats, know that dogs view the litter box as a cookie jar. Manure morsels are a particularly appealing to dogs who live around horses. It is possible for dogs to pick up internal parasites from their own or the stools of other animals. They may contract illnesses associated with bacteria in decaying feces. The ingestion of large quantities of some moisture absorbing cat litters may cause health problems such as bloat. Dogs often vomit after ingesting feces, leaving a big, stinky stain on a carpet. Perhaps nothing is worse than the bad breath that comes from chowing down on a pile of poop. Beware of that big brown smile!

What to do. Identify the cause and take corrective measures. Start by looking for anything different in your dog's diet, health or environment.

Have you put your dog on a diet lately? Hunger is one reason a dog may turn to eating feces. If your dog needs to lose weight, check with your vet about a diet regime, which will satisfy the dog's hunger so it does not seek supplemental satisfaction through the eating of feces. Is your dog ill or taking medication regularly? Some illnesses and medicines have the side effect of increasing appetite. Check with your veterinarian to see if illness or medication could be a contributing factor. Have you changed your dogs' brand of food recently? On one occasion, I changed to a different brand of dog food when the store was out of my usual food. The dogs devoured the brand that I used as a replacement. They loved it. Within one day, they all started eating their feces. This brand seemed to be so tasty to the dogs that they were willing to ingest it twice. When I changed back to my regular brand, the behavior stopped. Is your dog's diet nutritionally complete? There is some speculation that malnutrition and the lack of certain enzymes in the dog's diet can lead to coprophagy but the evidence for this is inconclusive.

Is your dog bored? I have known cases where the dog's home life changed and the dog began eating its feces. The owner, who had previously worked at home, took a job outside the home. The dog reacted to being alone in many ways, one of which was eating his feces. Often when a new baby or pet comes into the family, a dog may act out his need for attention by ingesting his feces.

Over the years, I have noticed that I get this question more often in the late fall or winter. I don't think this is a coincidence. Coprophagy seems to happen less in warm weather when Mother Nature starts the serious decomposition of the feces immediately, and it appears to be less palatable to dogs. But as the nights turn chilly and the temperatures dip below freezing, any fecal matter in the yard freezes. To our canine gourmands, the frozen feces, or "poopsicles," seem to be a seasonal delight. I have known even finicky eaters to imbibe. I can only surmise that freezing renders the feces more palatable by masking unpleasant tastes and odors, and highlighting the flavor of the digested food

– more evidence that dogs eat feces because it tastes good to them.

Take corrective measures. If your adult dog suddenly starts eating his stools, start with a vet check and a diet review. That way you can eliminate health problems or poor diet as causes of the coprophagy.

If your dog is bored or seeking attention, you need to find a way to spend more time with her. Try giving him more walks and play time with you. Add more fun toys to his environment like a Kong filled with peanut butter to keep him busy at home.

Since most dogs probably ingest their own and as well as the feces of other animals because it tastes good to them, you can try a food additive or stool spray to make the stool taste downright nasty. The list of additives and sprays that people have tried is long: anise seed, bitter apple, meat tenderizer, pepper, pineapple, Tabasco sauce, papaya enzyme, pumpkin, antiseptic mouthwash and more. Given that every dog is different in size and medical history, ask your vet which of these additives would be safe for your dog. You want to dissuade your dog not harm him. There are commercially available additives available like Dis-taste, Deter or For-bid. These are easy to use. Follow the directions on the package and dose according to body weight. Remember, if you have more than one dog, you will have to give it to all of the dogs, even they do not all eat feces.

It is not easy to break a dog from the habit of eating feces, since it is obviously something dogs enjoy. Each of these methods to deter dogs may not work with every dog. It takes time and vigilance and even then may not work. **The only one sure way to keep your dog from eating his feces is the make sure you keep your yard clean.** If it isn't there, he can't eat it. While you are working on correcting the habit, remember to give your dog plenty of praise and love. But until you get it under control, you might want to hold off on the kisses!

Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D. is an animal behaviorist and educator. She shares her home in Cerrillos with her husband, dogs and horses.

Top Animal Stories of 2007 (con't from page 1)

Albuquerque and Santa Fe dedicated to making spay/neuter available to all. (See *PETrolyphs, Spring and Summer 2007.*)

4) Ellen DeGeneres and Iggy

This tear-filled problem was aired on many TV programs. If you missed it, Ellen adopted a small dog named Iggy from a local rescue organization. After neutering the dog and taking him for training, Iggy didn't get along with Ellen's cat. So Ellen gave Iggy to her hairdresser whose children wanted a dog. When the rescue group called to check on Iggy, Ellen told them what she'd done. The rescue organization said she wasn't allowed to give the dog away. If she couldn't keep Iggy, he had to be returned to the rescue group. The group took Iggy back and found a new home for him.

Could this dilemma have been solved in another way? Yes, if both sides had worked together to bring a solution that was humane for Iggy and the people involved. While the coverage of this story was over the top in many ways, it does bring up a valid point for animal lovers. If you adopt an animal from a rescue organization, make sure you understand the terms of the agreement you are signing. Each group has rules to protect their animals and most reputable rescue groups require an animal be returned to them if the adopter can't keep it.

5) Increased attention to animal protection issues by lawmakers and law enforcement officials

State and local lawmakers have learned animal protection issues are important to their constituents. They are demonstrating this understanding by getting actively involved in improving animal policies. They also grasp the link between animal cruelty and family violence, and want to work toward ending all the violence. Law enforcement officials are more diligent about enforcing animal cruelty and animal fighting laws now. APNM will be offering courses in 2008 to train law enforcement officers to investigate animal fighting cases.

6) Pet owners spending a record \$41 billion dollars on their animals

Americans love their companion animals. Spending on pets, including pet food, toys and various products, is the eighth largest retail sales category in the USA. In the last decade the amount spent on pets has doubled. According to the American Pet Product Manufacturer's Association, there are 245 million pets in the United States. That's almost as many pets as people.

7) Bald eagle taken off the endangered species list

In June the bald eagle was officially taken off the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants where it has resided since 1967. When it was listed, only 417 breeding pairs existed in this country. Now there are over 10,000. Eagles are present in all of the lower 48 states and Alaska. They will still be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Congratulations on a huge success story!

If we missed animal stories you felt were important in 2007, we invite you to let us know. Keep track of the stories you would put on the list and we'll try it again in 2008.

UNSUNG HERO: Isa Coleman (con't from page 3)

He never does that at Isa's so everyone thought he was looking for her. Heidi was thrown against a wall when she was three weeks old. She needed special care to survive and Isa couldn't part with her after that. Luna, Salem and Onyx are the trio of black cats. Emily, Big Boy and Missy round out the group.

Isa loves cats, as is reflected by the number in her household. "She once wrote an article containing pictures for SJAL on raising baby kittens if their mom was lost. It is one of the most requested articles. In addition, Isa has always been willing to help folks take care of tiny kittens by giving encouragement and advice," says Kristin Langenfeld of SJAL.

In a lifetime of living with animals, Isa has learned many lessons.

"Animals don't talk back. If I do something good for them, they're good to me. I feel I've rescued an animal who otherwise might have died. If I don't find the right home, I keep them," she says. "I cry when I adopt out an animal because by then I've lived with them for several months."

Isa checks up on her adopted animals. Her instincts usually are correct and she believes that 99% of the animals are in good homes.

"I want people to understand that spay and neuter, shots, a leukemia test for cats and heartworm test and medication for dogs are the most important things animals need to start their lives. I think education is vital but it needs to start early in the elementary schools. I also want people to know they should never use a wire as a collar around a dog's neck. It hurts the animal. I had a dog whose neck was an open sore about two inches wide because there were three wires embedded in his neck," Isa continues.

It is impossible to imagine Isa without a house full of animals. Her cheerfulness and warmth bubble through the phone line as she describes her animals, their personalities and their quirks. She is a natural mother to the kittens she bottle feeds and keeps in a special incubator.

Isa describes the power animals have over her by saying, "I love animals because they have wonderful souls. The joy of living with an animal is precious. A person can talk to an animal and the companionship is priceless."

The world needs many more Isa Coleman's to bring love and hope to the homeless animals among us.

See more cartoons at: www.stephaniepiro.com
email Stephanie at stephaniepiro@verizon.net



"He's a border collie. You're wearing wool, aren't you?"

Eleven Honored at 2007 Milagro Awards Event Draws Record Attendance

by Monica Garcia

The 2007 Milagro Awards event sponsored by Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) honored the exemplary accomplishments of eleven winners, ten human and one canine, at its sold-out banquet and awards presentation at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe on October 6, 2007.

Primatologist Carole Noon, founder and director of Save the Chimps, was the event's keynote speaker. The Milagro audience was captivated by her narration over a video that illustrated what some of her rescued chimpanzees had gone through a few decades ago as test subjects for the U.S. Air Force. Chimpanzees were also used as live crash test subjects when the effects of automobile seat belts were being studied. Noon has created the world's largest permanent sanctuary, in the form of 12 four-acre islands, for rescued chimpanzees in Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Dedication to animals, like that of Dr. Noon, is a characteristic APNM believes is very important to publicly recognize in individuals.

First held in 2000, the Milagro Awards honors those nominated from all over New Mexico for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of animals.

The 2007 Milagro Award winners are:

Advocacy Award—

Deborah James, Rio Rancho

Animal Award—

Stubby Harris, Embudo

Board of Directors' Award—

Tamsin Faith Bemis, Albuquerque (Posthumous)

Direct Animal Services Award—

Jemez Valley Animal Amigos, Jemez Springs

Executive Director's Award—

Governor Bill Richardson, Santa Fe

Humane Citizen Award—

Christopher Willett, Santa Fe

Humane Education Award—

Lannie Alexander, Albuquerque

Lawmaking Advocacy Award—

Rep. Justine Fox-Young, Albuquerque & Rep. Tom Swisstack, Rio Rancho

Mary Jane García Champion for Animals Award—

Albuquerque City Councilor Sally Mayer, Albuquerque

Media Award—

Sunny Aris, MTD Radio, Ruidoso

Two new, permanent Milagro Awards were presented this year.

The Mary Jane García Champion for Animals Milagro Award was created to honor exceptional leadership, courage and persistence in the face of opposition re-

sulting in positive change for animals. A former Milagro Award winner, the senator was given a plaque engraved with the likeness of the sterling silver award medallion, to commemorate the creation of that award in her name.

The Humane Citizen Milagro Award was created to honor efforts by a private citizen to promote the humane treatment of animals using a variety of approaches and methods.

Before the program began, many of the almost 300 attendees participated in a silent, but enthusiastic, auction of animal artwork by students from Santa Fe's Oz School. The auction was a great success, with sales totaling almost \$3,000. Proceeds were split with the school.

The awards presentations included brief video montages, and interviews, that provided personal background on each of the award winner's work on behalf of animals. Winners' videos may be viewed at www.apnm.org/programs/milagro_awards/2007/winners.php.

Each award winner received a sterling silver medallion created by a San Juan Pueblo silversmith, personalized with the hoof or paw print of the animal appropriate to the winner. The Animal Award winner, a young pitbull mix named Stubby, received a sterling dog tag.

For weeks before the event, Stubby's human was nervous about how his pup would behave herself among so many people in a four-star hotel. This usually-rambunctious dog lives on the fringes of a village, sixteen feet from the flowing Rio Grande, and has a pasture for a front yard.

Every award winner had an "ambassador" assigned to him or her. Stubby's ambassador summed up the little charmer's behavior in terms that strongly suggested she comported herself like royalty of the 1940s.

Exactly one week later, we're told, Stubby was agitated and restless on Saturday night. Her human thinks she wanted to do it all over again.

The next Milagro Awards will take place in 2009, the year of APNM's 30th anniversary. For more information, please visit www.apnm.org.

Milagro Award Winners and those who accepted the award on behalf of someone who could not be present.

Seated (l-r): Gregg and Lisa Bemis, accepting award on behalf of daughter Tamsin Faith Bemis; Rep. Tom Swisstack; former Milagro Award winner Senator Mary Jane García; Lannie Alexander. Standing (l-r): Rep. Thomas Anderson, accepting on behalf of Rep. Justine Fox-Young; Lynne Kito, Jemez Valley Animal Amigos; Sunny Aris, MTD Radio; Christopher Willett; Karen Menczer, Jemez Valley Animal Amigos; Deborah James; and Douglas Carver, accepting for Governor Bill Richardson. Milagro Award winners not in photo are: Albuquerque City Councilor Sally Mayer and Stubby Harris.



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