



Petroglyphs

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Fostering Kittens
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🐾 New Mexico's Award-Winning Resource Publication for Animal Lovers



FIRST-TIME FOSTERER

A longtime humane society staffer takes on a couple of kittens, and the kittens win.

By Paul Glassner

In honor of Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month PETroglyphs is running "First-Time Fosterer," a multiple-award winner in the 2009 Cat Writers' Association Communications Contest. Maybe it will make you want to consider adopting a shelter cat – or perhaps two.

Gracie did it first.

I was sitting at my desk at home writing a letter when this determined little fluffball clawed her way up my pants leg. Thank goodness for blue jeans; their thick skin provides a good gripping surface for tiny kitten talons as well as perfect protection for the person.

Once she reached my knee level, Gracie padded around the tops of my thighs and nestled down in my lap. And when Jack, her brother, heard the purr from above, he climbed up exactly the same way to investigate, and soon both of them were curled up in my lap asleep.

Adorable!

Allowing foster kittens to scale one's pants leg, while not explicitly prohibited by The San Francisco SPCA Foster Kitten Program Manual, isn't desirable behavior. I'm a seasoned cat person, and I know that today's one-pound feline leg ascender might become tomorrow's ten-pound living-room curtains climber.

OK, so I was a permissive parent. But I was so happy to be under the same roof with felines again. It was my first time fostering, my first time in 25 years in a pets-OK housing situation, and more than 30 years since I'd resided with kittens.

Fostering – taking care of sick, injured or underage animals at home until they're ready for permanent placement – wasn't invented by The SF/SPCA, but the organization was first to apply the concept on a grand scale. Each year 800-1000 lives, most of them underage kittens, are saved by The SF/SPCA Foster Program. The SF/SPCA supplies food and medical care, you provide the love.

Upon signing the foster agreement, I was given the starter kit: Regular kibble. Baby kibble. Kibble pitcher. One case of basic food (a liver concoction). Sardine/tuna mix (add as needed to encourage eating). Turkey mix (bland yet flavorful, good for diarrhea should the need arise). A couple of cans of prescription food

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Gracie & Jack

THE SIXTH ANNUAL 'YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES' PHOTO CONTEST

This is the sixth year for the PETroglyphs' 'YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES' Photo Contest. This year's contest doesn't have a specific theme. It is wide open. We just want to see photos of animals you love..

Got a great photo of your companion animal stashed away just waiting for its 15 minutes of fame? If not, grab your camera and start clicking photos of your animal friends now whether they are cats, dogs, horses, parrots, guinea pigs, iguanas, rabbits, rats or any other animal.

This year's winning photo receives a grand

prize and will grace the cover of the PETroglyphs Winter issue. Second and third place photos also receive prizes. Runner up winners and honorable mentions will be featured on PETroglyphs' inside pages. The top 20 photos will be published on our website in living color.

Email your favorite jpg's (250 KB - 1 MB) to petroglyphsnm@yahoo.com or snail mail your photo to PETroglyphs, Attn: Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109. Please include the photographer's name, address, phone number, e-mail and pet's name with your entries. Send clear, sharp pho-

tos. Photos under 250KB will not be considered. One submission per family. The photos will not be returned unless you include a SASE. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2010. Judges decisions are final. To take perfect pet photos check the "Pet Photo Tips" on our website at: www.PetroglyphsNM.org/PetPhotoTips.html.

While we don't charge an entry fee for the contest because we want as many entries as possible, a donation to PETroglyphs would be greatly appreciated. Your donations keep us publishing.

Petroglyphs



From the Editor

Summer is here with all the fun in the sun that you and your companion animal can handle. But there are dangers in the sun as well. Check out our articles on *Fun in the Sun* (p. RG-13) and *Dig Those Shades! Protection from Pannus* (p. RG-11) to help you protect your companion animal from summer problems.

It's time to grab your camera again for the Sixth Annual 'You Oughta' Be In Pictures' contest. This year the deadline is extended to October 1, 2010 and the winning pictures will be printed in PETroglyphs' Winter issue. See contest rules on (p. 1).

Kitten season is still with us. Every rescue and shelter is overrun. Lucky kittens are fostered by people who want to give them a good, healthy start which will enable them to be adopted. *First-Time Fosterer* (p.1) tells the story of Paul Glassner's experience fostering two kittens from the San Francisco SPCA. This article was a multiple-award winner in last year's Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest.

Since its founding in 1995, Assistance Dogs of the West has trained hundreds of service dogs to help people with disabilities manage their daily lives. Get an up close and personal look at what this group does and their innovative training programs (p. 3).

A recent report called "Feline Life Stages Guidelines" outlines the care cats need during the various stages of their lives. In *Cat Chat* (p. 4) we discuss the importance of setting up a care plan with your veterinarian to give your cat a long, healthy life.

Regional News and Events (p. RG-12) bursts at the seams with fun events you can attend this summer. We have everything from art shows, adoptions, shot clinics, pet loss support groups and raffles to Travelin' Jack's Potty Party.

We have articles on dogs who participate in library programs where children read to them, how pets are fairing in this economy, and a new survey on registering animal abusers the way sex offenders are registered when they move into a neighborhood.

Don't forget to check out our list of interesting websites (p. 19). You'll learn a lot and have a laugh, too.

ANANNOUNCEMENT: PETroglyphs' Fall issue will be published exclusively on the Internet. When we took a survey last winter, the majority of respondents said they would like to see PETroglyphs publish at least one or two issues on the Internet rather than in paper. We will try this with the next issue. Make sure you send in your E-mail address to nmarano@aol.com in order to be on our E-mail mailing list for the next issue and for updates PETroglyphs sends out between issues. Please put "PETroglyphs E-mail subscription" in the subject line of your E-mail. We look forward to serving you in a new way.

Enjoy your summer and keep your animal friends happy and healthy.

For the love of animals,
Nancy Marano,
Editor



It's easy to support PETroglyphs, New Mexico's Award-winning Resource Publication for Animal Lovers!

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PETroglyphs is a publication focused on community education for animal welfare. Our gratitude goes to all our advertisers and writers for their contributions and support which make this publication possible. We would also like to extend an invitation to those wishing to submit stories, article ideas, poetry, notices of events, photographs, artwork, etc., that would enhance the purpose of this publication.

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Assistance Dogs of the West: Innovative Training

By Nancy Marano

Heart wrenching stories are an every day occurrence at Assistance Dogs of the West (ADW). An Iraqi vet returned home from the war with seizure disorders caused by PTSD suffered as a result of combat. He was unable to function in society because he never knew when the seizures were going to happen. ADW was able to provide him with a dog who could detect seizures before they happened. Now his seizures are down by 20% and he has the confidence to live his life again.

A woman came to them who'd been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. She was also diabetic and quite overweight. With her multiple problems she was afraid to go out of her house because of the reactions she received from people. She adopted a dog from the local shelter and asked whether ADW could train her and her dog. The dog was a terrier breed, which is not the first breed trainers think of as a service dog, but this one turned out to be a star. The dog's relationship with her person was so good that she learned all the commands and helped her person overcome her fears. This woman's service dog acts as a protective shield between her and the rest of the world. The woman was so thrilled with the result she told the staff, "I can live again," with tears in her eyes.

Carolyn Clark Beedle, Executive Director of ADW said, "Watching the connection happen between dog and client is one of the most gratifying aspects of this work."

There are 200+ service dog training centers in the U.S. Most are small, regional centers that use professional trainers. Now some also use people from prison populations as trainers but very few use students with mental or physical disabilities as trainers.

"Our model is different in that we are the largest student training organization with the broadest student population types," Beedle said. "When Jill Felice founded ADW in 1995, she started by using student trainers from private schools. Professional trainers train students to train dogs."

ADW is willing to try different groups of trainers when possible. "Many of the students who were sent by their schools at the beginning had learning or social challenges. They were bright but didn't always interact well in society. This was a program where they saw immediate results. When they trained a dog, they became experts. They also became advocates for the abilities of the disabled. Embedded in the program is an awareness of persons with disabilities, why the dogs are trained the way they are, and why these dogs need to work the way they do. At the end of the program, the student trainers do public speaking about their dogs and what they do," said Beedle.

The next group they tried as student trainers were developmentally disabled people. ADW set up a class at Adelante in Albuquerque. These students did well

with the repetitive tasks and sequencing needed to train the dogs. The students worked on similar skills in their own occupational therapy classes.

High-level emotional and psychiatric patients became the next trainers. Each group uses a modified curriculum that addresses their needs as well as trains the dogs in their required skills.

Some cultures view dogs as being outside only, perhaps kept for security but never as a pet. ADW offers summer school and after-school programs four days a week with each class having 10 students. Two such groups are the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Fe and Chimayo.



Jackson

"When these children work with the animals and see what they can do, the skills and behaviors learned in the process get generalized into their lives. It's lovely to watch the change," Beedle said. "They learn to be advocates and to explain to their parents and others in their community what the value of the animal is and how the dog is going to help. People with disabilities have a stigma attached in our society and here's a little cadre of people to advocate for them. We watch lives being changed on a daily basis."

ADW is beginning to work with veterans suffering from PTSD as trainers. It is hoped the dog training will help re-integrate them into society.

The ADW program graduates 250 student trainers per year in 18 locations throughout New Mexico. "Many agencies work with some of these populations but no one else works with all of them," Beedle explained. "The reason we do it is that we're interested in learning how this program will work with various groups and New Mexico is a microcosm of

the country."

The training program is a two-year process with 30-35 dogs in the program each year. ADW gets 500+ calls a year from people asking for a dog. After interviews and evaluations, perhaps 10% of those people will actually become part of the program. The ADW waiting list for a dog is from six months to two years while the national average is five years. An ADW dog costs \$15,000 to train while the national average is \$25,000. Once a client is matched with a dog, there is a \$5,000 fee for two weeks of Client Placement Training.

ADW is a member of Assistance Dogs International, an international consortium of service dog training facilities. This group shares standards, best practices and requirements for service dog training.

Several types of service dogs are trained by ADW. Service dogs, or assistance dogs, are legally defined in 1990's Americans with Disabilities Act. These dogs must be individually trained to perform tasks directly related to the person's disability. They are allowed anywhere a person can take a medical device such as a wheelchair. They wear a vest saying "Service Dog" and are not considered a pet.

The types of assistance dogs trained at ADW fall into several categories.

- Standard assistance dog – These dogs work with people who have mobility issues or autistic children. A dog placed with an autistic child is considered a family placement since they work with the child but respond to other members of the family.
- Seizure dogs – They work to alert their person when they are about to have a seizure or work with them during and after a seizure. They stay with their person when necessary and will fetch medication.
- Psychiatric support dogs – These dogs help people with severe depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, panic disorder agoraphobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, PTSD and others. They alert their person to the onset of a panic attack for example and nudge the person to get them to think in a different way. Sometimes the dog will lie on top of a person. The pressure and warmth of the dog's body reduces a person's anxiety. This often works with autistic children.
- Medical alert dogs – Smell is a dog's most developed sense. This is used in detecting when a person is in a diabetes danger zone for example. Then the dog will retrieve medication or get help.
- Facility dogs – These dogs work with one handler. This team then works with many people in animal assisted interventions. These teams are often in courthouses to work with crime victims, usually children, to provide a safe atmosphere while they testify. Sometimes they are used in schools, health care facilities and detention centers.

While any breed of dog may be used as a service

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CAT CHAT

Feline Life Stages

By Nancy Marano

A light went out in our household a few weeks ago. Rocky, our youngest cat, died at age 11. We adopted Rocky from Animal Humane New Mexico (AHANM) when he was only a few weeks old. He had a rough start because it was the year an outbreak of panleukopenia devastated AHANM and 80+ cats died or were euthanized because of it.

Our veterinarian kept Rocky in the hospital for several days of treatment. He didn't give Rocky a 50-50% chance of surviving but this tiny cat was a fighter. When we brought him home, we took turns holding him and rocking him while he shivered and struggled against this deadly disease. I told him if he beat this scourge, we'd name him Rocky after Rocky Balboa in the movie. Eventually he turned the corner and we knew he would be fine. And he was for the rest of his life until a month ago.

We noticed his fur didn't look as shiny as before and it appeared to be thinner than the usual plush velvet that covered his body. He went off by himself a little more than usual but we didn't think much of it at the time. Then he had some projectile vomiting which alerted us that something was going wrong. He got past that and then his appetite waned. The veterinary ER diagnosed him as having fluid in his chest and abdomen and a mass in his pancreas. The mass was cancer. Rocky came home on medication. Then he stopped eating and drinking and we knew he was telling us his time with us was finished.

Our veterinarian eased Rocky out of this world on a sunny, Saturday morning. We knew we did what Rocky wanted but the loss is great for the humans and animals in our household. Sammy, our cat, and Maggie, our dog, still search for him and wonder why he didn't come home. His ashes are home now and will remain with us and all our other animals who preceded him.

We still see him in his favorite places or catch a glimpse of his beautiful sable fur disappearing around a door or under the bed. This calm, stoic cat will be part of our lives forever. He added humor and love to our family. His quiet determination usually allowed him to win the day and carry out his agenda no matter what any of us had in mind. Wherever his spirit is now, we know he is watching and waiting for the right time to make his wishes known, snuggle in a warm bed or talk to the birds.

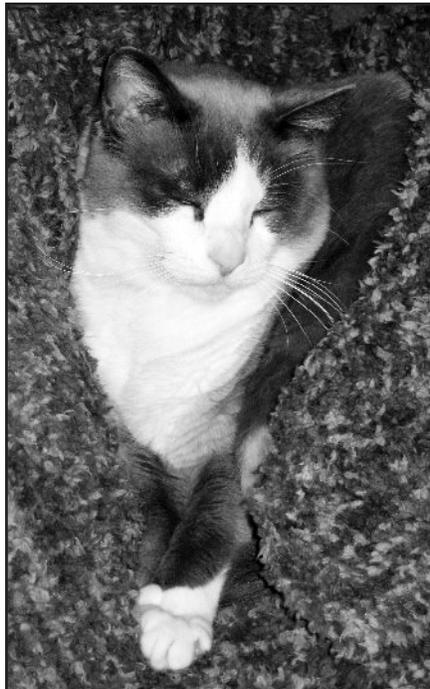
Cats are the nation's number one pet. 82 million cats live in U.S. homes compared with 72 million dogs according to the latest statistics on pet ownership. But cats don't receive the same health care dogs do. On average dogs visit the veterinarian 1.5 times per year while cats see the veterinarian 0.7 times. That's less than once a year. What does this mean for your cat?

It means your cat is not getting the care he needs and deserves and it means people's ideas about cats need re-adjustment.

Why do people think cats should see the veterinarian less often than dogs?

Incredible as it may sound surveys tell us people actually express the belief that cats don't need medical care. This misconception probably stems from the fact that illness is difficult to detect in cats because they are masters at hiding symptoms and people believe cats are self-sufficient.

The CATalyst Council is a nonprofit dedicated to changing the perception of cats as aloof creatures and elevating their status as pets so people understand they need medical care. (For more on the CATalyst Council see: www.petroglyphsnm.org/newsletters/fall_2008/cat_chat_are_cats_second_class_pets.html)



Rocky
1999-2010

One of the outcomes of the CATalyst Council meetings was a partnership between the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and the American Animal Health Association (AAHA). This partnership developed the Feline Life Stage Guidelines providing recommendations to insure cats receive proper health care throughout the various stages of their lives. The Guidelines also give practical suggestions and tools to improve veterinary visits and enhance client-veterinarian interaction.

The main reasons for creating the Life Stage Guidelines were to:

- Enhance the health, welfare and longevity of cats
- Provide available resources to help establish a comprehensive care plan for each cat taking into consideration the stage of the cat's life.
- Facilitate communication among pet owners, veterinarians and support staff on feline wellness issues. Good communication helps the owner stick with a wellness plan and improve the quality of life for their cat.
- Create a database of feline test results to track any abnormalities and plan treatment before the problem becomes too extensive.

The Guidelines now divide a cat's life span into six stages:

<u>Life stage</u>	<u>Cat age</u>	<u>Human equivalent</u>
Kitten	0-6 months	0-10 years
Junior	7 months - 2 years	12-24 years
Prime	3-6 years	28-40 years
Mature	7-10 years	44-56 years
Senior	11-14 years	60-72 years
Geriatric	15-25 years.	78-116 years

Various discussion points and action items help veterinarians conduct wellness exams on their feline patients and communicate information on cat health to their clients.

The goal is to use wellness health care to keep cats healthier longer and catch problems earlier. This also reduces the cost of health care for cats by finding potential problems before they become life threatening or costly.

The main reasons people give for not taking their cat to the veterinarian, besides not knowing that it is necessary, are that the visit is too stressful for the cat and it is too difficult to transport the cat to the office.

There are things a cat owner can do to help ease the stress of veterinary visits and the difficulty of transporting the cat. Some ideas you might try to reduce the fear of travel are

- Socialize kittens to the carrier and to traveling
- Keep the carrier accessible in your home and make it a pleasant spot for your

(Continued on page RG-13)

WILL THIS STOP ANIMAL ABUSE?

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is suggesting people convicted of felony animal abuse should register with local law enforcement agencies when they move into an area. This database would be similar to the one now in use for convicted sex offenders. Their press release follows.

Let us hear from you on this. Do you think such a database will stop animal abuse and should states keep such a database?

Alison Gianotto started the website www.Pet-Abuse.com in 2001 after a neighbor's cat was set on fire. Check it out for information on pet abuse cases.

COTATI, CALIF. – The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) today announced an effort aimed at creating public registries in each state of anyone convicted of felony animal abuse. This could include violence (torture, mutilation, intentional killings, etc.), sexual abuse, and animal fighting as well as neglect (such as hoarding). Such registries would help protect animals, pet guardians and communities by preventing repeat offenses from anyone with an established history of abusing animals.

Through its campaign, www.ExposeAnimalAbusers.org, the animal protection organization is promoting model legislation that state legislatures could enact. Such bills have been introduced in the past by elected officials in Rhode Island, Colorado, and Tennessee, and the first-ever bill for a statewide registry in California was today announced by its sponsor, State Senator Dean Florez.

ALDF points to the following examples for why a registry is needed to help animal guardians, law enforcement and shelters protect their animals:

- **Robert Rydzewski:** In 2004, the then 29-year-old upstate New Yorker shot his neighbor's dog in the face twice. Two months later, he killed another neighbor's Welsh Corgi with an ax. Rydzewski was convicted of "torturing or injuring" an animal, and he has since been arrested for assaulting people and resisting arrest. His whereabouts are unknown.
- **Shon Rahrig:** While living in Ohio in 1999, Rahrig allegedly adopted several cats and a puppy from local shelters and tortured them sadistically. He poked out the eyes of a cat named Misty, broke her legs and jaw, cut off her paws, and left her bleeding in a laundry basket. His girlfriend turned him in, and he took a plea bargain that admitted abuse of only one animal. Rahrig was forbidden to own an animal for five years, but he was subsequently seen at an adoption event in California.
- **Vikki Kittles:** Since 1982, Kittles has been run out of four states for

hoarding animals. Time and again, she has been caught housing dozens of sick, neglected animals in squalid conditions. An Oregon prosecutor convicted Kittles in 1993 after finding 115 sick and dying dogs crammed into a school bus, but she has gone on to hoard animals again in Oregon and other states several times since.

"Animal abuse is not only a danger to our cats, dogs, horses, and other animals, but also to people, said ALDF Executive Director Stephen Wells. "Many animal abusers have a history of domestic violence or other criminal activity, and there is a disturbing trend of animal abuse among our country's most notorious serial killers."

Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, David Berkowitz ("The Son of Sam"), Albert DeSalvo ("The Boston Strangler") and Dennis Rader (Kansas' "BTK killer") all abused animals before their other crimes, as did many of the teenagers who went on shooting rampages at their high schools: Luke Woodham (Pearl, MS) and Kip Kinkel (Springfield, OR).

"But it's not just about how animal abusers end up also hurting or killing humans," said Wells. "It should be motivation enough to protect our animals from repeat offenders – and any abuse of any kind."

Through its campaign website, ExposeAnimalAbusers.org, ALDF allows the public to urge their state lawmakers to propose legislation for state registries.

While no state has passed a bill to date, a proposal in Tennessee is currently pending. In 2008, an earlier version of this bill passed the Tennessee Senate, but stalled in the House of Representatives. The current bill's sponsors are Rep. Janis Sontany and Senator Doug Jackson.

"We operate shelters in the hopes of giving abandoned pets a second chance at a loving home, not subjecting them to lives of continued abuse and neglect," Florez said. "A registry of abusers would help ensure animals are not being adopted out to convicted abusers, end the cycle of abuse and increase the likelihood of finding these pets the forever home they deserve."

About the Animal Legal Defense Fund

ALDF was founded in 1979 with the unique mission of protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. Visit www.aldf.org.

SPAY / NEUTER SERVICES

In the Spring issue of PETroglyphs, we discussed **Spay-Neuter Resources in New Mexico: Low-Cost and No-Cost Programs**, (http://apnm.org/campaigns/animal_overpopulation/spay_neuter_resources.php), a listing of resources put together by Animal Protection of New Mexico.

We would like to add two resources to this listing.

Bernalillo County:

Albuquerque Cat Action Team (A.C.A.T.)

Provides low cost spay and neuter to anyone in Albuquerque who needs to sterilize their cat(s). This program has no income limits.

For information contact: mail@albcat.com

Santa Fe:

Cat Spay of Santa Fe

Contact: Zimmer Foundation, PO Box 6815, Santa Fe, NM 87502

(505) 466-1676

E-mail: TheLoveOfCats@comcast.net

Web: www.Zimmer-Foundation.org

The program is for lower-income family pet cats and yard cats. Some of the main points of the program are:

- No waiting list
- Easy-to-complete on-line application
- Surgeries performed at participating area veterinary clinics
- Vouchers pay the full cost to spay or neuter each cat and vaccinate once for rabies
- Open to Santa Fe County residents living in apartment complexes and mobile home parks — or homeowners with incomes under \$40,000 per year. *Some restrictions apply — see complete program information at: Zimmer-Foundation.org*

CALENDAR

AUGUST

Weeks:

2nd week --- National Assistance Dog Week

Days:

2nd Thursday --- National Assistance Dog Day (Working Like Dogs)

3rd Saturday --- National Homeless Animals Day (Int'l Society for Animal Rights)

20 --- Humane Slaughter Act 1958

26 --- National Dog Day (Colleen Paige of National Dog Day Foundation) (always)

30 --- National Holistic Pet Day (always)

SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL SAVE-THE-TIGER MONTH, NATIONAL CHICKEN MONTH,

PET HEALTH INSURANCE MONTH (Canada), PET SMILE MONTH,

SENIOR CARE HEALTH MONTH (Iams, Pfizer Animal Health)

WORLD ANIMAL REMEMBRANCE MONTH

Weeks:

3rd week --- National Farm Animals Awareness Week (HSUS) & New Mexico's Week for the Animals

4th week --- National Dog Week (National Dog Week) & National Deaf Dog Awareness Week (Deaf Dog Education Action Fund)

Days:

2nd Sunday --- National Pet Memorial Day (Int'l Association of Pet Cemeteries)

3rd Saturday --- International Coastal Cleanup Day (The Ocean Conservancy) & Responsible Dog Ownership Day (American Kennel Club)

15 --- PETroglyphs Day in New Mexico (Proclaimed by Governor Richardson in honor of PETroglyphs being the only independent, award-winning, state-wide newspaper dedicated solely to animal issues.)

18 --- Puppy Mill Awareness Day

4th Saturday --- National Wildlife Ecology Day (Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting)

22 --- National Elephant Appreciation Day (always)

23 --- Dogs and Politics Day (always)

26 --- National Wild Horse Adoption Day

26 --- International Rabbit Day (4th Saturday)

29 --- National Goose Day (always)

OCTOBER

ADOPT-A-SHELTER-DOG MONTH (ASPCA), ADOPT-A-DOG MONTH (AHA), NATIONAL CUT-OUT-DISSECTION MONTH (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals - PETA), NATIONAL ANIMAL SAFETY AND PROTECTION MONTH (Emergency Animal Rescue Service - United Animal Nations), NATIONAL PET WELLNESS MONTH (AVMA, Fort Dodge Animal Health)

Weeks:

1st week --- Animal Welfare Week (AVMA)

2nd week --- Squirrel Awareness Week, National Veterinary Technician Week (NAVTA), National Wildlife Refuge Week (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

3rd week --- National Veterinary Technician Week (National Ass'n of Veterinary Technicians), Wolf Awareness Week (Defenders of Wildlife), National Primate Liberation Week 2007 (SAEN), World Rainforest Week (Rainforest Action Network)

4th week --- Give Wildlife a Brake Week (HSUS)

Days:

1 --- Fire Pup Day

1st Monday --- World Habitat Day (UN)

2 --- World Farm Animals Day (always) (FARM)

4 --- St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day/World Pets' Day/World Animal Day (always) (Great Resource Site for World Animal Day)

16 --- National Feral Cat Day (always) (Alley Cat Allies)

18 --- Water Pollution Control Act 1972

21 --- Marine Mammal Protection Act 1972

26 --- National Mule Day (always)

27 --- Dolphin Protection Consumer Info. Act, 1980: "dolphin-safe tuna" labeling

* Visit our website to view more dates



ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO CAMPAIGNS

TRAIN. DON'T CHAIN.®

"The Public Safety and Humane Implications of Persistently Tethering Domestic Dogs" developed by Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) in collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Public Safety can be downloaded at: http://apnm.org/campaigns/chaining/Final_DPS_Tethering_Study.pdf.

The report provides a detailed view of the practice of chaining dogs. It discusses the problem in terms of the effect on dogs, human deaths and injuries local animal control ordinances, state and national trends in tethering laws among other issues.

APNM will develop programs to work with communities' throughout New Mexico to develop and implement plans to improve the quality of life for chained dogs by: teaching people dogs are social beings who shouldn't be isolated on chains; making behavioral training resources available; and helping people find viable alternatives to chaining.

One of their new programs is Train. Don't Chain® at www.apnm.org/chaining. Get a preview of the new public service announcement "Even Dogs Have Dreams."

EMERGENCY FEED ASSISTANCE

The Equine Protection Fund, a partnership between the New Mexico Community Foundation and APNM, created the Emergency Feed Assistance program. The program provides subsidized hay, grain and other necessary food to equines belonging to needy families for up to two months.

Emergency Feed Assistance will provide food for up to four equines for two months while a family gets back on its feet financially. Applicants must have lost a job or had a medical emergency in the past six months, as well as provide veterinary reference, have no record of animal abuse, and have a plan for how they will care for their animals after assistance has expired.

This program has helped families in Los Lunas, To'hajiilee, El Prado, Pie Town and Capitan keep their equines fed. It has fed 10 horses, 4 donkeys and 2 mules so far.

Similar programs are available to promote responsible equine stewardship in other states, but this is the first program of its kind in New Mexico.

To learn more about the Equine Protection Fund and to access the application for Emergency Feed Assistance visit: <http://EquineProtectionFund.org>

To watch a video of some of the recipients of this program: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5BVzGSgF70>

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Pets and the Economy

by
Stephanie Suesan Smith, PhD

According to Catalyst Direct, pets help their owners cope with the current economic uncertainty. According to shelters, pets are being given up in record numbers by owners that have lost their jobs, or homes, or both. Here are some ways you can keep your pet even if the economy has attacked you.

First, the survey. In a sample of 400 Americans, 89% reported that their pets help them deal with the stress in their lives. Eighty-three percent say their pets provide valuable reassurance in uncertain times and 86% value their pets appreciation.

When asked about spending cuts and how that would affect their pet, most pet owners reported they would cut spending on themselves rather than on their pet. This survey has been widely reported. However, there are no details on how it was conducted or analyzed, only a press release with these few results. It is always suspicious when the results are given for a survey without any information on how the subjects were chosen and more information on the data.

Despite the Catalyst Direct survey, many people are giving up their pets. In areas with high foreclosure rates, the shelters are being inundated with animals. Owners tell the shelter personnel they are moving, or have lost their job and can no longer feed their animals.

Actually, the animals taken to the shelter are the lucky ones. Others are abandoned at the houses by the owners. Some are found dead, others nearly so. The lucky ones end up at the shelter, traumatized and scared. Other people just set their dogs or cats loose. Domestic animals do not fend for themselves very well. Most die from starvation, cars, attacks by other animals, or disease. The survivors end up in the shelter. If you must give up your pet, take it to the shelter, at least there it has a chance.

If your home is foreclosed and you must move into a rental property, there are steps you can take to find one that will take pets. The Humane Society of the United States recommends these:

- Give yourself some time. If it looks like you are going to have to move, start looking immediately. Do not wait until the last minute.
- Contact the shelters and humane societies in your area and ask if they have a list of apartments and other places that take pets.
- Prove you are a responsible pet owner. Get letters from your landlord, if you have one, or neighbors that attest to your ability to maintain your dog responsibly. Get a letter from your veterinarian and proof of all vaccinations and heartworm medication. This shows the dog is not a threat health wise.
- Get written proof that your new landlord will allow your pet. If it isn't in writing, it doesn't exist.

If you are worried about the cost of caring for a pet, you can purchase less expensive toys, ask your veterinarian to do only the most necessary care for your pet, and keep your dog indoors or on a leash at all times - this lessens the likelihood of an accident or illness that will cost you money.

Stephanie Suesan Smith is a freelance writer and photographer. More of her writing can be found on her website, www.stephaniesuesansmith.com and her blog, <http://blog.stephaniesuesansmith.com>



CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

Many websites provide helpful information for you and your animals. *PETroglyphs* will list ones that come to our attention as being useful, fun or educational. If you have a favorite animal-related website, please share it with us at nmarano@aol.com. Put "Animal Website" in the subject line.

www.aspcapro.com

This general website put out by the ASPCA includes information on all animals, how to get them adopted by matching the animal to the person, articles and links to help you help your animal, and ways your organization can increase participation from the community. There is also a link to the Poison Control Center.

www.humanesociety.org

HSUS provides links to news, videos, issues, and useful information for you and your animal. It gives you ways to get involved and a newsletter for which you can sign up.

www.americanhumane.org

The American Humane Society has wide-ranging programs for helping animals. It also supports the work of shelters, provides outlets for advocacy on issues and works on The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence. This is a good general site for animal welfare.

www.petconnection.com

Pet Connection is a fun newsletter/website. Dr. Mary Becker writes for them as do many award-winning animal writers. You can find information on traveling with your pet, product reviews, informational and health articles as well as lots of good advice on caring for your animal.

http://vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumnns

This site is excellent for short, well-researched articles on health and safety tips for all types of animals. Published by the University of Illinois Veterinary School, the advice is accurate and easy to read. Try it next time you have a question about your animal's health.

www.animalshelvertips.com

This is a locally produced newsletter in Santa Fe that gives tips and ideas for animal shelters, rescue groups and volunteers to use for fundraising projects and to get more animals adopted.

http://santafescoop.ning.com/

Ben Swan of the Santa Fe New Mexican is the guiding force behind this community networking site. It gives you the animals news for Santa Fe and surrounding areas but you are able to comment directly to the site and upload pictures to it. There are excellent articles and good photos. Try it out and tell them about your animal.

www.abqdog.com

It is devoted to everything dog in Albuquerque and the surrounding area. abqdog.com brings you products, events, services, travel information, places to dine with your dog and you can sign up for a newsletter. If you have a dog and you live in Albuquerque, this is the site for you.

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