

Fall 2014

**FREE!**

# Dog & Cruces

Information for the Las Cruces Dog Lover!

A cartoon illustration of a brown and white dog sitting and looking to the left. It has large eyes and a friendly expression. The dog is positioned in the center of the main title graphic.

## Thrown Away

Jess Williams doesn't understand how someone can toss an old dog out like the trash.

Page 12

## Hiking with Hounds

Is there anything better in the crisp, desert Autumn? Hit the trails with confidence after reading Phyllis Wright's report on the best BLM hiking experiences our area has to offer.

Page 15

## Gathering the Forces

Horse N Hound's Curtis & Amanda Creighton partner with local animal groups to provide much-needed support and supplies.

Page 19

## Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue

The newest member of the Mesilla Valley's animal community declares, "Big or small, we love them all!"

Page 21

PLUS.... Preventing Parvo.... Vash gets stinky with The Dog.... A wonderful Summer for Penny.... "Stay-ca-tion, all I ever wanted".... and more!



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# Adiós 2014!

I know I say this all the time, and I hate to end the year with a cliché—but, *seriously*, where does the time go? Since we started this magazine more than three years ago, it feels like I'm living *my* life in Dog Years! Didn't Yappy Hour start back up last month? And wasn't it just the other day we were enjoying ourselves at *Critter Christmas*? Nope. Yappy Hour is now in hibernation until next March, and this year's *Critter Christmas* is just around the corner. (Rumor has it Wayne Sinclair will be emceeding the event again. I wonder if we can get him to do so in the giant kitty costume featured in our special *Cat'Crucés* issue?) You *know* how quickly time will fly once we hit the Holiday Season, so get out and enjoy the Mesilla Valley's glorious Autumn weather before 2014 is just a memory!

For our cover story, Phyllis Wright and I (mostly Phyllis) researched dog-friendly hiking trails we have right here in our back yard. We started with a visit to our local BLM field office, and after a couple of hours we had a good plan for our story. *Step One*—Send Phyllis hiking (don't worry, she hikes almost every day, anyway). *Step Two*—Take a bunch of pictures. *Step Three*—Panic (we had a bad SD card in the camera and lost more than 100 photos). *Step Four*—Add 16 pages to the magazine because Phyllis, being a teacher, wrote a Master's Thesis on hiking trails (or maybe just have her edit it down to the appropriate length). *Step Five*—Go out and take more pictures (turns out the camera was broken). *Step Six*—Publish an amazingly detailed account of our local dog-friendly hiking trails. I hope you'll find it a valuable resource—and I know your dogs will thank you!

While Fall can be the very best season on the desert calendar, it's also a time when *Canine Parvovirus* rears its ugly head and endangers unvaccinated dogs throughout the Valley. Dr. Pirtle describes Parvo as **epidemic in this area**, and tells us how to avoid our dogs becoming victims of this horrible disease.

**Horse N Hound** owners Curtis and Amanda Creighton have always been active members of our animal community. Now they're stepping up their efforts and taking a lead role in coordinating with, and helping address the needs of, our local, non-profit animal organizations. Read about their plans in our *Workin' Like a Dog* section.

**Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue** is the newest animal rescue group in town, and Founder/Director Carla Baker gives us insight into the work they do and why "big or small, they love them all."

There's a lot more in this issue, as well: *Walter "Wingman" Dubbin* shares his favorite HOWL-O-WEEN recipes—and hints at more to come; *The Girls and I* take *The Great Staycation*; *Penny* discovers the joys of *Summer*; and you know Jess Williams will make you either laugh or cry every issue—see which way he goes for Autumn.

I have to admit I was blown away by all the positive response I received about my take on the City Council meeting in our last issue. It's good to know so many of you out there are concerned about the way our community addresses animal welfare issues. We've made good progress in a lot of areas, but we still have a long way to go. It



will take smart, effective leadership—within the animal community *and* within the walls of City Hall—to make sure we work together towards our common goals. I sure wish City Council elections were this year, but I guess we'll have to hold that thought until 2015...

It's always foremost in my mind that our readers, contributors, advertisers and employees all have an invaluable role in making this magazine possible—I appreciate everyone's support and hard work more than I can tell you. Thanks for another great year—we're looking forward to 2015 and beyond!

## Vic Villalobos

Mayor of Dog'Crucés

Write to us at:

**Dog'Crucés Magazine**  
580 S. Valley Drive, suite 100  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

or email us at:  
**Vic@DogCrucés.com**



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Dog'Crucés ❀ Fall 2014





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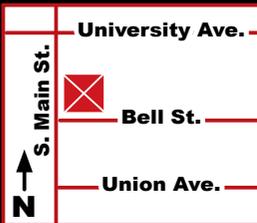
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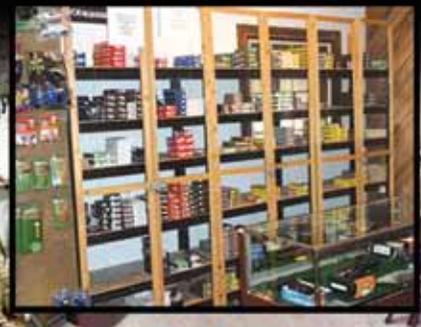
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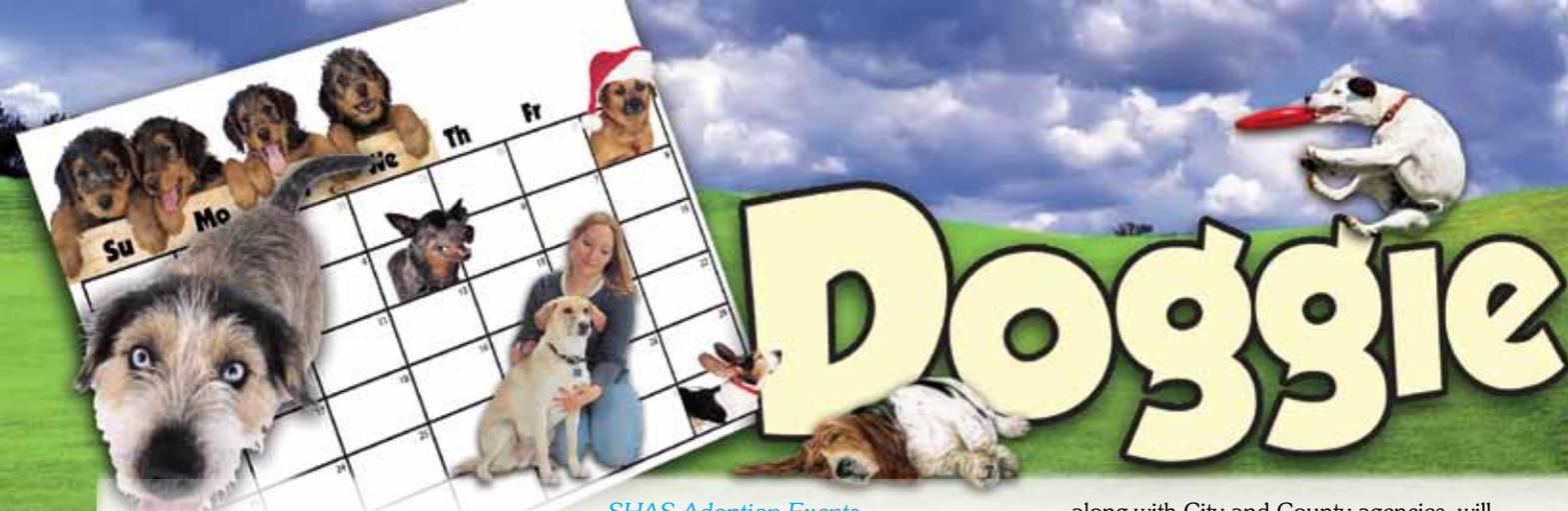


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**Thursday, November 20th**  
**Thursday, December 18th.**

Red Brick Pizza, 2808 N. Telshor, from 11am-9pm. Mention "HSSNM" when placing your take-out or dine-in order, and 15% will be donated to the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.

*"Happy Tails" Adoptions*

**Every Saturday**

PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman, from 10am-4pm. Contact Frank Bryce, 575-647-1416 or fvbryce@hotmail.com for more information.

*APA Furrever Home Adoptions*

APA Furrever Home Adoption & Education Center, 800 W. Picacho. Open Tuesday thru Saturday 12noon-5pm.

*SHAS Adoption Events*

**Every Tuesday thru Sunday**

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, 6890 Eagle Road, from 11am-3pm, or by appointment. Visit shaspets.com, SHAS Facebook page or call 575-805-5338/575-527-4544 for other off-site adoption locations.

*SNAP Spay Neuter Clinics*

**Saturday, October 18th**  
**Saturday, November 15th**  
**Saturday, December 20th.**

Various locations and times. Information and vouchers available at SNAP's office, 2405 W. Picacho. 575-524-9265.

**OCTOBER**

*Adopt a Shelter Dog Month*

ASCMV special on animals at the shelter that have been waiting for their forever homes for a long time. Visit ASCMV at 3551 Bataan Memorial West, or check DogCruces.com for offsite adoption events.

**Saturday, October 18th**

*Dogapalooza at Horse N Hound*

991 W. Amador, from 10am-2pm. Educational extravaganza. Local nonprofits,

along with City and County agencies, will have an opportunity to educate the public on what they do and how they can help animal owners.

**Friday, October 24th**

*Halloween Extravaganza*

American Legion Hall Post 10, 1195 East Madrid, from 6pm-9pm. Hot dogs and sides, silent auction, entertainment by Las del Pueblo/Ballet Folklorico, and surprises! \$5 per person benefits Doña Ana County Humane Society and the Women Veterans of NM, Unit 1. For more info call 575-642-2648.

**Saturday, October 25th**

*3rd Annual Pits for Peace Walk*

*Celebrating Pit Bull Awareness Month*

Young Park (Bandstand Area), from 11am-3pm. Walk starts at 1pm. Food Vendors, Raffles, Live Music, Dog Adoptions. \$5 Walk Entry Fee benefits DAPA! and Second Chance Dogs Fund.



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# Dates

## **Saturday, October 25th**

*Fashion Show Benefitting ASCMV*  
Golden Mesa, 151 N. Roadrunner Pkwy.  
from 1pm-4pm, proceeds benefit ASCMV.

## **Tuesday, October 28th**

*Plush Animal Lovers Day*  
A day that most dogs will be happy to celebrate...as they unstuff them...

## **NOVEMBER**

*Senior Pet Month &  
Pet Cancer Awareness Month*

## **Saturday, November 1st**

*Rescued by Wine, Benefitting  
Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue*  
Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St.,  
starts at 4pm. \$5 admission goes to the  
animals. Featuring raffles, appetizers and  
music. Eat, drink, enjoy!

## **Saturday, November 8th**

**Sunday, November 9th**  
*Pet Photos with Santa*  
SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho (across  
from Peddler's Pavilion), 10am-4pm.  
\$25 for two 4x6 photo prints and CD of

your pet's photos. Plus a doggie goodie  
bag. Proceeds benefit SNAP.

## **Saturday, November 8th**

*Rummage Sale/Dog Adoption Event  
Benefitting Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue*  
Las Cruces Church of Christ, 2025 N. Val-  
ley Drive, from 8am-11am.

## **Friday, November 14th**

*National Dress Up Your Pet Day*

## **Sunday, November 23rd**

*"A Tuna Christmas" Benefitting HSSNM*  
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Mall) at 2:30pm. An entertaining comedy.  
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575-522-2529, jgilbert@zianet.com or at  
the door. www.no-strings.org.

## **Friday, November 28th**

*ASCMV Black Friday Adoption Special*  
Check DogCruces.com for event locations  
or visit ASCMV at 3551 Bataan Memorial  
West, 575-382-0018.

## **DECEMBER**

## **Tuesday, December 2nd**

*National Mutt Day*  
Celebrate your mixed-breed dog and/or  
adopt a mutt from a local shelter or rescue.

## **Thursday, December 4th**

*Critter Christmas  
Benefitting ASCMV, DACHS and SNAP*  
Las Cruces Convention Center, from  
6pm-9pm. Tickets are \$50 each, avail-  
able at www.holdmyticket.com, American  
Classifieds office, DACHS/SNAP Office  
and Better Life Pet Food. Music, dancing,  
food, no-host bars, dog treat buffet, doggie  
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*For a complete  
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*List is updated as events are announced*



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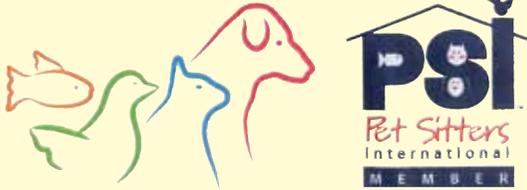
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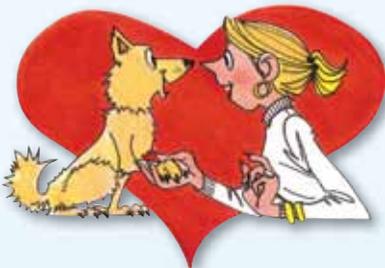






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## Autumn Brings on

**"T**hey're baaaa-aaack." The catchphrase from the old horror movie seems appropriate to a veterinarian every year around this time, but instead of ghosts, the returning nemesis is always the same—Canine Parvovirus (CPV). In fact, we see this virus all year long; but a spike in cases is typical in the Spring and the Fall. September has marked the return of one of my least favorite diseases, and October and November are usually bad months as well. Adding to the frustration this devastating disease causes is the fact that most cases of CPV could easily and inexpensively be prevented!

**To think that simply isolating a puppy at home will prevent it from catching CPV is a recipe for disaster... [because] most exposure to the virus will occur at home!**

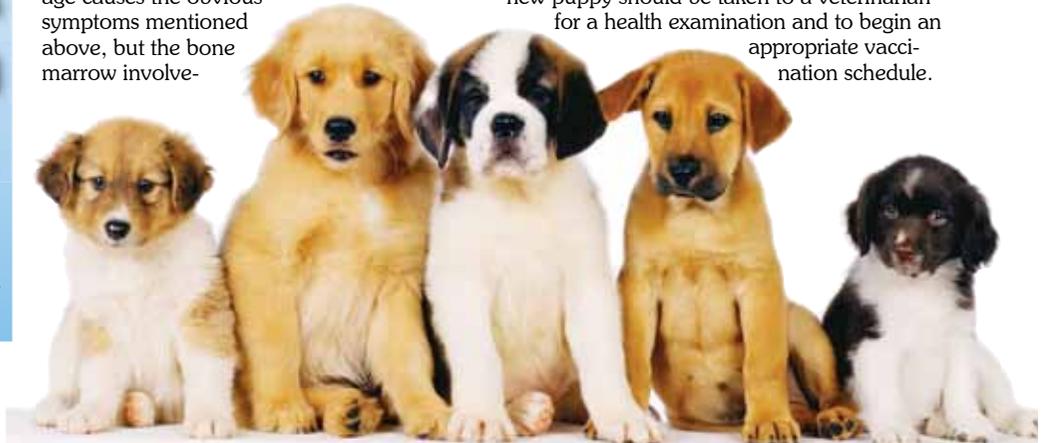
I've written about CPV previously in *DogCruces*, but let's review it briefly. CPV was first seen in the late '70s and quickly became the most serious canine disease encountered by veterinarians. This "new" virus—likely a mutated form of the panleukopenia virus in cats—is now a worldwide disease and the most common canine infectious disease we see in our practice. The virus is typically seen in young dogs from four to eight months of age and causes a debilitating syndrome of vomiting, diarrhea with blood, and dehydration. The virus reproduces in two major locations in the body—the lining of the intestinal tract and the bone marrow. The intestinal damage causes the obvious symptoms mentioned above, but the bone marrow involve-

ment exacerbates the disease by suppressing the immune system's ability to fight infection. Since the intestinal tract is loaded with bacteria and is severely damaged by the virus, toxins and bacteria find their way into the puppy's circulation system and cause sepsis, or toxic shock. The body is less able to fight this dangerous situation due to the immune suppression.

No magic treatment exists for a dog infected with CPV. As for a person suffering from a viral infection, treatment is centered on supportive measures while waiting for the immune system to mount an adequate response to eliminate the infection. Even when intensive treatment is provided in a veterinary clinic, some puppies will not survive the infection. Treatment is involved, labor intensive, and expensive—but in the vast majority of cases, Parvo is completely avoidable and preventable! Highly effective vaccines exist that can protect puppies and adult dogs from CPV, as well as other infectious diseases.

**...we see this virus all year long, but a spike in cases is typical in the Spring and the Fall.**

Since the overwhelming majority of cases of CPV are seen in puppies/young dogs, this is the group of dogs for whom vaccination is most critical. Most puppies should have a series of immunizations during a window of time from weaning to about four-and-a-half months of age. Any new puppy should be taken to a veterinarian for a health examination and to begin an appropriate vaccination schedule.



# The Vet's View

by  
Dr. Scott Pirtle, DVM

## the Perils of Parvo



Follow your veterinarian's advice carefully in order to best protect your puppy from CPV (and other infectious diseases).

Avoiding contact with other dogs and locations frequented by large numbers of dogs is always wise for puppies, yet it's important to understand that most exposure to the virus will occur at home! Parvovirus is extremely stable in the environment and can be carried into your yard or house on shoes and clothing.

Birds, wild animals, and flies can physically carry the virus into your yard, as well. Once there, the virus can survive for months or longer. To think that simply isolating a puppy at home will prevent it from catching CPV is a recipe for disaster. I always tell my clients that their dogs absolutely *will* get exposed to CPV at some time or another. It is so prevalent and environmentally stable that there is little chance of avoiding it. Vaccination with a quality vaccine at an appropriate interval and at the right age is always the best way to prevent the disease.

Let me leave you with a real-life example I was involved in. I once saw a young family

with a very sick puppy that we quickly diagnosed with CPV. Because money was tight, the husband had convinced his wife to delay bringing the puppy to us for immunizations,

even though they both knew the risks. As we discussed the treatment options, it became clear to her that a complete series of immunizations would have cost far less than the first day of treatment for this horrible disease—and there was no guarantee that the puppy would survive.

She was very unhappy with her husband's decision not to vaccinate the puppy at the appropriate time, and he was understandably upset and felt guilty, as well. My point isn't to criticize anyone, only to point out that human nature sometimes gets in the way of doing what we know is right. As with so many things, we don't think it will happen to us. It can't happen to our dog, right? *Wrong.* It can, and it does.

Don't wait, don't stall, don't put it off! If your dog needs an update on its preventative care, please pick up the phone and call your veterinarian. And if you have a puppy—go to your veterinarian now! I can't do my job until and unless you do yours.

***I always tell my clients that their dogs absolutely will get exposed to CPV at some time or another. It is so prevalent and environmentally stable that there is little chance of avoiding it.***



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# Disposable Souls

by Jess Williams



**A**fter 18 years of belonging to a Sunday evening bowling league—and loving every second of it—I quit the team this year and put my bowling ball and shoes in storage. It's unlikely they'll come out of storage until my son is cursing me for keeping every damn thing I ever owned as he tries to put my estate in order. It's a 16-pound bowling ball, so it's likely to cause some reasonably salty language.

I did not quit the team because of the people in the league (I love them) or the hassle of a weekly obligation (I actually looked forward to it) or even the cost (I budgeted for bowling much the same way I budget for pet food each month).

I quit because my brain—which is convinced I will be 27 years of age forever—has lost its argument with my aging knees, who inform me regularly that they are tired. Sometimes they threaten to buckle sideways. In recent years, the location they have most often chosen to exercise this threat is on the approach to throwing the bowling ball.

Growing old, I've decided, is not for sissies. But it inevitably happens.

And it doesn't just happen to kids trapped in aging human bodies; it also happens to puppies trapped in aging dog bodies.

At the September 11 meeting of the board of directors of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, shelter director Dr. Beth Vesco-Mock spoke about changing the culture of throw-away pets that is so pervasive in Doña Ana County. She related the story of how, on Sunday, September 7, she and her daughters went up to the shelter at 8:30 in

the evening to check the outdoor cages where healthy animals are routinely dropped off by anonymous people. The cages were full that evening, she said.

In fact, the cages were SO full that one anonymous human opted to leave his or her elderly dog on the porch in its own wire kennel.

"Here's this old dog," was the message written into the dog's sad and terrified eyes. "Here's its cage, too. Here's the whole damn package. It's your problem now. Not mine. I'm driving away now. You deal with it."

**Beating hearts are entrusted to us. We should hold that trust sacred, whether the hearts belong to our humans or to our companion animals.**

How many years did that old dog faithfully warn that same human of intruders in the yard? How many times did he cuddle at his owner's feet and nuzzle his or her nose? How many times did he fetch the stick or sneak a nibble from the floor near a messy eater? How much love and loyalty did those eyes radiate through the years? How happy he must have been to get to go for a ride in the car! Right up until he was off-loaded into his own cage, and the car drove away, taillights growing dimmer and dimmer until they were: Gone.

Who knows what would drive his owner to make the decision? One too many bladder-control issues and carpet stains? The prospect of another vet bill to accommodate an unplanned-for blood test? The added cost of special food or medication to shore up an aging canine system? Maybe the old boy wouldn't come when called because he couldn't hear the commands?

Who knows?

Here's what I know. The day will come when Daniel will have to deal with his old Pops' 16-pound bowling ball. He'll remember his Pops growing older through the years. He'll remember the challenges of caring for a man who once had a 167 bowling average and then one day decided he could no longer throw the ball. His knees wouldn't allow it. My son understands responsibility even in the face of adversity. He was raised that way. He saw lots of critters grow old in the house where he grew up. He saw sacrifices made for each animal—both financial and emotional. He twice witnessed his Old Man scrawl out checks through tear-filled eyes to Dr. Schumacher, because when the time came for a pet to cross the Rainbow Bridge, it did so in the lap of its loving owner and in the comfort of its own back yard.

Dr. Beth said we need to do better as a community. We can start by not throwing away our pets—at whatever age, and for whatever reason. Beating hearts are entrusted to us. We should hold that trust sacred, whether the hearts belong to our humans or to our companion animals.

Daniel will curse the bowling ball, but he will hold on to every memory knowing that he did right by his Old Man, right up until the end. He'll carry no guilt about abandonment issues or the way that poor old man must have felt watching his son drive away into the night from a strange place far from home. His aching last memory: taillights.

Jess Williams is chairman of the board of directors of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley.





Looking toward the Robledo foothills from near the top of Picacho Peak.



## Soledad Canyon

### Paw Friendly

**Description:** Bar Canyon Trail Loop is a lovely 3 miles with pretty views, benches, a very picturesque old rock house where everyone loves to take pictures, and a natural waterfall at the back of the canyon. This is a fairly cool hike in summer and beautiful in winter snow flurries. Day Use Area.

**Highlights:** Rock house. Waterfall. Wild flowers.

**Social Notes:** This is a very popular trail, especially for dog walkers. You'll meet neighbors, co-workers, and lots of furry friends.

Wayne Suggs and Giggys  
pause for a moment  
to appreciate each other and  
Soledad Canyon Trail.

# Happy Trails

Hiked and written by  
Phyllis Wright

We all love the reactions we get from our happy canine companions when we put on our hiking boots or grab our hiking poles — not to mention packing lunch! We have our favorite neighborhood walks and favorite dog parks, but what about all those other places? Read on for summaries of some BLM trails in Doña Ana County to see if any are right for you and your best friend!

You can find links and directions to these destinations at: [http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Las\\_Cruces\\_District\\_Office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Las_Cruces_District_Office.html)

## **"A" Mountain (Tortugas Mountain)** **Paw Friendly**

**Description:** Desert Landscape. Elevation Gain to the top: 600+ ft. This is an easy multiple use recreation trail that runs 4+ miles around and/or up the mountain. The loop offers two parking sites, Sunset Trailhead on the western side and Monte Vista Trailhead on the eastern side of the mountain. Three popular routes to the top include the "A" Trail, the Turtle Back Trail, and the road, itself. In mid-December, you can join pilgrims climbing the mountain for a Mass dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Highlights:** The loop connects to numerous other Jeep roads and trails, so you can make this a long hike, including a climb—or a 2 mile hike from trailhead to trailhead. Sometimes you can hear the Centennial HS band.

**Social Notes:** This is a very popular trail for both hikers and mountain bikers. You will always see someone and feel very safe.

## **Achenbach** **Paw Friendly • Rocky**

Access through private land south of Soledad Canyon Road.

**Description:** Elevation Gain: 800-1000 ft., depending on your inclination. This is a 4-6 mile, moderately aerobic round trip into varied terrain. You'll climb gently into two beautiful

meadows, from which you can turn around or head up one of the steeper trails to the crest.

**Highlights:** Beautiful views. Seasonal wildflowers. Very peaceful hike. Landscape offers lovely surprises.

**Cautions:** A couple of steep places. If you climb to the crest to the east, do not climb over onto Ft. Bliss property. Aside from the possibility of arrest, unexploded ordinance is a very real danger.

**Social Notes:** It's rare to see other hikers.

## **Aguirre Springs: Pine Tree Trail Loop** **Paw Friendly**

**Description:** East side of the Organ Mountains. Elevation Gain: 1040 ft. Wooded. Beautiful, relaxing hike. Hard-packed trail, 2 miles up, and 2 miles down. You'll enjoy a wide variety of plant species, including trees we don't see on the desert floor. You'll often be shaded by ponderosa pine, and your canine companions will love the seasonal steams and springs. Nice respite from summer heat. Picnic tables and restrooms at start. Fee area.

**Highlights:** Cool temperatures. Shade. Beautiful views of the Tularosa Basin.

**Cautions:** Trail can be slippery after rain.

**Social Notes:** This is a very popular family hiking trail. You'll never be far from happy little voices.

## **Baylor Pass Trail (over the Organ Mountains)** **Paw Friendly**

**Description:** Wooded. Hard-packed dirt with a few natural rock steps, numerous switchbacks, and beautiful views. You can start your hike from either Baylor Canyon Road on the west or Aguirre Springs on the east. From the Baylor Canyon Road trailhead, you'll climb 4 miles to the saddle at the top (elevation gain: 1500 ft) and another 2 miles down if you want to end at Aguirre Springs. Or, if you start at Aguirre Springs, you'll hike the reverse, 2 miles up (elevation gain: 700 ft.) and 4 miles down to Baylor Canyon Road. You'll have to park cars on both sides of the mountain—or arrange a pick-up—to hike the 6 mile one-way in either direction. Most people hike to the saddle and back down to their original trailheads. If you're a strong hiker with a strong dog, you might like the round trip, a total of 12 miles.

**Highlights:** Views of the Jornada del Muerto and Tularosa Basin to the east and Cookes Peak to the west. Cool temperatures. Good trails make this an easy hike for the mileage.

**Cautions:** Allow plenty of time to take breaks. Trail will be slippery after rain or snow fall.

**Social Notes:** This is a popular trail. You'll meet more people on the west side than the east. Acoustically, you can hear people from great distances and you'll always think you're almost there!

*Trudy hikes her favorite  
"A" Mountain Trail with  
full pack.*

Looking west, near the top of  
Baylor Canyon Trail.

### Doña Ana Mountains

Paw Friendly • Hot • Thorns

**Description:** Access to 15 miles of mountain biking trails & 7 miles of equestrian trails, desert hikes and desert mountain climbs. Trails to the south of the mountains are relatively flat; trails to the north may demand more aerobic activity.

**Highlights:** Easy walking. You feel like you're in the Old West, until a mountain biker relieves the solitude.

**Cautions:** Orient yourself, especially in the hills. Seasonally, these can be very hot hikes, unrelieved by shade or company.

**Social Notes:** Depends on where you are.

### Dripping Springs

No Dogs Allowed!

**Description:** This "natural area" offers the La Cueva Rocks area, the Van Patten Mountain Camp and Boyd Sanatorium ruins, beautiful springs, and the waterfall at the end of the Fillmore trail. However, BLM Resource Specialist Tom Phillips explains that "we can't allow dogs [on the trail]...to help reduce how that might change how wildlife is visible to other viewers."

### Picacho Peak Recreation Area Peak Trails

Rocky • Goatheads • Thorns • Hot

**Description:** Net Loop Elevation Gain (including foothills): 725+ feet. Desert landscape. Rocky. Direct sunlight. No shade. The Peak can be accessed via three trails which we'll call the switchback, the Jeep, and the south side trail. The first two take you from the car park through the arroyo to the east side of the mountain and then up. You can reach them both from one of the first foothills on the east side of the mountain about 1.2 miles from your car. The trail is marked. At about 1.75 miles, you'll have a choice between continuing up the narrow trail to the switchbacks, via a rock outcropping with good views, or following the wider and straighter old jeep trail. The switchback trail climbs over 2.6 miles to the peak. The jeep trail is technically shorter, but the last haul is steep. If you climb the south side trail, on the other hand, across from the parking lot, you'll get to the peak in under 1.25 miles. Climbing up and over either way will be almost 4 miles.

**Highlights:** Beautiful views. Serenity.

**Cautions:** Steep, rocky climbs are especially dangerous in wet weather. Distractions include rabbits, cows, snakes, lizards, and the occasional canyon Jeep. Off-lead, your run-away canine can be off the slopes and

lost or seriously injured in no time, while your rescue options depend on your desperately navigating the steep human trails! On the other hand, a less-than well-mannered on-lead puppy can get tangled in your feet or pull you down or off a steep, rocky trail.

**Social Notes:** This is a climb for hikers and dogs who would like a little solitude. You may meet a hiker or two, but you can also hike here for days without encountering anyone.

**Summary:** These are trails for dogs that are really, truly "under control." In the spring, you may be joined by legions of winged black ants that climb to congregate on the peak.

### Other Picacho Recreation Area Trails

Sandy • Goatheads • Thorns • Hot

**Description:** Desert Landscape. Direct sunlight. The area offers 15 miles of hiking, biking, and riding trails, including the Peak, all of which are mapped on the BLM website. You've got everything here from the loop hike around the Peak, to Box Canyon Dam, to self-designed adventures in beautiful canyons, to connections to the west mesa and Robledo Mountain trails. Depending on your route, you may find some beautiful rock formations or enjoy some climbs, but you will have cows and sand.

**Highlights:** Variety of terrain. Hiking Butterfield Trail route. Looking for mountain lion tracks.

**Cautions:** Avoid arroyos in rainy weather. Since many of the trails lead in and out of Box Canyon, be prepared for walking in sand, which can be exhausting. If you hear loud buzzing up any of the finger canyons, avoid agitating the bees. If you lose your trail—and few are marked for any distance—the number of canyons and arroyos may be confusing.

**Social Notes:** You won't see many hikers or

### Organ Mountains- Desert Peaks National Monument

BLM trail maps are pending for the newly-designated National Monument. Areas include: Organ Mountains, Potrillo Volcanic Field, Kilbourne Hole & Aden Lava Flow, Robledo Mountains, Sierra de Las Uvas Mountains, and Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands.

bikers, but since the area is accessible from Box Canyon Road, you're likely to encounter 4-wheelers and Jeepsers.

### Prehistoric Trackways National Monument

Rocky • Hot

**Description:** Net Elevation

Gain (including undulating foothills): 464+ feet. Desert Landscape. Rocky. Direct Sunlight. No Shade. Trail continues for miles. For the trackways, climb three hills before you descend into the arroyo where you'll find the tracks and other fossils. You'll have traveled about 1.25 miles by the top of the third hill. Look for the trail marker at the bottom of the third hill, before you ascend the fourth. The trail drops a couple of hundred feet into the arroyo where you'll follow trail signs back to the south. It's really helpful to look for the BLM sign on the east hill because many of the trackways are under and around that area. Tom Phillips reminds us that "The collection of most fossils is prohibited on public lands, and you should verify with our local BLM office regarding the status of any collecting. Explore, look for, and enjoy the finding of the fossil resources, but leave them for others to enjoy." <https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>

**Highlights:** Beautiful views of the Rio Grande Valley and the Robledo Mountains. Searching for fossils and tracks.

**Cautions:** Avoid arroyos in rainy weather. If you lose the trails, you could easily become lost. Orient yourself before you hike.

**Social Notes:** Although you will probably see or hear 4-wheelers, Jeepsers, or shooters in the area, you are unlikely to encounter anyone on the trail, itself.

### Sierra Vista Trail

Paw Friendly • Thorns

**Access:** From Dripping Springs Road, Soledad Canyon



Road, I-10 Mesquite Exit, I-10 Vado Exit, and Anthony Gap/Highway 404.

**Description:** Desert Landscape. Direct Sunlight. No Shade. This narrow trail runs 29 miles from Dripping Springs Road to Anthony Gap in Texas over very gently undulating hills. You'll pass through a beautiful ocotillo forest. It's approximately 6 miles south to the Peña Blanca archeological site, where rock shelters contained the earliest known cultivated corn in the US. The many homes in the trailhead vicinity will either compromise your sense of solitude or make you feel comfortably safe, depending on your hiking goals.

**Highlights:** Easy trail. Peña Blanca exploration. Close views of the Organ Mountains. Spring poppies.

**Cautions:** You could encounter rattlesnakes on all of our trails, but they do seem to love this one.

**Social Notes:** This is a popular trail for mountain bikers, trail runners, and hikers, especially on the first three miles south of Soledad Canyon Road. It's rare to see anyone south of Peña Blanca.

### Respectful Hiking

Who wants to step in poop? No one! Tom Phillips says the "worst part of trail use [is] the poop" and asks us to remember there are all those other users out there, so...we don't want to create a negative feel/bad image toward dog walkers." On behalf of the environment and other outdoor enthusiasts, let's be sure we carry waste bags! In fact, why limit ourselves to poop? Let's build a reputation for cleaning up after ourselves and others by always carrying trash bags, too!

And what about those run-aways? The BLM's expectation is that "All dogs must be under control" at all times. We've all had that out-of-control dog running toward us with the owner screaming from afar "He's friendly, very friendly!" Friendliness is a separate issue. What if someone fears dogs, has a shy or aggressive puppy, is allergic, or just recovering from a broken ankle and feeling vulnerable? Or what if that off-lead dog spies a rabbit and chases him into forever? Or a mountain lion spies the dog? Or the dog runs off a cliff, or into a snake—or causes a mountain biker to fall into cactus? Both safety and etiquette remind us to keep our dogs on-lead at all times!

### Safe Hiking

Never hike alone. Be sure that you choose a trail that will be appropriate and enjoyable for you, your hiking partner, and your dog. Start with some short, easy trails to gauge your dog's behavior and tolerance.

Let someone reliable know where you are going and when you expect to return. Always hike with: navigation aids (map, compass, GPS), first aid kit for you and your dog, tweezers, water, electrolytes for you, extra clothing layers, flagging tape, light source and batteries, sun protection (hat, glasses), insect repellent, emergency shelter, extra food, fire starter, whistle, multi-tool or knife, fully charged

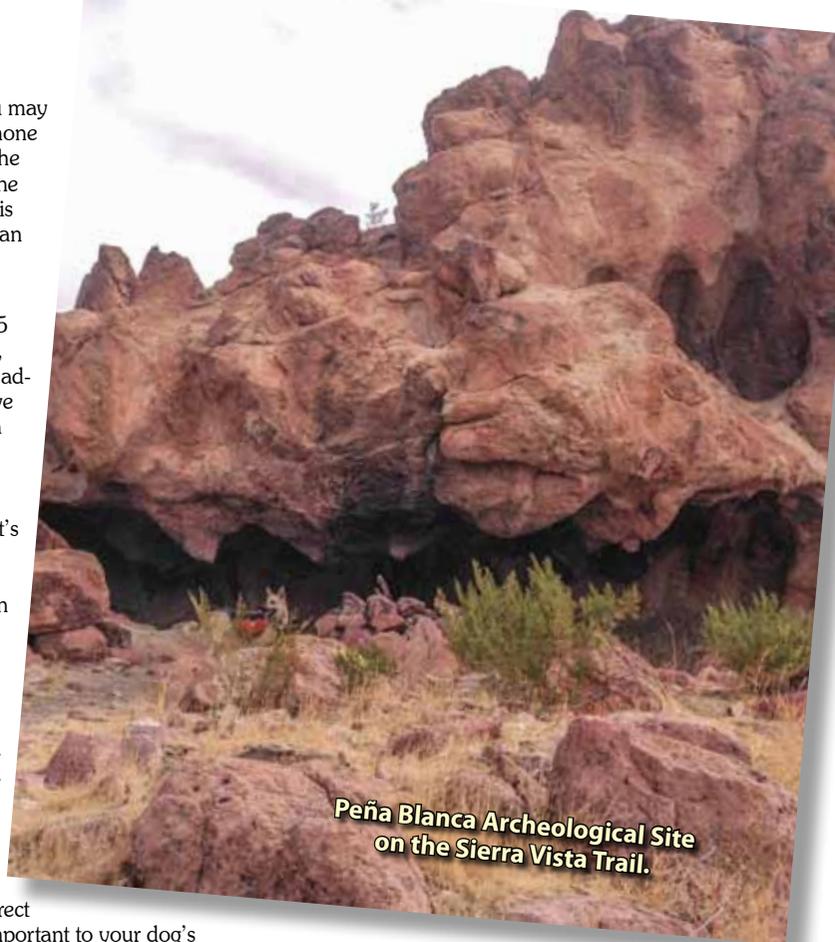
cell phone (though you may not always have cell phone service), and perhaps the Find Friends smartphone app. Be sure your dog is wearing an ID tag and an LED light.

In hot months, human hikers need to drink 3-5 quarts/day. At 4 quarts, that's 8lbs. of water, in addition to all of the above recommendations for a daypack. Dogs should drink about an ounce of water per pound of body weight daily. That's 40 ounces or 2.6 lbs. for a 40 lb. dog on a sedentary day. Factor in the hiking exercise and that dogs dehydrate much more quickly than humans, and you may need to carry at least as much water for each dog as you do for yourself. Heavy pack! You may want your dog to carry his or her own water. If you opt for a dog pack, the correct fit and style are very important to your dog's well being. Remember that many natural water sources are also sources of giardia. Take plenty of snacks to maintain a constant water and mineral balance.

Check with your doctor and your vet to be sure hiking and climbing are appropriate activities for both of you—and how to handle emergencies. All of our local trails are hot in summer months and sometimes full of goatheads and other stickers. Sand is especially hot for little paws, and rocky trails can be very hurtful all year long. Consider doggie footwear! Always be alert for snakes and other wildlife—and cows! Tom Phillips also reminds us "there have

been a lot of other uses [for our public lands] over the years," so be alert for man-made hazards, such as barbed wire, open pits, or animal traps. Keep a constant eye on your loving puppy, watching for warning signs that he or she is overheated or exerted: bright red tongue, excessive panting, stopping/laying down/refusing to move, increased salivation, red or pale gums, sticky, thick saliva, weakness.

Whew! Take these cautions seriously, please, because safe hiking is a wonderful bonding experience, great exercise, and a perfect way to appreciate our remarkable environment! Hope to see you out there!



Peña Blanca Archeological Site on the Sierra Vista Trail.

**Walter's Super Power Protein Packed Peanut Butter Backpacking Biscotti BARS**  
*Delicious for both humans and hounds!*

Preheat oven to 350° F. Mix together rice flour, oatmeal, quinoa, and dried milk. Mix in eggs, vanilla, applesauce, honey, and peanut butter with hand mixer. Fold in dried berries, pecans, and carob chips. Pour mixture onto a parchment lined baking sheet forming one or two 12"x6"x1/2" loaf. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 325°F and remove from oven. Allow to cool slightly. Cut loaves into 1" wide bars, lay each bar sideways (one cut side down), and bake an additional 15 minutes at 325°F until browned. Turn off heat, leaving biscotti in oven to cool completely.

**Don't you want to have this much energy on your next hike?**

NOTE: ALWAYS consult with your pet's veterinarian regarding ingredients, serving sizes, & special dietary requirements prior to changing your pet's diet.

- ½ C Oatmeal
- 1 C Brown Rice Flour
- ½ C Quinoa (cooked)
- ½ C Peanut Butter
- 1 Tbsp Honey
- ½ tsp Vanilla extract
- ¾ C dried berries (or other dog safe dried fruit but **NOT RAISINS**)
- 2/3 C Finely Chopped Pecans or peanuts (optional; other nuts such as macadamia, walnut, and almonds should be avoided)
- ½ C Carob Chips (optional)
- ¼ C dried milk
- 2 eggs
- ¼ C apple sauce

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# Workin' Like a Dog



## Horse N Hound Helps Nonprofits N Animals

**B**eing active sponsors and participants in Las Cruces' animal community isn't new for Curtis and Amanda Creighton (owners of Horse N Hound Feed N Supply), but the partnerships they're forming this fall with local nonprofit groups will provide new ways to reach even more animals who need help in the community.

"We have helped the local FFA and 4-H groups for years, but we're expanding our community service and seeing what we can do to make a difference for Las Cruces' pet population," Curtis Creighton said.

Horse N Hound recently hosted an Animal Services Roundtable, inviting animal-related nonprofit organizations to assess their needs and determine how this locally-owned company could help them achieve their goals.

"We're hosting a big education event in October, which we hope to continue annually, as well as displaying donation bins and sponsoring monthly adoption events at the store. Some of these things may help a lot, others may just help a little, but it's important for us to do what we can and to lead by example," Curtis Creighton said. "Our customers are very generous, and many of these programs give them a chance to make a difference in the life of a dog or cat that may be stuck in a shelter."

The schedule for this fall includes:

### Dogapalooza

Horse N Hound's first full-scale event of the fall will be the educational extravaganza *Dogapalooza*. Local nonprofits, along with City and County agencies, will be on hand to answer questions and describe what their organizations do to help animal owners. People will be able to sign up for spay and neuter appointments, as well as learn about when they can get their pets microchipped. *Dogapalooza* will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 at Horse N Hound, 991 W. Amador Avenue.

### 10-10-10

In September, Horse N Hound began its 10-10-10 program, which provides store credit to groups who find homes for animals. When an animal is adopted, new pet owners will have 10 days to spend \$10 in credit at Horse N Hound. In return, HNH will give 10 percent of the adopters' total purchase back to the referring organization in the form of products such as dog food.

### Dog for Dog

Horse N Hound has also begun selling all-natural *Dogsbutter*, *Dogsbar* and *Dogstreat* products from specialty company *Dog for Dog*, whose motto is, "You buy one, we give one." When a customer purchases any of these items from Horse N Hound, *Dog for Dog* matches the purchase with quarterly donations of dog treats to our local nonprofits. *Dog for Dog* is dedicated to providing tasty, healthy treats for pups and serving as a strong community partner.

microchipping event that took place at another local feed store," said Marketing Director Rachel Courtney. "We're not concerned about encouraging people to visit another store. We just want to do what we can to help animals find their way back home when they are lost."

### HNH Blog

Nonprofit community leaders already do a good job of communicating their messages to local media on a regular basis. Courtney is hoping to



Curtis & Amanda Creighton listen intently as local animal advocates discuss their goals, needs and ideas at Horse N Hound's first Animal Services Roundtable, held July 30.

### In-Store Donation Bins

A donation bin at the store will benefit a different nonprofit each month. Animal organizations provide a list of needed items, and HNH employees will encourage their customers to donate treats, food, blankets, collars and anything else the groups may request. Visit Horse N Hound's Facebook page ([facebook.com/HorseNHoundLasCruces](https://www.facebook.com/HorseNHoundLasCruces)) for more information.

### Monthly Adoption Events

Las Cruces' pet nonprofits are great at getting their dogs and cats seen by the community during adoption events. Horse N Hound will welcome such events at their store on Amador. One week-end a month, the store will host furry friends who need forever homes.

### Nonprofit Display

When you enter Horse N Hound, turn left (into the dog treat/toy aisle) to find an area for nonprofit groups to post flyers, brochures, announcements and other information for display in the store. "Last month, we posted a flyer for a

help spread the word even further by adding their stories, as well as others, to the Horse N Hound blog. "There are many topics I am happy to cover on our blog, from a step-by-step guide for building a chicken coop to emergency preparedness for animals, but I'll leave it to the professionals to cover issues they know so much about," she said. "Send me your stories and photos, and I'd love to put them on our blog." Explore the blog at [horseshoundfeed.wix.com/horseshoundfeed](http://horseshoundfeed.wix.com/horseshoundfeed).

The following groups have signed on as partners in these endeavors: Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, Safe Haven Thrift Store, ACTION Program for Animals, Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley, Doña Ana Big Kitty Fix, Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue, The Cat's Meow, Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and Doña Ana County Humane Society.

**Contact: Horse N Hound Feed N Supply**  
991 W. Amador Ave. • 575-523-8790  
[www.facebook.com/HorseNHoundLasCruces](https://www.facebook.com/HorseNHoundLasCruces)  
**blog: [horseshoundfeed.wix.com/horseshoundfeed](http://horseshoundfeed.wix.com/horseshoundfeed)**

Rachel Courtney is Marketing Director for Horse N Hound Feed N Supply. She can be reached at [rachel@horseshoundfeed.com](mailto:rachel@horseshoundfeed.com).

*"Some of these things may help a lot, others may just help a little, but it's important for us to do what we can and to lead by example..."*

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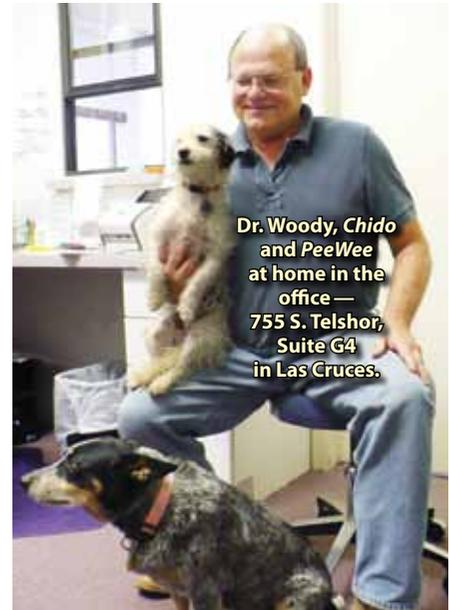
## Dr. Robert Woody, MD, M.P.H.

**D**r. Robert C. Woody is a Neurologist with medical training in Pediatrics and Adult/Child Neurology. He is also a dog lover who routinely takes his three dogs to the office.

Some of Dr. Woody's younger patients request appointments on days that *PeeWee*, *Chido* and *Andy* are in attendance—usually at least one day a week—because the dogs help put them at ease. *PeeWee*, a 13-year-old Blue Heeler, was in a shelter in Canutillo, TX, when Dr. Woody received a call informing him of a special dog in need of a new home. He raced to the shelter to rescue her. In return, he got a quiet and loving canine hostess who particularly enjoys his younger patients.

*Chido's* story began as one of mistaken identity. Last year, Dr. Woody lost his dog *Snickers*. He received a call from the shelter saying they had found *Snickers*—but, instead, it was a young terrier with sweet eyes. After about two weeks of visiting the shelter twice a day in hopes of finding *Snickers*, Dr. Woody found he had fallen for the little terrier and took *Chido* home with him. Like *PeeWee*, *Chido* (slang for "cool") helps patients relax, and they often find it easier to open up and answer questions when their attention is focused on these canine cuties.

*Andy* was absent the day *DogCruces* visited because he was just too dirty for the office. Sorry *Andy*!



Dr. Woody, *Chido* and *PeeWee* at home in the office — 755 S. Telshor, Suite G4 in Las Cruces.

Dr. Robert Woody's practice consists of about 70% Pediatric Neurology and 30% Adult Neurology. Half of his practice is devoted to Epilepsy, 30% to Headaches and 20% to a wide variety of other neurologic disorders. Please call his office at 575-521-7021 to schedule an appointment, or visit [www.drboobywoody.com](http://www.drboobywoody.com)

## Dickerson's Auction House

**G**oing once...going twice...SOLD!!! At least that was the case 11 years ago when Chris Trujillo, who works for Dickerson's, was helping to set up an auction in Casa Grande, Arizona. One of the attending food vendors had a beautiful chocolate Lab puppy

for whom he was trying to find a home—and it was love at first sight for Chris!!

*Homer* still has much of his puppy energy today—even though he lost a leg in an accident a few years ago—and *loves* when people visit him at the Auction House. He goes to work every day and attends all out-of-town auctions, as well. *Homer* is pretty much one of the staff...but he thinks he's Management!

No need to wait for the next auction—any time you're headed west on Picacho with a pocket full of treats, stop by Dickerson's Auction House and give *Homer's* belly a rub!



Who'll give me a belly rub? Do I hear two...two belly rubs? I want three—make it three belly rubs!!

Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue works to get stray dogs

# OFF the STREETS



**C**herished K-9 All Breed Rescue was officially established in July of 2013 specifically to rescue dogs that are found wandering the streets. The group is comprised of volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of formerly abused, abandoned and neglected dogs.

Director Carla Baker had been helping stray dogs for many years when she and her family decided to take the next step and form an "official" rescue. Because the process of gaining non-profit status is very time consuming, Carla decided instead to apply to be a "special fund" under the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, a federally-recognized non-profit organization. As a result, donations to Cherished K-9 are made through CFSNM, and all are tax deductible.

Cherished K-9's primary goal is to help stray dogs *before* they end up at the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV). Every effort is made to find a stray's owner. The dog is immediately scanned for a microchip. If there is no microchip, a "found dog report" is filed with ASCMV, flyers are posted in the area in which the dog was found, and the dog is taken door to door in the neighborhood to see if anyone recognizes it.

All dogs are held for a minimum of two weeks before being placed for adoption. Many times dogs get out when their owners are on vacation. The two-week time frame allows the owners time to search for their lost pets upon return. For instance, last Thanksgiving, a Good Samaritan picked up two dogs in the middle of a busy intersection in Las Cruces. She did not want to take them to the ASCMV but was unable to hold onto them and search for the owners, so she contacted Cherished K-9. The dogs were placed in a foster home. A week later, their owners returned from a family

vacation. When they began searching for their dogs they saw the "found dog" flyers that had been posted in their neighborhood and were reunited with their dogs that same day!



**Feral puppies Chase and Jet had never been touched by humans before they were rescued by Cherished K-9.**

Cherished K-9 takes in dogs of all sizes, ages and breeds. They do not have a facility, so rescued dogs are placed in foster homes. The number of dogs that Cherished K-9 is able to take in is limited by the number of foster homes they have available. They are always in need of good foster homes. Cherished K-9 pays for all medical expenses, while foster families provide the love and day-to-day care. If you are interested



**Volunteer Kathie Baran readies one of the larger pups for his debut at an adoption event.**

in fostering a dog, please contact Cherished K-9.

There are other ways of helping, as well. You can help at Cherished K-9's weekly adoption events, donate money or needed supplies, assist with fundraisers, help with administrative duties or transport dogs when needed.

Cherished K-9 usually has

Saturday adoption events at PetSmart. At least once a month they also go to another location in town. Check the local newspaper for those locations. Volunteers are needed to help at all of the adoption events.

Cherished K-9 is always in need of supplies. They can use wire crates, high quality (grain-free) dog food, leashes, collars, metal food dishes, chew toys, old towels/blankets, pet carriers, cleaning supplies, and gift cards to local pet stores. If you have supplies that you no longer need, you can donate them to Cherished K-9.

Cherished K-9 is doing its part to help abused, abandoned and neglected dogs. They hope to get more people to partner with them or other local rescues to help our community's pets. TOGETHER we can accomplish a lot! Cherished K-9 would love to see the day when their services are no longer needed—that would mean there would be no more abused, abandoned or neglected dogs in our community!

Be sure to check out Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue's web page and "like" them on Facebook!

**TO MAKE A DONATION:** Tax deductible donations can be made by check or online.

**MAIL A CHECK:** Make check payable to "Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico" or "CFSNM" and annotate "Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue" in the memo section. Mail to CFSNM, 301 South Church Street, Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001. CFSNM will mail you a receipt.

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Go to [www.cfsnm.org](http://www.cfsnm.org), click on "Donors," then click on "Donate Online" and enter "Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue" in the Designation section. You will receive an email receipt from the "Network for Good" for your records and tax purposes. Thank you for your support!

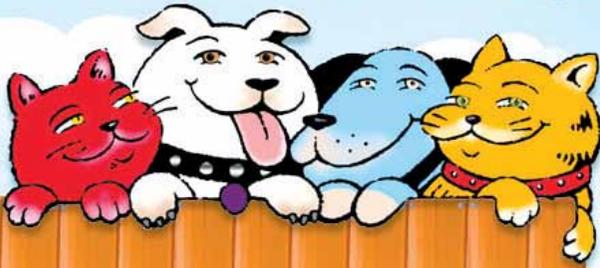
*Carla Baker is Founder and Director of Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue.*



**Katie Baker feeds one of Cherished K-9's "bottle babies."**

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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

# Traveling With Your Best Friends

by Vic Villalobos

## National Lampoon's Staycation

**W**e had every intention of taking a short RV trip over the Labor Day weekend. Friends had recently visited Show Low Lake in Arizona and had nothing but great things to say about the area and the RV park at the lake. My wife and I both took time off work the Friday before Labor Day so that we could make the five-hour drive and still have plenty of time to enjoy everything the area has to offer. My new travel rule is that a three-to-four day trip must involve no more than a five-to-six hour drive.

As the long weekend approached, we started making preparations. Well, *some* preparations. OK, so basically, **no** preparations, especially the most important one—**RESERVATIONS**. You'd think we'd have learned by now that reservations are a pretty good idea when travelling with dogs in an RV—especially on a holiday weekend! Don't get me wrong, one night in the Walmart parking lot isn't the worst thing in the world—but a four-day vacation at Walmart just might be. Although the activities *could* be interesting... Shopping Cart Derby, changing channels on all the TVs in Electronics, playing Hide and Seek with Security—the list goes on and on.

Not surprisingly, the RV park in Show Low was sold out—and so was pretty much everything else in my "New Rule Radius." We debated heading back to Durango (slightly outside the Radius), because everyone had such a great time on our last visit. But then we had a brilliant idea: we are always on the move—coming, going, running, driving—never seeming to have a lot of free time or

"me" time. So we decided to stay home and do...*nothing*. This sounded awesome—with no schedule to keep, we could sleep in, eat out, nap, take a walk, take a nap, watch some TV, nap some more, go swimming, take a... I think you get the point. *And it's cheap*. The Great Staycation would begin!!

***You'd think we'd have learned by now that reservations are a pretty good idea when travelling with dogs in an RV—especially on a holiday weekend!***

This was all fine and dandy except for one thing: our dogs didn't exactly grasp the Staycation concept, so our "sleeping in" plans never did materialize. We began every morning as we usually do—at 5:30am with three dogs pawing at us, ready to get up and eat breakfast. I'm not sure when this particular routine started, but apparently it wasn't going to stop for Staycation. If we so much as roll over in bed or lift an arm to adjust a pillow, the dogs consider this a sign we're ready to get up. They also believe that we need encouragement and assistance to make this happen in a more timely manner. Oh well, at least during Staycation we can make up for lost sleep with naps, and the dogs enjoy napping just as much as we do...

But they enjoy swimming even *more* than we do, and Staycation meant wet dogs all

day, every day for all four days (oh, the joys of having water dogs). Yes, even during nap time. The girls saw no reason why they couldn't swim, shake off a little and then jump in bed for a nap before heading back out for another swim. We finally gave in and just napped in piles of towels—which seemed to be a pretty good compromise.

In addition to swimming and napping, we cooked out at home, dined at dog-friendly restaurants, took leisurely walks together and vegged in front of the TV. We found that lying around and cuddling with the (still wet, always wet) dogs, engaging in a little extra play time and indulging in general laziness turned out to be just what the doctor ordered. We ended our Staycation rested, relaxed and ready to return to the real world.

Of course, we are looking forward to our next RV outing (we'll make sure to make reservations next time), and in-between trips I'm always thinking about RV maintenance. You never want to hit the road and realize your roof has a leak (as we did on our last roadtrip). We recently had our roof resealed—and thankfully so, considering all the rain we've had here in the desert. Keeping up with maintenance will make your travels much more pleasant and less stressful.

Hitting the open road is always an adventure, but every once in a while a little *less* adventure is a great way to rejuvenate your energy and enjoy some special time with the ones you love—both human and canine. Just make sure to have plenty of towels.



**Ruby dives like an Olympic champion, while Lucy looks on—tennis ball at the ready—and awaits her turn.**



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# Penny for your Thoughts

by Jennifer Woods

## Summer Love

Just before Memorial Day, my beautiful, brilliant, bold and beloved *Luna* crossed over Rainbow Bridge. *Penny* and I will miss her for the rest of our lives.

But as that proverbial door closed, a window did, indeed, open a few days later when Mayor Vic announced an urgent need for someone to foster a Golden Retriever named *Summer*. While my brain screamed “NO! You haven’t even had time to grieve for *Luna*. You’ll get too attached—don’t do it, don’t do it, don’t do it,” I heard my mouth say “I can take her.”

And so began the summer of *Summer*.

*Summer*’s mom, Julie, is a victim of Alzheimer’s Disease who moved to Florida to live with her daughter. The plan was for me to keep *Summer* until Julie was settled and ready to resume care of her dog. OK. I could do this. I’d essentially just be dog-sitting for someone I’ve never met. *Summer* is not my dog.

I immediately had second-thoughts. I’d never fostered an animal before, and, to be honest, truly doubted I had “the right stuff” to be a good foster mom. I could certainly open my heart and home to a new dog—but would I be strong enough to give her up when the time came to do so?

And what about *Penny*? My timid, dysfunctional darling loves other dogs, but that love has not always been reciprocated. Cranky old *Luna* had many a “get off my lawn” territorial encounter with submissive young *Penny*, and I was concerned it could be a long, miserable summer for her with a strange, new dog in the house. Or worse—*Penny* could get attached, and I’d have to break her little doggie heart when Julie wanted *Summer* back.

Only one way to find out for sure—I was off to pick up my *Summer* guest.

Oh, she was perfect! It was as if I’d ordered a top-of-the-line, deluxe model Golden from Amazon.com. *Summer* was healthy, happy, well-mannered (well, mostly) and almost unnaturally friendly. She swept through the DogCruces office bestowing love and slobber upon



everyone she encountered. She was housebroken, responsive to all basic commands, and comfortable on-leash. Holy cow—I’d hit the jackpot! Except, of course, that she wasn’t my dog.

*Summer*’s introduction to *Penny* resulted in love at first sight—for one of them. *Penny* approached, and danced, and tried her very best to entice the new girl to play, but without any luck. While *Summer* delighted in human company, she seemed indifferent to my dog’s overtures of friendship. She was *Penny*’s opposite in every way.

It took about two weeks for *Summer* to warm up to *Penny*, but they’ve been inseparable ever since. They run and play, they wrestle and snuggle. And, remarkably, *Summer* seems to be drawing *Penny* out of her shell around humans. They’re just baby steps, and she’ll probably never be normal—but she’s better. If only *Summer* were my dog....

Throughout the summer months, Mayor Vic and others kept in contact with Julie’s family in Florida. Sadly, her Alzheimer’s was progressing, and her family was unsure she could, or should, resume caring for her dog. We all wanted whatever was best for both Julie and *Summer*—maybe *Summer* could help Julie maintain a connection to a world that was becoming increasingly unfamiliar to her. Or maybe Julie was already unable to provide the care that a companion animal needs and deserves. It’s an awful decision for any child to have to make on her parent’s behalf, and the status changed on an almost-weekly basis.

So we waited, and appreciated every day we had with *Summer* as the weeks and months went by.

Just after Labor Day, I received official word from one of Julie’s good friends that *Summer* was mine. Shedding shameless, happy tears, I took her furry, Golden face in my hands and asked “Do you want to live with me forever? Will you be *Penny*’s sister and my darling dog?”

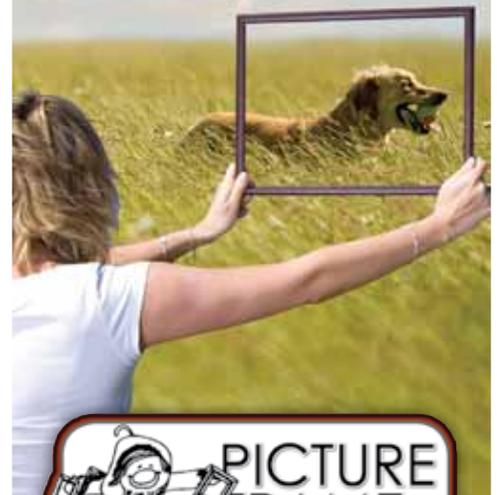
She said yes—I heard it. And *Penny* and I will love her for the rest of our lives.

All of us at DogCruces wish Julie and her family the very best. We hope they find strength and comfort in each other, and we thank them for their Golden gift of unconditional love.

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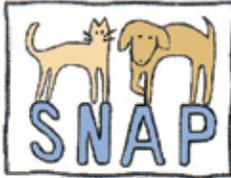
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DogCruces Fall 2014

NOTE: ALWAYS consult with your veterinarian regarding ingredients, serving sizes and special dietary requirements prior to changing your pet's diet.

# Walter's Lunchbox

by Walter Dubbin  
(as told to Margaret Dubbin)



## Tricks & Treats Aren't All This Fall!

It's that time of year again—HOWL-O-WEEN!!! Time for spooky tricks and tasty treats—and for Mom to dress me and *Butthead* in some ridiculous costumes. Although, I have to admit we did totally ROCK the *Blues Brothers'* costumes last year. Of course, if it weren't for me sportin' the proper 'tude in those shades, we would never have won the 2013 Costume Contest at Yappy Hour. Not sure what Mom's got in store for us this year, but it better be cool and hip—not embarrassing!

It seems like this Summer flew by and was gone faster than a Milkbone at a dog park. *Butthead* and I spent the summer lounging by the pool, taste-testing Mom's newest treat creations, and checking out happening local doggy-friendly spots in the LC. We whined and dined at great doggy-friendly places and got to go camping and hiking in the Lincoln National Forest.

Do you know what I like most about this time of year? NO mosquitos! Them little buggers seemed to be pretty thick this summer. Mom was extra careful to keep us up-to-date on our heartworm preventatives. Even though it's cooled off quite a bit, those mosquitos are tenacious critters—so please, don't you peeps get lazy about protecting your pups against heartworm.

Also—don't forget to keep your human Halloween treats well out of reach of us pups. Many of those tasty human treats may *smell* yummy to our sensitive noses, but they can be toxic to our doggy tummies and could result in a trip to the emergency vet! Keep all chocolate, gum, and other candies securely stored. Instead—whip up a batch of these delicious pumpkin cookies and beef meatballs for your fur kid so they, too, can join in the festivities!

In fact, when you're carving up them Jack-O-Lanterns and toasting the pumpkin seeds for yourselves, you can also chunk up bits of the leftover pumpkin meat, toss with a little coconut oil and roast them in the oven for your pups. Pumpkin is a tasty, healthy snack for us doggies, too!

It has dawned on me that I've been a columnist for a year now! It's hard to believe that an entire year has gone by since I started writing my blog and column! Mom and I really enjoy doing this and I hope you peeps like reading our column and trying out the tasty recipes we come up with.

We've always had a long-term goal of starting a canine bakery and bistro where we serve fresh, wholesome treats and meals designed especially for dogs. So, with this issue Mom and I are launching **Walter's Lunchbox BARKery and Bistro**

and will now be taking orders for seasonal treats, custom cakes, and homemade diets delivered fresh to your door! All our products are made with wholesome, human-grade ingredients. Plus, we will pledge a portion of the proceeds from our sales to area animal charities, rescues, and shelters. We are local, and we want to “keep it in the community.”

Browse my blog for Mom's recipes (**Walter'sLunchbox.com**), or let us know if you want us to do the cooking for you this holiday season! 575-640-3424 or [MLDubbin@gmail.com](mailto:MLDubbin@gmail.com).

### HOWL-O-WEEN Pumpkin Cookies

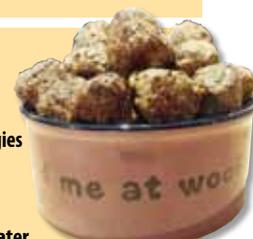
- 4 eggs
- 1 C canned pumpkin puree  
(not pumpkin pie mix)
- 4 Tbs powdered milk
- 4 C brown rice flour
- 1 C Flax Seed meal
- Unsweetened Carob Chips  
(for decoration)



Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. In separate bowl, mix together wet ingredients until thoroughly blended. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until forming a stiff dough. Knead dough until all ingredients are thoroughly distributed. Divide dough and roll out sections to approximately 1/4" thickness, between pieces of parchment paper. Using Halloween-themed cookie cutter, cut out shapes and place onto parchment lined cookie sheets. Press carob chips into cut cookie shapes for eyes, nose, mouth, or other decoration. Bake for 30-45 minutes or until center of cookie is firm. Leaving cookies in the oven, turn off oven and allow cookies to completely cool.

### Road Apples

- 1 lb lean ground meat
- 1 egg • ¼ C Flax Seed Meal
- 1½ C finely diced fruits/veggies  
(carrot, sweet potato, zucchini, squash, apple, etc.)
- 1 Tbsp Coconut Oil
- ¼ C low sodium broth or water



Mash all ingredients (except oil and broth) together with hands. Shape into bite size meatballs depending on breed size. Heat coconut oil in a frying pan and brown the meatballs on all sides (insides will still be raw). Arrange the browned meatballs in a single layer in a shallow baking dish. Pour about ¼ inch of broth in the bottom of the dish and place in the oven at 375°F for 20 minutes, or 'til done. Cook time will depend on the size of meatballs. Allow to cool before serving. Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

**Short cut:** Skip the pan browning and put directly into the oven, increase temp to 400°F and cooking time;  
**Time-Saving Substitution:** Use 1/3 C SoJo's® Dehydrated Fruit and Veggie mix (rehydrated) in place of the fresh veggies/fruit.

# Chronicles of Vash

by SHANNON ELLISON & Kat Lacy



## Back Off My Backside!!

When we last left Vash, he was enduring a needle-riddled visit to the vet, and had just been placed under anesthesia...

The darkness subsided and the world was bright again. I got out of that sterile place that smelled like freshly mopped kitchen floor and went back home feeling sore and horribly itchy. I had to wear a humiliating neck-thing for days, totally hampering my dexterity.

Meanwhile, The Dog had become desperate to sniff my butt. He would not be allowed to sniff my butt until he either told me how he convinced Mama to give him so much more food than me, or told me where the food was kept and how I could get to it.

Before Mama rescued me, I had been seriously underfed. I had been hungry, I knew what hungry was, I didn't like it, and I was hungry all the time. All food at that point had been delicious, but my favorite was (and is) the milk. I only got milk three times a day. Otherwise I had to eat the hard dry food or the soft wet food, neither NEARLY as good as the milk, and they were left out on the floor so I had to eat everything before The Dog showed up. Mama gave me the milk from a bottle while she held me in her arms, so I could fall asleep while eating if I wanted to. This was the best. This should've happened more often.

The day The Dog had his vile, back-end-violating idea, I was looking for the place Mama kept the milk. I'd only been back from the sterile place a few days and I still had that awful, cumbersome neck-thing on. I'd known milk was my priority the first moment I tasted it, and had been searching for it nearly constantly ever since. Mama seemed to bring the milk from a section of the house blocked by a gate across the hall. That day she was gone—I'd heard her and the car rumble away earlier—and it was my chance.

I went to the gate and sat down in front of it. It towered high above my ears—high, but not insurmountable. It was made of plastic strips with little diamond-shaped holes. The hall stretched far away on the other side—but at the end was an open doorway, beyond which must be the milk. Piles and piles of little bottles full

of delicious milk. All I had to do was get over the gate.

I was much younger then and had not yet gained my current impressive bulk. This was probably good, because there's no way I would be able to climb that thing now. I'd have to knock it over. I can knock most things over—including people—if I time my stampedes just right and bolt past them as they're taking a wobbly step. If they walked on all fours like normal this would be much more difficult—proof of their general lack of insight. No wonder they worship me the way they do. Anyway...

**The Dog lifted its giant, stupid head and whined. Its tail started wagging furiously, as its eyes stared, shocked, into mine. Then they slid slowly down to my tail. I saw the idea form, then The Dog's body grew tense and determined—it wanted to sniff my butt.**

I jumped, latched my claws between the plastic diamonds, and climbed. I wobbled at the top, but could see something sticking out around the corner at the end of the hall—something fuzzy and long. It twitched. Electricity shot through every claw and every hair; I was a being of energy and laser-like focus.

I was going to do one thing and one thing only—I was going to step on that fuzzy thing. All thought of delicious milk forgotten (for the moment), I launched myself off the top of the gate and sailed down half the hallway. I landed on the fur between my paws, angled my shoulders back just so, and skid surfer-style towards the fuzzy twitching thing.

I shot past and slammed into the wall on the other side. I bounced back up onto the tips of my toes, back arched, looking fierce.

The Dog lifted its giant, stupid head and whined. Its tail started wagging furiously, as its eyes stared, shocked, into mine. Then they slid slowly down to my tail. I saw the idea form, then The Dog's body grew tense and determined—it wanted to sniff my butt. It wanted to sniff my butt really bad. I growled like an alpha-lion and bolted back down the hall. The gate was coming up fast. I leaped, clawed up it, launched off the top, and stampeded back to my bed. Maybe I'd wait for Mama to get home to have my milk—this time.

The Dog can never be trusted again, but maybe I can outwit him next time. After all, it can't be that hard to outwit such a creature. And, I am getting larger by the day. Larger...and smarter.

To be continued...

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**Feral Cat Management Program (fCaMP)**  
575-639-3036  
email: [fcamp@nmsu.edu](mailto:fcamp@nmsu.edu)  
[www.nmsu.edu/~fcamp](http://www.nmsu.edu/~fcamp)

**Humane Society of Southern NM (HSSNM)  
/Pet Smart Cat Adoption Center**  
575-523-8020  
email: [mail@hssnm.org](mailto:mail@hssnm.org) • [www.hssnm.org](http://www.hssnm.org)

**Kitty City**  
56 Danley Ranch Road, Alamogordo, NM  
575-430-6013  
[www.kittycitynm.com](http://www.kittycitynm.com)

**Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition**  
PO Box 13345, Las Cruces, NM 88013  
575-525-8694  
[www.lcdogparkers.com](http://www.lcdogparkers.com)

**Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary (SHAS)**  
575-527-4544  
email: [safehaven@nightfury.com](mailto:safehaven@nightfury.com)  
[www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net](http://www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net)

**Spay/Neuter Action Program  
of Southern NM (SNAP)**  
2405 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM 88005  
575-524-9265  
[www.snapnewmexico.org](http://www.snapnewmexico.org)

**Therapaws**  
575-524-2026  
[therapaws@gmail.com](mailto:therapaws@gmail.com)  
[www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com) (parent organization)



### Featured Group

## ACTION Programs for Animals (APA)

APA's mission is to help Doña Ana County become a "No-Kill" Community. To achieve this goal, they are pursuing progressive and friendly animal welfare programs and services which will transform our community and improve the quality of life for companion animals—while greatly reducing the number of abandoned and homeless animals. Their efforts include the Pet Food Bank Program, Second Chance Dogs & Cats Program, the Doña Ana Pets Alive (DAPA!) Campaign, and assisting clients with spay/neuter and veterinary care when funds allow.

APA recently opened their new *Furever Home and Pet Food Bank* at 800 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM 88005. They rely on donations, volunteer support at adoption and fundraising events, as well as people willing to provide foster homes for rescued animals. Your help is needed to make Doña Ana County a "No-Kill" Community. To learn more about APA go to [www.actionprogramsforanimals.org/donate-volunteer](http://www.actionprogramsforanimals.org/donate-volunteer) or call 575-644-0505 or 575-571-4654.

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