

Fall 2016

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# Dog 'Cruces

Information

for the Las Cruces Dog Lover!

## **DOGGIE ROADTRIP**

Forever Homes Animal Rescue relocates shelter animals to places where they're more likely to find a family.

Page 21

## **A SUPERZOO HOWDY-DO**

Dog'Cruces went to Vegas to scope out the massive, annual convention for pet vendors.

Pages 19 & 23

## **THAT'S THE TICKET!**

Disappointed in your presidential choices this election cycle? Jess has a third-party candidate you may want to consider!

Page 12

## **ANIMAL PATROL**

The Mayor of Dog'Cruces took a ride with Animal Control, and it changed his perspective on "Dog Catchers."

Page 15



PLUS... Parvo Returns with a Vengeance... Safe Kitty Transport is Logical... Shark Bait Ooh Ha Ha... and More!



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# Patrolling DogCruces

It was a dark and stormy night. I was alone for the first time in a long time, and the animals were restless, sensing that nothing good could happen on a night like this. I was about to hit the mean streets of my city, DogCruces, with a .38 in my pocket and a price on my head.

OK—it was nothing like that. But riding along with Las Cruces Animal Control was awesome. Our cover story started out to be a one-page “Workin’ Like a Dog” article, but I realized after my first ride-along with Officer Juan Valles that they should be the focus of our fall issue. So the one ride-along became three, and I got the opportunity to immerse myself in their world. That’s probably the best thing about being Mayor of DogCruces and putting this magazine together every quarter—I get to do some really cool stuff and meet lots of extraordinary people along the way!

Still... something was missing this time around. Where was my sidekick, my partner-in-crime, my Phyllis? We almost always do our cover stories together—and by together, I mean I have all the fun and she does all the writing! We had hoped to include Doña Ana County’s Animal Control in the article, with Phyllis joining in on the ride-alongs. Unfortunately, we were not able to unravel the County’s red tape, so this time it was just me and the City of Las Cruces. Fortunately, I still had the help of our other amazing editors who turned my rambling and ranting into the story that starts on page 15. I want to thank our incredible staff for all they do—without them I would just be a guy standing on the corner of Amador and Solano with a sign that reads: “Will Work for Dog Food!”

I would also like to thank (again, and always) Dr. Beth up at ASCMV, for putting up with all my questions.

In August, my wife and I—along with Charissa and Michelle—went to the SuperZoo 2016 National Pet Vendor Show at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas. What a blast! It’s not open to the public, but as *members of the media* (another great perk of publishing this magazine), we had the run of the place and were dazzled by all the sights, sounds, activities, displays, people, animals, and shiny things that kept pulling us forward to see more, more, more. Michelle describes the experience on page 19, and Charissa follows up on page 23 with reviews of a few of the new products we got a sneak peek at.

Dr. Pirtle is up to his eyeballs in Parvo cases, so we decided to re-run his excellent, informative and scary article on the subject from our Fall 2014 issue. Even if you read it two years ago, please read it again—it’s impossible to overstate the serious threat Parvo poses to our dogs this autumn.

We’re heading into the Holiday Season (I know...I can’t believe it, either), so I want to take the opportunity to remind and encourage everybody to SHOP LOCAL for your family, friends, self—and the furriest members of your clan. Keep your dollars here in our area whenever you can, and support the businesses that support our community. Small business is good business!

And finally, the Animal Control Officers I rode with were so welcoming, and open, and cooperative that we are now working together

with the City in an effort to reunite *more* lost pets with their owners. Our ACOs now take photos of the chipless, tagless pets they pick up and post them to our DogCruces Facebook page. Hopefully, this will reduce their time spent at ASCMV. Share these photos with your friends, and help lost pets find their way home again!

KFOX14 has done a feature on our new partnership, but as of our deadline, we were still waiting to find out when it will air. I promise we’ll post it to Facebook as soon as we know—but if you miss it live, you should be able to stream it on the KFOX website after the fact.

Enjoy the most perfect time of the year here in the Mesilla Valley! See you at Critter Christmas!



## Vic Villalobos

Mayor of DogCruces

Write to us at:

**DogCruces Magazine**  
151 S. Solano, Suite E  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

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

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### DogCruces Magazine

151 S. Solano • Suite E • Las Cruces, NM 88001  
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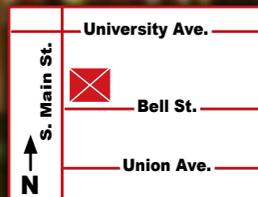
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## RECURRING & ONGOING EVENTS

### FALL 2016

#### Red Brick Pizza Monthly Fundraiser for HSSNM

Thursday, October 27th

Thursday, November 17th

Thursday, December 15th

Red Brick Pizza, 2808 N. Telshor from 11am-9pm. Social hour at 6pm. Mention "HSSNM" when placing your take-out or dine-in order, and 15% of proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.

#### Happy Tails Pet Adoption Events at PetSmart

Saturday, November 12th

Saturday, December 10th

Saturday, January 14th

PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman, from 10am to 4pm. The organization features many wonderful rescue dogs and cats seeking a loving home from the HSSNM's foster program and authorized individuals and organization/groups. For more information contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020 or mail@hssnm.org.

#### AKC's Canine Good Citizen Program

Saturday, November 5th

Saturday, December 3rd

Horse N Hound, 991 W. Amador Ave, 9am. The AKC's Program where dogs can be certified as Canine Good Citizens (CGC). A local CGC Tester will be on site to test dog for certification and/or the official AKC CGC title. No pre-registration required. \$10 fee per dog. For more information call 915-525-9858.

#### Adoption Events at Walmart on Rinconada

Saturday, November 12th

APA, from 11am-4pm.

Saturday, November 20th

APA, from 11am-4pm, with Donation Drive.

Saturday, December 3rd

APA, from 11am-4pm, with Donation Drive.

Saturday, December 10th

Safe Haven, from 11am-3pm.

#### Adoption Events at PetSmart (2200 E. Lohman)

Saturday, October 22nd

Safe Haven from 11am-3pm.

Saturday, November 19th

Safe Haven from 11am-3pm.

Saturday, December 17th

Safe Haven from 11am-3pm.



# Doggie

## OCTOBER

### Restaurants for Rescues

Papa Murphy's, 540 Walton Blvd. During October—National Pizza Month—Papa Murphy's will make a donation to APA for every purchase. For more information, call 575-644-0505.

### Halloween Costume Contest Registration

Better Life Natural Pet Foods will be having a Halloween Costume Contest. Entry fee is \$5, which will be donated to Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary.

Contestants could win a year's supply of dog food. You must come into Better Life Pet Foods (either Telshor or Avenida de Mesilla locations) with your pet *in costume* where staff will take a picture to post on Facebook, and a panel of judges will judge the top dogs (determined by number of likes). All entries must be in before October 27th. Winner will be announced at Pet-O-Berfest at Young Park on October 29th. Finalists will be contacted and must be present at Pet-O-Berfest to be judged and claim prize. More Details at Better Life.



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# Dates



## Sunday, October 23rd

### 5th Annual Pits for Peace & Pizza Fest

Picacho Peak Brewing Co., 3900 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces. Celebrating Pit Bull Awareness Month and the loving, peaceful nature of all dogs. There will be dog adoptions, games, raffles, a vaccination clinic, Halloween Costume Contest, music, and PIZZA! For more information, call APA at 575-644-0505.

## Saturday, October 29th

### Pet-O-Berfest, Sponsored by Adams Radio Group

Young Park, from 9am-5pm. Winner of Pet Costume Contest will be picked from the Better Life costume contest. There will be vendors, educational booths, and entertainment.

### 8th Annual Halloween Canine Costume Contest

Las Cruces Dog Park, 400 N. Hermosa St., beginning at 4pm. There are two categories: homemade and store-bought costumes. Registration closes at 4:30pm. Fee of \$2 per dog for participants. All costumed dogs will get a bag of treats. After contest, Canine Birthdays will be celebrated for dogs born in the summer and fall months. Each registered birthday dog will get a small gift toy and a bag of treats. Pot Luck dinner for humans to follow.

### Halloween Photo Booth Event

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary will be hosting a Halloween Photo Booth Event at their Thrift Store, 940 El Paseo from 10am-2pm. For more

information or to sign up to volunteer, contact triciaquillen@gmail.com, or 408-529-1065.

### Safe Haven Adoption Event at St. Paul's Fall Festival

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs, from 1pm-5pm. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact triciaquillen@gmail.com, or 408-529-1065.

## NOVEMBER

### Friday, November 4th

#### APA Dog Adoption Event

Craig en Taggart, 1100 W. Amador, from noon-5pm. For information, call 575-644-0505.

### Saturday, November 12th & Sunday November 13th

#### Better Life Customer Appreciation Weekend

Customer Appreciation Weekend at Better Life Natural Pet Foods, 315 Telshor Ste C and 365 Avenida de Mesilla (only open on Saturday). HUGE discounts for ALL of our customers. Giveaways! Activities! Better Life's way of saying thank you to Las Cruces for keeping it local!

For a complete calendar of events, visit

**DogCruces.com**

List is updated as events are announced

## DECEMBER

### Saturday, December 10th

#### Pet Photos with Santa

Safe Haven Thrifty Store, 940 El Paseo, from 10am-2pm. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact triciaquillen@gmail.com, or 408-529-1065.

### Sunday, December 11th

#### The All New "SNAP"PY Critter Christmas

Las Cruces Convention Center, from 1pm-4pm. Proceeds benefit the SNAP program. There will be auctions (both live and silent), raffle items, food, a dog treat station, entertainment, cash bar and lots of holiday fun! Leashed, well-behaved dogs are invited to attend. For more information, call SNAP at 575-524-9265. Tickets will be available at several convenient locations. Check website for information.



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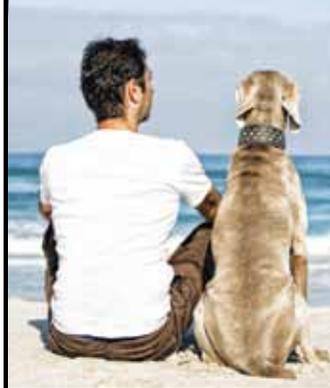
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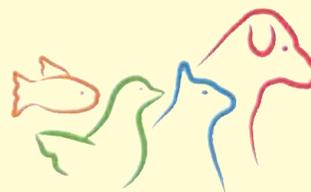
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## Autumn Brings on

Dr. Pirtle and all his veterinary colleagues are already swamped with Parvo cases. This fall is shaping up to be a particularly dangerous season for the disease in our area, so he asked us to re-run this article from the Fall 2014 issue of DogCruces....

**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 spikes in cases are typical in the Spring and Fall. So 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!

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 involvement 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.

**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!**

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—and in the vast majority of cases, Parvo is completely avoidable and preventable! Highly effective vaccines exist that can

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

protect puppies and adult dogs from CPV, as well as other infectious diseases.

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 the window of time from weaning



# The Vet's View

by  
Dr. Scott Pirtle, DVM

## the Perils of Parvo



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. 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 in

which I was involved. 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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# We the Doggies

by  
Jess Williams

**T**oby and I ventured to Albuquerque for a few days of R&R recently. The visit happened to fall during the time the State Fair was in full swing. We stayed with my cousin and her family, and they really, *really* like to spoil me and *Toby* when we visit.

On the day *Toby* and I took in the State Fair, we saw a LOT of politicking. Everywhere we went, people were peddling stickers and pins for Trump/Pence or Clinton/Kaine or Johnson/Weld. (I don't remember seeing anybody hawking the Stein/Baraka ticket, but I'm sure they were there.) You couldn't fling a blue-haired kewpie doll in any given direction without it landing on or near someone who was promoting a presidential candidate.

That evening, upon arriving back at Cousin Stacey's place, she and her delightful husband, Randy, invited me down for cocktails, and their son, Rand, challenged me to a game of Scrabble.

My go-to cocktail of choice is one part Evan Williams bourbon to three parts tap water. It gives me the delicious flavor of the spirit without the knock-out punch of the spirit.

But because she likes to spoil me, and because she knew I didn't have to work the next day, and because she is part evil, Cousin Stacey offered to concoct something different for me: a martini, made with a fancy gin called Hendrick's, and garnished with a trio of fancy cocktail olives called Topsy Olives, which are marinated in

vermouth. (If Mr. or Ms. Topsy who invented these cocktail olives were to run for high office, I would be a substantial campaign contributor, and I would walk the State Fair seeking support for my candidate).

For those of you unfortunate enough never to have had a martini, congratulate yourself on your amazing self-restraint. A well-made martini is a thing of aesthetic beauty to behold and a thing of utter hedonism to sip and consume. Throw in a Topsy Olive trio and you have a thing of such exquisite perfection that I cannot adequately describe it in mere little words. Even big, sophisticated words would flail and surrender.

I made the terrible error of communicating these observations and feelings to Stacey, Randy and Rand. I am certain they traded conspiratorial winks and grins with one another—and perhaps with *Toby*—as the evening unfolded and I became less and less proficient at both Scrabble and ambulation.

I would like to tell you that I governed myself with admirable moderation that fateful Thursday evening, but I would be lying. Jimmy Buffett frequently performs a song (written by Lord Buckley) titled "God's Own Drunk" about a man who goes to watch over his cousin's still and gets into a fight with a bear, and wins the fight with the bear, and then threatens all the bear's friends and relatives, and ends up dancing and drinking with the bear until he (the man) passes out under the stars, at which time the bear steals the still, and then the song is abruptly over.

I am eternally grateful that Randy, Stacey and Rand do not live in bear country is all I'm saying.

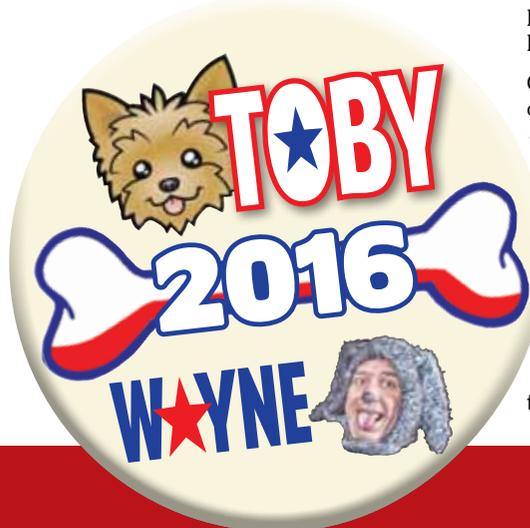
One part of the song goes like this: "We worked ourselves into a tumultuous uproar/And I was awful tired and went over to the hillside/And I laid down and went to sleep/Slept for four hours and dreamt me some tremulous dreams."

I have never bothered to look up the word "tremulous" because the context tells me everything I need to know. My experience at the State Fair, coupled with Stacey's martinis, further clarified the matter, because that night I dreamed—quite tremulously—that *Toby* was a serious candidate for President of the United States.

*Toby's* platform was articulated (in the dream) in a somewhat frothy fashion that spoke to his passion for the issues.

- ☆ *TobyCare* would bring free microchips, vaccinations, pet licenses and sterilization surgeries to every yard in the land.
- ☆ There would be a wall built to keep out letter carriers and cats, and the letter carriers and cats would be made to pay for it.
- ☆ No-pet policies promulgated by landlords and homeowners' associations would be abolished on Day One via executive order.
- ☆ Marijuana would be legalized, and unwanted dogs across the nation would be put to work guarding the plantations and greenhouses, thereby boosting employment and ensuring more pizza-related table scraps all across America.
- ☆ Nebraska would be designated as a dog park. The whole thing. Iowa would have to take up the slack where the production of corn is concerned. (*Toby* polled very well in Iowa when this was announced).
- ☆ Every state—as well as Guam and Puerto Rico—would be required to select a State Dog no later than Year Two of the *Toby* Administration. (New Mexico would be promised huge federal contracts in exchange for choosing the Yorkshire Terrier by acclimation, but this would be a tacit understanding).
- ☆ Dog food and treats produced in foreign countries would be subject to hefty tariffs and a Bloodhound sniff test before being allowed across our borders.
- ☆ All government emails would be housed on secure federal servers guarded by teams of highly-trained, elite Chihuahuas, who are —pound for pound—the fiercest animals on the planet.

It was at this point that Charissa told Jess the politicking had to stop, because the word count was tumultuous. Jess complied, after begging to be able to add that *Toby* had selected Wayne Sinclair for VP. Cousin Stacey has been served with a restraining order. My name is Jess Williams, and I approve of this message. Some of it, anyway.



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**PHOTOS BY  
JOHN CONNELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY**



**Animal Control Officer Ann Vander Vliet scans a pup picked up while roaming the streets alone. Unfortunately, like most of the dogs we encountered, this little guy had not been microchipped and had no name tag, rabies tag or City license—so he ended up at the Animal Services Center.**

# RIDIN' ALONG...

LAS CRUCES ANIMAL CONTROL



Animal Control Field Supervisor Gino Jimenez greets Mayor Vic before his ride-along.

**W**e at Dog'Crucos have talked about doing a story on Animal Control in the past, but we just never quite got around to it. This is mostly because we had so many other stories we wanted to work on—but, just maybe, there might have been a little part in all of us that didn't really want to know what Animal Control Officers have to deal with day after day. After all, they are the "dog catchers," universally portrayed as "bad guys" on TV and in movies. I flashed back to *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (yes, I love that movie), when the evil Kid Catcher shows up in his scary wagon with a giant hook and net, looking like a male version of the Wicked Witch of the West and sniffing out innocent victims to grab. I kept asking myself, "do I really want to go out and be part of this?" Well, of course I did—I am the Mayor of Dog'Crucos, after all! So I sucked up my fears, made a few calls, passed a background check—and headed off on an eye-opening journey.

The City of Las Cruces Animal Control is part of Codes Enforcement which, in turn, is part of the Police Department. Animal Control Officers (ACOs) are responsible for enforcing all animal-related ordinances under the municipal

code, including: leash laws, rabies vaccination compliance, pet licenses, nuisance (barking) complaints, care and maintenance of animals, etc. Beginning November 12, the new tethering restrictions will be added to the list. When pet owners violate the municipal code, ACOs can write citations—and they do so with the full authority of the LCPD.

But that's far from all they do. Animal Control engages in a **Community Education Series** at schools and community centers, and the presentation materials are available to individuals or groups who would like to use them to foster discussion or encourage action. They offer a **Live Trap Program** in which individuals can borrow live animal traps to contain stray critters that are being a nuisance (cats, dogs, skunks, squirrels, rats, etc.) on private prop-

**Just like our Police and Fire Departments, Animal Control will answer a call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**

erty—then call Animal Control to remove the trapped animals at no charge. ACOs are also, sadly, responsible for **dead animal removal** within city limits; they will even pick up a family pet that has passed (there is a \$10 service charge for this).  **kennel Licenses**—mandatory for anyone who has more than three pets—are available *only* through Animal Control.

Of course, a big part of an Animal Control Officer's job is rounding up stray or lost dogs and cats. But instead of gleefully whisking them away to "the pound" like the dog catcher

stereotypes we all grew up with, our officers do everything they can to try to reunite the animals with their families. Heading to the Animal Services Center is a *last* resort, but, sadly, it happens far too often.

Animal Control consists of eight ACOs and one supervisor. These nine people are responsible for patrolling all 76 square miles of the City of Las Cruces (Doña Ana County has a separate Animal Control force). Just like our Police and Fire Departments, Animal Control will answer a call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. There are no off-days. I joined three of these officers on three different ride-alongs, after which I was exhausted—and impressed.

### THE OFFICERS

First of all, I must say I was relieved that none of the ACOs remotely reminded me of *Chitty's Kid Catcher*! As a matter of fact, one of the officers I rode with had more of a Caractus Potts (Dick Van Dyke's character) happy-go-lucky personality (yes, I'm talking about you, Ann). The



# ...WITH ANIMAL CONTROL

BY VIC VILLALOBOS



# THE PERCEPTION...

**A diabolical "Dog Catcher" who lies in wait to kidnap your pet just for the fun of it.**

Robert Helpmann as the Child Catcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

three officers I rode with were all very different—but each was competent, compassionate and professional.

Officer Ann Vander Vliet, with her Caractacus Potts disposition, joined Animal Control in 2012. My ride-along with Ann included a visit to an after-school program as part of the Community Education Series. She was enthusiastic and informative, and obviously loved interacting with the kids.

Officer Juan Valles, who joined the force in 2009, serves as trainer for new recruits in the program, and he is about as by-the-book as they come. In fact, he literally brought out the regulation book each time we made a stop to advise me how we were going to handle the encounter (he trained me well).

Officer Jessica Patulski, ACO since 2007, is a badass with a heart of gold. Jess can put on a tough exterior—which is awesome when you call for backup—but when she gets around the animals she is as kind as can be.

They all are. I can really only speak about those I rode with, but I get the impression that *all* of the city's ACOs love animals and share a genuine commitment to the welfare of the animals they pick up. All those I talked to had at least one pet at home—and most of them were rescue animals from the ASCMV. They are a hard-working team, and they perform a sometimes-heartbreaking, always-necessary job that few of us would or *could* do.

## THE RIDE-ALONG

I wanted to experience, firsthand, what our Ani-

mal Control Officers do every day, so I could write a good, honest account of what they have to deal with. So for three days, I put on my work boots, grabbed a good flashlight and brought lots of snacks. ACOs are usually too busy to stop for a meal break, and I learned this the hard way when lunch time rolled around on my first day.

My tummy was growling, and when I inquired about what establishment we would be patronizing for our meal, I got a nice laugh and was informed, "we don't usually stop to eat, but we can *IF YOU NEED TO!*" Luckily, Officer Juan took pity and stopped so I could grab a burrito. I learned my lesson—pack snacks for my shifts.

As my adventure began, I quickly came to realize what a large area is covered by the City of Las

Cruces and how few officers there actually are. We did *a lot* of driving. I assumed Animal Control dealt mostly with stray dogs and cats—and this is true—but they get plenty of calls about skunks, foxes, coyotes, turtles, tarantulas and every other crawling, slithering wild animal the desert has to offer. One of the calls I went on involved a duck!

On my ride, the most exciting critters we encountered were the snakes—rattlesnakes,

to be specific. Apparently, rattlers aren't always aware of property lines, and they like to slither their way into yards and visit people—*lots* of people. Coralling multiple rattlesnakes on private property is a daily occur-

rence for ACOs during snake season. Animal Control is humane and releases the wildlife back into the desert, and I did get to participate in this process. Let me tell you, a snake that has been in a bucket in the back of a truck for *any* amount of time is not a happy snake. We emptied the buckets and suddenly it was like a scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*—they were all rattling and hissing and ready to ruin my day. *Run, Dr. Jones, RUN!* Actually, they just rattled for a couple minutes then slithered off into the desert. Whew!

I put in one day shift and two night shifts, and I got to see a little bit of everything. I attended two of the Community Education presentations at schools, responded to calls from people concerned about their neighbors' pets, removed animals that had been hit by cars, and intervened when dogs got into fights or attacked other animals. I even ran into someone I knew at a house where a visiting dog had picked a fight with the owner's dog—and that was tremendously awkward for both of us.

The ACOs wrote citations for violations when appropriate—it is part of their job. I was surprised to learn that individuals have only 72 hours to respond by appearing in Municipal Court—either to pay the fine or contest the citation and set a court date. This may seem like a short period of time, but this is how the law currently reads—the ACOs have no control over this time frame.

When word got out that I was going to be doing these ride-alongs, I got emails and calls from friends and animal organizations asking if I could check on specific houses/animals/individuals they deemed potential problem areas. I found out that Animal Control is already on top of this. They are aware of neighborhoods and specific properties where violations and animal issues have occurred, and they are trying to work with these pet owners to improve the situations for their animals. Most decent people don't want to hurt animals—but they may have found themselves in bad domestic situations or have fallen on hard times, and caring for their animals has taken a back seat. There are exceptions, certainly, when people take out their frustrations on their pets—but they're not the ones I'm talking about. Most people have good intentions toward their pets, want things to be better and just need a little help to get there. It was nice to see that the officers were able to offer solutions to these folks other than taking their pets away—solutions that help all parties involved, especially the pets.

## THE PROBLEM

Of course, we picked up a lot of stray dogs. Most of them were very friendly and appeared pretty well cared for. Some had nice collars or harnesses, were well-groomed, and one even had a cute little jacket—they obviously belonged to somebody. But, to my surprise, almost *none* of them had microchips, and only two of the dogs with collars had tags on them. The very few dogs that *were* chipped had outdated information, which meant their owners could not be contacted.

I stated earlier that taking a stray to the shelter is a last resort, and it's true—Animal Control Officers do everything in their power to return a lost pet to its owner. If a dog or cat has any tag (ID or pet license), the ACO will call it in and check for owner information. If the animal has been microchipped—and the information is up-to-date—the officer will contact the owner and return the pet. If the owner isn't home, ACOs can put the animal back in its yard and close a gate that had been left open or leave the pet with a willing neighbor. They can, time and space permitting, drive around with the pet in the truck and attempt to return it later in their shift. They have even been known to pass pets along from one shift to another in hopes of avoiding a trip to the shelter. But, way too often, little lost souls end up at the ASCMV because their families failed to take the proper precautions to ensure they could find their way home.

**THE BEST WAY TO ID YOUR DOG OR CAT IS TO MICROCHIP IT.**

# ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO RETURN A LOST PET TO ITS OWNER.

So what happens when all else fails? When other options have been exhausted, Animal Control has no choice but to take lost animals to the Animal Services Center, where they will be put into the general population with hundreds of other animals. Our shelter is required to accept all the animals Animal Control delivers to them each day. This number averages 30-35 every single day. The ASCMV is always at full capacity, so for them to make room for the new crop of lost pets, Dr. Beth is forced to kill perfectly healthy pets that have been there past the 72 hours required by law to keep them alive. I know how horrible this sounds, but she truly has no choice—animals keep coming in every day, seven days a week, including holidays, despite the ACOs' best efforts. Pet owners can certainly retrieve their animals from the ASCMV, but most of the lost pets never have anybody check the shelter to see if they've been turned in. What a shame—it boggles my mind and makes me sad and angry.

## THE RANT

OK, you knew there was a rant coming, so here it is.... Not everyone cares about their pets the same way I do. I knew this, of course. But it's one thing to know that abuse, neglect and apathy exist, and another thing to actually see it. I'm not really sure why some of the people we visited even had dogs. Not because of a bad financial or domestic situation, but because they actually don't care about their animals. If your dog lives on a chain and has never been

on an walk, you should not have a dog. If your dog only eats a couple of times a week and gets most of its water when it rains, you definitely should not have a dog. If your dog runs away every chance it gets and you do nothing to try to keep it on your property (apart from chaining it up), you shouldn't have a dog. And if all of the above apply to you, you most definitely DO NOT DESERVE A DOG!

**...way too often, little lost souls end up at the ASCMV because their families failed to take the proper precautions to ensure they could find their way home.**

But even people who do care about their pets and love them like family members often don't take

steps to be able to locate their dog if it gets lost or stolen. The best way to ID your dog or cat is to microchip it. ACOs scan every animal they pick up for a chip—which, if present, provides the ACO with the dog's name, owner's name, address and phone number. Your vet or the ASCMV can microchip your pet (it's not very expensive), and there are low-cost microchipping events scheduled periodically throughout our area.

**People, please, chip your pets!!** (And spay or neuter them while you're at it... sorry, had to get that in).

And one final part to my rant.... It's easy for all of us to stand on the outside, point fingers, give opinions of what we think is wrong with "the system" and how things should be changed, and it's another thing to actually put on your boots and step into the world our Animal Control Officers work in. Let me tell you, this is a tough job—never enough accolades for all they do—and they provide a vital service

to our community that very few of us have the makeup to perform day in and day out.

Can our overall treatment of animals here in the Mesilla Valley get better? Of course. Will it? I have to believe it will, but it will take all of us working together as a community. Will this happen overnight? I wish—but it takes time, as well as a commitment to work together towards our common goals, regardless of personal interest or ego.

## THE PARTNERSHIP

My three days riding with Animal Control were physically and emotionally draining, but I'm so glad I had the opportunity to do so. One good, tangible result has already come from it. DogCruces has partnered with the City of Las Cruces to provide a way for animals without ID to potentially be identified and reunited with their owners before having to go to the shelter. Animal Control Officers now take pictures, in the field, of the pets they pick up and post them on the DogCruces Facebook page right away. Our hope is that people will share these pictures, and that owners will be located quickly. Ideally, we can keep pets from ever having to go to the shelter, but at the very least our Facebook network may be able to alert owners that their dog might be at the shelter, and they need to retrieve it as soon as possible. It has already begun to work.

Making a difference in our animal community will always be a group effort. From the animal welfare organizations, to the rescue groups, ASCMV, law enforcement, media, and individuals—we must all take action to protect, defend, assist and care for the four-legged Las Cruces who depend on us to do so.

Vic Villalobos is Mayor of DogCruces.

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# Workin' Like a Dog



## SupercalifragilisticexpialidociousZoo 2016!

In August, I had the honor of attending my first ever SuperZoo! What is SuperZoo you ask? Well... SuperZoo is a huge (and I mean HUGE) trade show event with over 1200 exhibitors showcasing any pet product you could possibly want or need. SuperZoo isn't open to the public, it is for retailers and people like us who write about dogs. In fact, each year there are more than 700 products making their debut at SuperZoo, making people like me the lucky ones that get to see it first. When I first arrived to Las Vegas and stepped inside the Mandalay Bay Conference Center, where the event was being held, I figured that the two full days I would be there would be plenty of time to see and talk to each vendor and learn about their products. Well...I was wrong! Yes, I saw and spoke to hundreds of people, learned about products, some already for sale, some that will be for sale soon, but there were many more that I missed, making me wish I could have had at least one more day. It is an amazing experience, and here are a few reasons why:

### 1- New Products! New Inventions!

As I mentioned above, we were among the lucky people who got to see brand new products that have not yet been released to the public. We left the trade show and got to brag to all of our friends about how amazing these products are, and we got firsthand knowledge about when they will be released and where they can be purchased...before anyone else! We received several sample products and were able to make some purchases, which made it a lot easier to receive forgiveness from our furry babies after leaving them home while we went to Vegas!

### 2- Education!

There were more than 90 seminars covering

a wide variety of topics including: Social Media, Customer Service and Marketing, just to name a few. There were also animal wellness sessions focused on animal care in stores and the best practices geared toward birds, reptiles and fish.

### 3- Incredible Stories!

You get to talk to some amazing people and hear some really touching stories. One that comes to mind for me was when I and my partner-in-crime, Senior Editor Charissa, spoke to Joey Herrick, President and Founder of The Lucy Pet Foundation. We learned about what made him begin this foundation, what his hopes are for its future, what he has accomplished so far. We even got a tour of his mobile spay/neuter bus. If you would like information on this amazing foundation, please visit [www.lucypetfoundation.org](http://www.lucypetfoundation.org).

### 4- Dog Grooming Contests!

If you are in the grooming business, then you would love this! During the three days of SuperZoo, professionals from 15 countries groomed 226 dogs while international judges from five nations determined the winners! There were over 100 winners during the event in several different categories. The best and newest products were used and showcased—making this a dog groomer's dream!

### 5- The Rich and Famous!

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, basketball legend and CEO of Magic

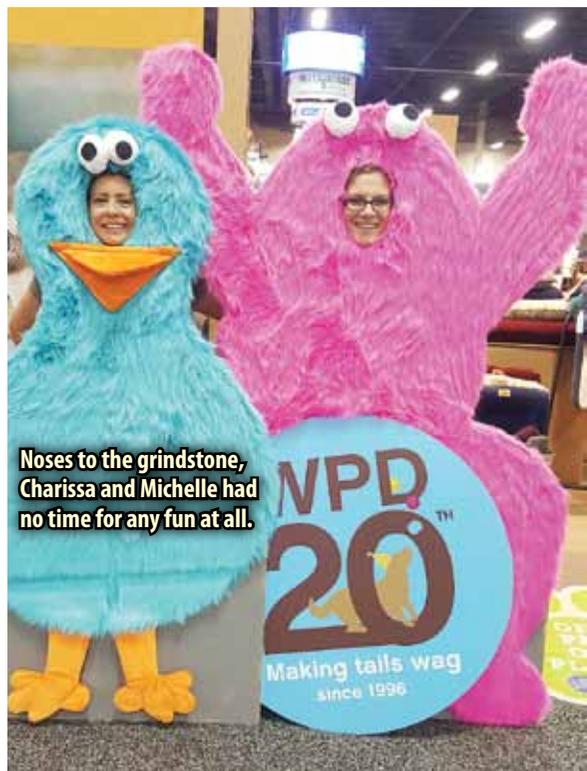
Johnson Enterprises kicked off the event with a keynote speech focusing on how he turned his skills on the court into success in the business world; Legendary rock band, Styx, headlined a sold-out concert at House of Blues, and last but certainly not least... STELLA! That's right, we got to meet the French Bulldog best known for her role as Jay Pritchett's dog on *Modern Family*. She was incredibly kind, but we failed to get her autograph.



OK, so there you have it! This does not even scratch the surface of everything there was to see and do, but if I described it all I would literally need every page in this magazine. If you want to see just how many vendors there really are at this event, visit [www.superzoo.org](http://www.superzoo.org).

Can we go back next year, Vic...please?!

*Michelle Sullivan is a sales executive for DogCruces magazine.*



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# OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS...

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## ANIMAL RESCUE

**H**ey boy, wanna go for a ride? What dog doesn't jump at the chance to hit the road with his human—even if it's just to run a quick errand and return straight back home? Well, maybe a dog who doesn't have a home or humans. Maybe a dog who is lucky enough to have been rescued from a bad situation, but is still waiting for his forever home and family.

Forever Homes Animal Rescue (FHAR)—based in Alamogordo and serving much of Southern New Mexico and El Paso—looks far and wide to place rescued dogs (and some cats) in permanent homes with loving families. They provide pets the ride-of-a-lifetime, moving local rescues out of our area and delivering them to other rescue organizations—in northern New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona—where they are more likely to find homes.

FHAR originally concentrated on fostering and adoption in our local area. But in the fall of 2015, they decided to shift focus to networking and transporting dogs out of the area. By doing so, they are able to assist an average of 30 or more animals per month, instead of helping one or two at a time. They determined they were able to save more lives by relocating the animals to other cities that do not have the animal over-population problem our area has. Some of the rescue groups FHAR partners with are breed-specific,

some are all-breed, and some are based on size (large breeds, lap dogs, etc).

While FHAR members have been rescuing animals for several years, the group became an official non-profit in April, 2015. Earlier that winter, they purchased a cargo van, outfitted it with crates, and hit the road—making up to four trips per month moving animals. FHAR has a network of volunteer drivers helping to transport the animals to and from their new location(s). The trip schedule is determined by how many animals are waiting in foster homes and animal control facilities, and how many their partner rescue groups are able to receive.

FHAR's relationships with other rescue organization have yielded additional benefits, as well—including the use of a building which they turned into a holding facility. This enables them to house the rescued dogs, place animals in quarantine when required, and get necessary medical treatment while arranging the transfers.

Funded primarily by donations (and volunteers' own money), FHAR's main expenses are fuel, vaccinations and the van payment. The group has a very tight budget and runs at maximum capacity—so they are in great need of sponsors (any amount helps and is appreciated), foster homes (average commitment: two to six weeks) and drivers (must have a current active license and be insured).

In-kind donations are always needed, including: crates, dog beds, leashes, collars

and food. Gift cards for gas, pet store supplies and low-cost oil changes are also greatly appreciated.

Through networking and transferring rescued animals, FHAR is working to ease the burden on our area shelters and, thus, lower the euthanasia rate in Southern New Mexico and El Paso. Despite everybody's efforts, there are still far too many displaced animals in our area. Ultimately, the only way the community can significantly reduce the number of dogs and cats killed at the municipal shelters every year is for people to spay and neuter their pets.

Until then, the FHAR volunteers are very much dedicated to rescuing and relocating abandoned, neglected and abused animals—but they hope in their hearts that one day it will no longer be necessary.

Please visit FHAR's Facebook page and consider sponsoring an animal for transport, fostering an animal in need, or donating food and supplies for all the dogs waiting for their forever homes!

*Alicia Kumke is Founder/President of Forever Homes Animal Rescue; Jamie Jones is a volunteer.*



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# Traveling FOR Your Best Friends

by Charissa Paszkowski

## SuperZoo Product Review!

**S**uperZoo 2016.... When Vic asked me if I wanted to go as a representative of DogCruces, I could barely contain my excitement. I had only heard of this event and wasn't quite sure what to expect—but I was thrilled to be able to go and see for myself what it was all about.

SuperZoo is held annually in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. It is a retailer/exhibitor event for over 5000 pet product vendors. Upon walking into the convention center, all I could think was that the doors to heaven had opened. I didn't know where to begin and tried to take in the enormity of everything in front of me. There were brand new products to see for the

very first time, old favorites to gush over, clever and innovative new inventions, and so many people who share my passion for pets! It was an overwhelming array of treats, food, toys, supplements and gadgets—too much to see and do at once.



In addition to the plethora of products we got to see were the wonderful animals in attendance and people who have been making a difference in the pet world. At one point I saw an adorable dog (I usually notice dogs—especially Pit Bulls—before people) walking through the sea of humanity towards the back of the Convention Center. I grabbed hold of my human convention buddy, Michelle, and made a beeline toward the dog and the Little Person who was walking it. As I got closer I realized—"I know who that is... it's Shorty Rossi from Pit Boss!" He



watched me following him till I had the nerve to ask for a picture, and then all I could do was pet his beautiful dog and didn't even get a proper photo. Luckily, Michelle was not quite as starstruck as I was, and she came through with a decent pic.

After all the excitement of meeting people, seeing things, petting dogs, and speaking to others about their passions, it was time to put a pen to my experience at SuperZoo. My thoughts, again, became a whirlwind and I realized there was just too much to cover—so for the next few issues of *DogCruces*, we will be featuring some of the items we saw, sampled and purchased so you can consider them for your pets, as well.

### Rex Specs Dog Goggles

Not only do these goggles look pretty cool, they're already helping one of our own—*Scout*—during his Search and Rescue training. The goggles protect *Scout's* eyes from branches and twigs as he runs training scenarios through low brush in the desert. They fit snugly, so they stay in place and don't seem to obstruct his view at all.

### Zuke's® Enhance Healthy Dog Treats

Zuke's has been around for quite a while, but at SuperZoo they debuted some nature-inspired daily chews. There are six new products designed to enhance different areas of doggie health and hygiene: Fresh Breath, Calming, Digestion, Endurance, Mobility and Shiny Coat. These new treats feature natural ingredients—for example, Digestion includes chicory root, chamomile, peppermint and pumpkin.

### Lucy Pet Products™

Joey Herrick founded this company with one purpose in mind—to fund his personal crusade to help fight animal overpopulation. The fine Lucy Pet Products offerings (which include cat litter, pet shampoo and leave-in conditioners) are produced and sold to help support this cause. All



profits are used to fund his mobile, low cost spay/neuter van and to facilitate adoption events in California. "I don't know how to fundraise, but I know how to build a product and sell it," Mr. Herrick told me when we spoke. He's not kidding—he built Natural Balance Pet Food before selling that company in order to focus his time and effort on the cause so near and dear to his heart.

### Diggin Your Dog™

(includes Super Snouts™, Stash™ and Pernalogix™)

All these products were a big hit in my household! When I left on this trip I wasn't sure how my 22-year-old cat would handle my absence. In the hours leading up to my departure she had barely eaten anything, and I was worried. I checked on her daily, and she was trucking along. When I finally arrived home, I was able to give her some Super Snout powdered supplements I picked up at the convention. One in particular, the Joint Power with Green Lipped Mussel for cats and dogs, seemed to work wonders. Lo and behold, this little supplement enticed my old cat to increase her appetite, which in turn has her feeling better. My dog, *Nacho*, and the other cats enjoy this, as well, and I am happy with the benefits it provides. Another product from Diggin/Super Snout with which we were all happy is the Activate Elk Liver Jerky for Dogs. *Nacho* goes bonkers for this treat, and I am happy it's low in fat, high in protein and high in nutrient source. The Stash treats and Pernalogix Joint Health products (for pets and people) are also effective/delicious.



If only I'd had a week, I would have been able to see every single booth and speak to every single exhibitor. Ok, that is an exaggeration, but after just eight hours of meeting people, introducing them to *DogCruces* and asking vendors questions about their products...I had no voice left, had walked 9.81 miles and was ready to sleep on any of the comfy doggie beds I could "test." SuperZoo 2016 proved to be pet paradise for animal lovers, with rows upon rows of booths filled with countless products—all to enhance the lives of our furriest family members.

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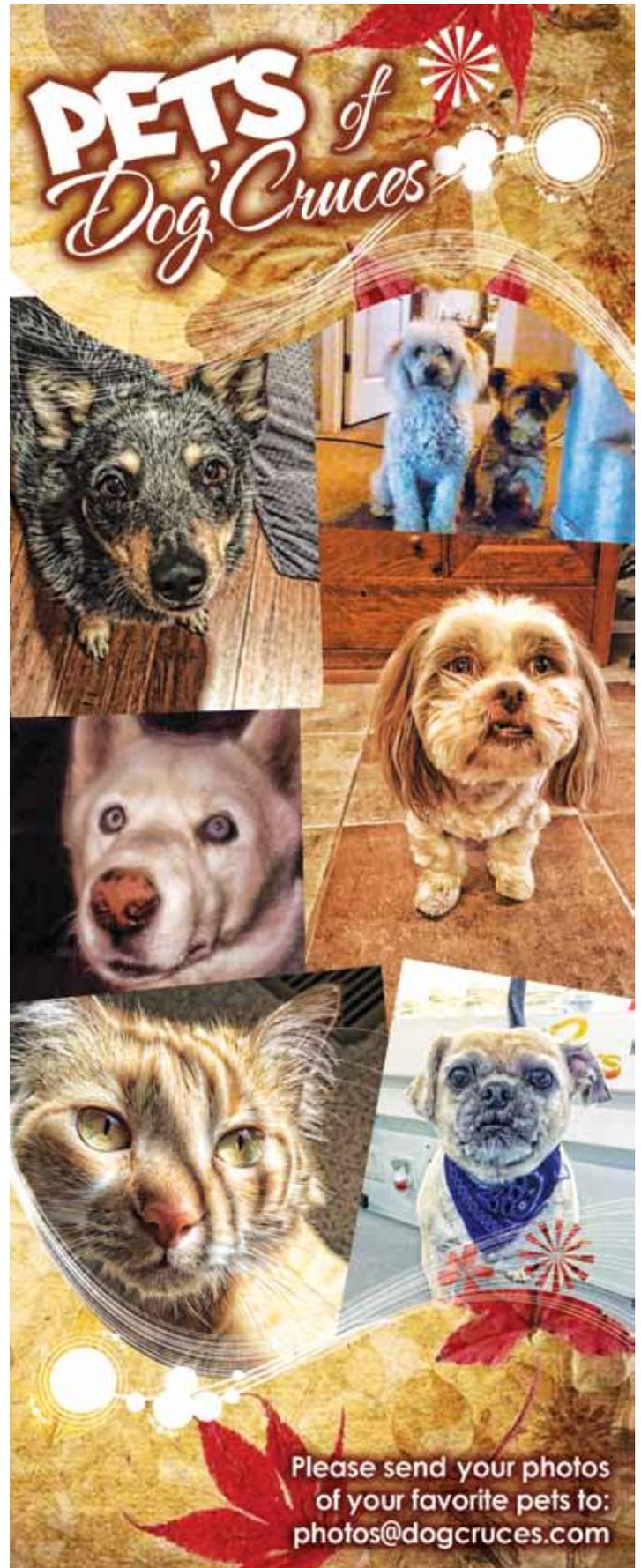
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# FINDING SHARK BAIT

by Marjorie Booth



**W**e first found *Shark Bait* in August of 2007. My youngest daughter Jenifer was about to turn 2, and my daughter Erica was turning 18. We decided a new puppy would complete our family and headed to the Animal Services Center to pick out our newest addition. We were instantly drawn to a litter of puppies that had just become eligible for adoption. In this litter of dark brown, mixed-breed puppies was a golden ball of fluff. The decision was immediate and unanimous. This puppy would be ours.

We tossed around name ideas for a couple of days without hitting on anything that seemed right. Jeni appeared to have decided on a name for the puppy, but because her words were still not intelligible, we didn't know *what* she was uttering. My toddler's favorite movie at the time was *Finding Nemo*, and it was playing in our home non-stop. My son Christopher finally figured out his little sister was trying to say "Shark Bait Ooh Ha Ha," which (for those not familiar with the movie) was the name Nemo was given when he was officially inducted into the fish tank at the dentist's office. So our new pup was christened *Shark Bait Ooh Ha Ha*.

Everyone loved *Shark Bait*—even our other two dogs. Jenifer and the pup were inseparable. They slept together, played together, had arguments, watched *Finding Nemo*. They were best friends, and you never saw one without the other. *Shark Bait* was a wonderful dog, especially when she got out of the shoe-chewing stage. She blossomed into a gentle, loving, soulful girl.

In 2012 my nephew Clinton came to stay with us to do some desert soul-searching. Of course, he bonded with *Shark Bait* immediately, and the two became hiking partners. Every morning Clinton and *Shark Bait* headed out at 5am to hike up the nearby mountains. One July morning I received a phone call at work. It was Clinton. He was crying so hard I couldn't understand him. I finally heard "*Shark Bait* is gone!" I hung up the phone, left work and headed home.

Clinton and *Shark Bait* had gone on their usual hike up the desert mountains, but on the way back down, Clinton noticed that she was no longer behind him. He hiked back up and called out for the dog, to no avail.

Everyone gathered at the base of the mountain, branched out, and searched for our lost dog. Hour after hour passed with no sign of *Shark*

*Bait*. Our voices were hoarse from crying and calling, but we had to stop when it got dark. We did it all again the next day, without any luck. By the third day, we were losing hope. The temperatures were in the 100s, and I could not fathom her surviving that kind of heat without food or water. We still searched, but mourning had set in. At this point no one truly believed we would ever see our sweet *Shark Bait* again.

I returned to work on the fourth day, but Clinton wouldn't give up. He set out early for one final search. This time, when he called her name, he heard an answering bark. They kept calling out to each other until my nephew found *Shark Bait*—about half-way up the side of the mountain, entangled in a dead prickly pear cactus. It was very difficult to get her out, but he did. He carried her all the way back down the mountain.

I was useless at work, unable to focus on anything—until my phone rang. It was Clinton. "I found her!!!! Aunt Margie, she is alive!" I arrived at the house just as Clinton was getting back, and there, in his arms, was a very frail, dehydrated, bloody *Shark Bait*. She couldn't walk because the pads of all four of her feet were completely gone. She was covered with fleas, cuts, and cactus needles. I removed as many needles as I could while he was holding her just so we could lay her down on one side. She slowly lapped up what water she could. I offered her favorite food, but even though she seemed to want it, she was unable to eat. We called the vet's office and told them we were on our way. The doctor put *Shark Bait* on an IV drip to rehydrate her and plucked cactus needles out of her all day. She was concerned that *Shark Bait* wasn't eating and had also noticed that the dog appeared to want food but could not eat it.

We took her home that night, and had to carry her outside to potty every hour. I kept trying to get her to eat, but for some reason she just couldn't. I thought there might be cuts in her mouth that were making it painful to eat, so I gently opened her mouth to take a look. What I found made me cry. There were several cactus needles wedged very deeply in the back of her throat. I got tweezers and was able, *carefully*, to remove them all. *Shark Bait* could eat again.

As the weeks went by, her feet healed, and we continued to find and remove cactus needles. Our determined little dog made a full recovery, and to this day is the sweetest, most gentle, smartest—and luckiest—*Shark Bait Ooh Ha Ha* that ever was.



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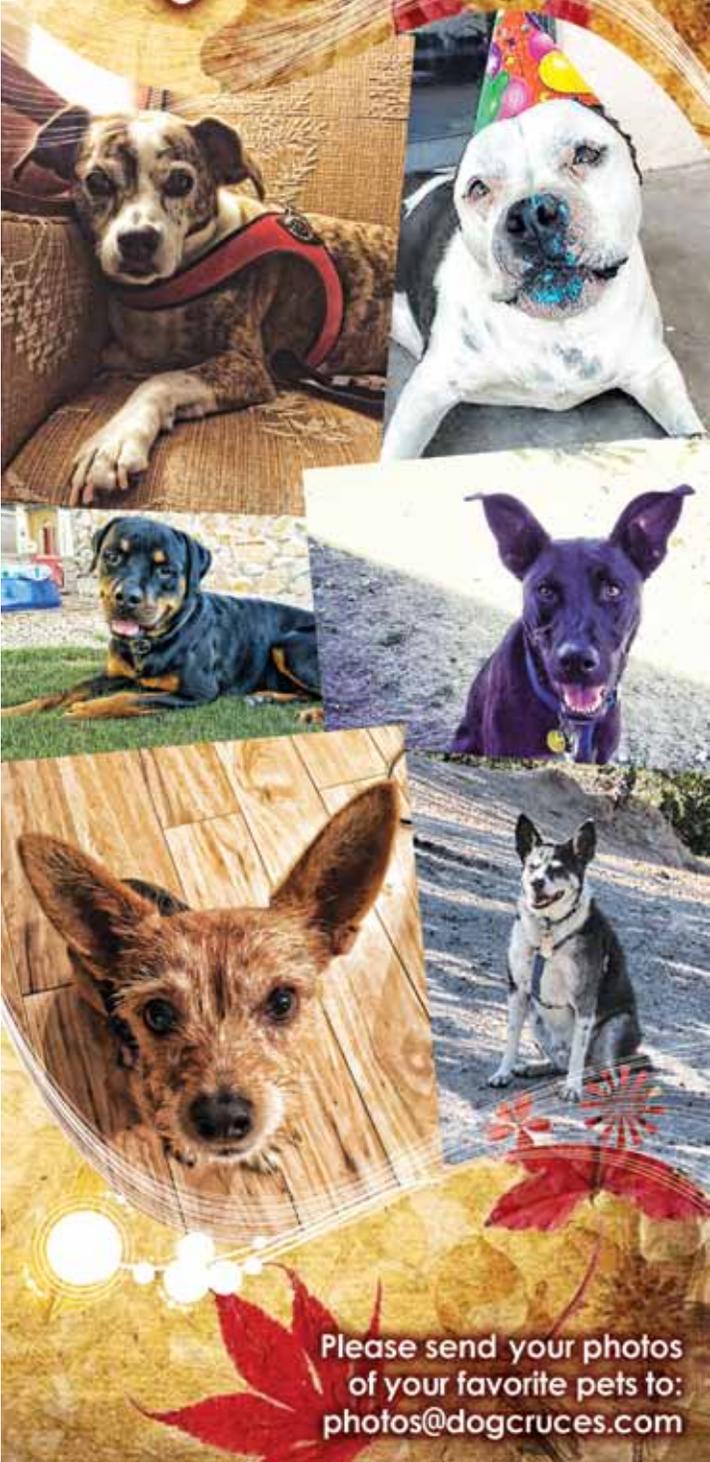
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# PETS of Dog Cruces



Please send your photos of your favorite pets to: [photos@dogcruces.com](mailto:photos@dogcruces.com)

It is with great sadness and honor that the US Honor Flag crew was in Las Cruces, NM for the funeral of fallen Hatch Police Officer Jose Chavez. The U.S. Honor Flag is the ceremonial flag used to honor America's heroes in Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and active Military killed in the line of duty.

The Honor Network is an all volunteer 501C(3) organization founded on the conviction that every person who is committed in service to our communities and country deserves the support of every single American, and that an increase in American patriotism is vital in keeping our great nation united.

The U.S. Honor Flag travels to pay tribute to our fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for their families, communities and county. The ceremonial presentation performed by the Honor Network, as the flag drapes the casket of the deceased hero and how it is cared for and handled with white gloves by any volunteer who handles the flag was quite touching. These gloves are then given to the volunteer handlers after each ceremony. The flag does not remain with the fallen heroes or their families but travels and pays tribute to all our fallen heroes around the United States.

My wife and I were given the opportunity to meet one of the flag handlers volunteer Cindy, who keeps the white gloves used in her first ceremony behind her bullet proof vest. She is a police officer in Colorado and uses her personal vacation time travel on these missions to honor the fallen.



Along with Cindy we met Major A.K.A. HonorDog, he is the service K-9 for the U.S. Honor Flag founder, Chris Heisler. Chris joined the U.S. Army at 34 years of age after 9/11. Less than 1 year after enlisting, Chris was injured by a mortar round in Iraq. Major came into Chris' life in January 2016 and helps him with his mobility. Major also plays an important role during the funerals loving on the young kids left behind by these fallen heroes. A stuffed version of Major is being developed to be given to these kids.

If you are interested in helping make this project a reality, visit [Facebook.com/USHonorFlag](https://www.facebook.com/USHonorFlag).

**Thank you for the work you do!**  
- Vic, Mayor of Dog Cruces.



[UsHonorFlag.Org](http://UsHonorFlag.Org)

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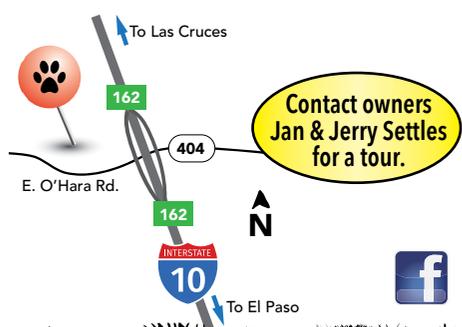
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# Walter's Lunchbox

by Walter Dubbin  
(as told to Margaret Dubbin)



## I Bark, Therefore I Am

**W**ell peeps, I hope y'all enjoyed that short, sweltering summer we had here in the LC. I, myself, could have used a couple more summer months, as they flew by too fast. Sadly, I was unable to convince Mom to break away from her job long enough for a real summer vacay, but Dad and I were able to drag her away for a couple of weekend camping trips.

For those of you who don't know, Mom runs her own business, and *Butthead* and I get to go to work with her most days. While Mom deals with conference calls, emails, and other business stuff, *Butthead* and I get to live in luxury—napping on our cushy beds in her office, sunning ourselves in our outdoor dog run, getting tons of snuggles and belly rubs, stealing burritos and other snacks from unsuspecting employees.... We've even got some of them trained to bring us special treats!

One of the coolest things about Mom's office is that it is also home to *Desert Devil CrossFit*, owned by Mom's friends Miss Julie and Mr. Jeremy. From our dog run, we get to see all the CrossFit peeps coming and going, running with sandbags, and pushing something called a *prowler*. It's pretty entertaining watching them suffer. CrossFit is a grueling, high-intensity, interval-type training workout that some peeps are crazy enough to attempt in their personal quests to get fit. It's a workout lifestyle that is completely scalable to every person regardless of fitness level, body type or age. People in the CrossFit community are not judged and do not judge others—it's about community, teamwork, and encouraging each other.

However, without knowing it, these CrossFitters are trespassing on my turf, so I need to let them know what the ground rules are for my home-away-from-home. I do this by barking as they pass by. Some people just don't understand that dogs are gonna bark at everyone—no matter *who* they are—on the other side of our fences. "Oh my, that dog is so *mean!*" WHAT? I though we weren't supposed to judge each other! I'm not mean, I'm just doing exactly what we canines were domesticated to do—PROTECT. It's our job to alert our humans to the presence of intruders, and we take it as seriously as Mom and Dad take *their* jobs.

So when you see doggies barking at you from behind their own fences, remind yourself they're acting on instinct to protect their humans and property. Please don't assume we're mean or aggressive just because we're good at our jobs!

Enough of that. Fall is here, which means the nasty, frigid Southern New Mexico Winter is right

around the corner (you may recall I HATE the cold). The only good things about this change in seasons are the delicious stews Mom makes for us pups (oh, yeah, and Dad, too) when the weather cools. She has a new toy called an *Instant Pot* and is absolutely crazy about it. So crazy she calls it her new BFF. I'd take offense to that if the darn thing didn't help her make yummy food for me even faster than before! The Instant Pot is a fancy, programable pressure cooker/slow cooker combo. It's been a real time-saver for Mom in the kitchen.

Hope you enjoy the Elk and Pumpkin Stew recipe and these super-yummy Peanut Butter Banana Bacon Cookies inspired by the 'King' himself!

### Elk & Pumpkin Stew

- 1 lb Elk Stew Meat, diced into ¼" cubes (for small or tiny breeds, use ground meat)
- ½ Small Pumpkin, cut into ½" pieces (can substitute sweet potato or butternut squash)
- 2 Large Carrots, cut into ½" pieces
- 2 C Homemade Bone Broth (or low sodium beef broth)
- 1 C Frozen Peas • 1 Can Tomato Sauce
- 2 Tbsp Coconut Oil



Using an Instant Pot or other electric pressure cooker, saute stew meat in coconut oil until browned on all sides but not cooked through. Add broth and tomato sauce. Switch pressure cooker from "saute" setting to "stew/chili pressure cook" setting. Close and lock lid, close vent, and set pressure cook time for 30 minutes. Once timer beeps and cooker is done, allow to vent—slowly—until lid unlocks. Open cooker and add peas, stir, replace lid and keep cooker on "warm" setting for another 15 minutes. Turn off cooker and allow to cool completely before serving.

### "Ain't Nuttin' Butt a Hound" Dog Biscuits

- 4 Ripe Bananas (overripe is best)
- 1 C All Natural Peanut Butter
- 4 Eggs • ¼ C Raw Honey
- 6 Tbsp Dry Milk Powder
- 6 C Brown Rice Flour • 1 C Flax Seed Meal
- 6 Slices Uncured Bacon, cooked & chopped



Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. In a 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 ¼" thickness, between pieces of parchment paper. Cut out desired shapes and place onto parchment-lined cookie sheets. Press bacon bits into cut cookie shapes. 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.

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



# Kat's Korner by Kat Lacy



## Beam Me Up, Kitty! The Art and Science of Transporting Your Cat

**S**o . . . you dig your crate out from the basement (or shed, or whatever obscure place it hides most of the year) and set it out for the next day's trip with your cat. In the morning, when you're running late, Kitty is nowhere to be seen. Your calls to her fall on deaf ears. After half an hour you give up and call your vet to reschedule. You put the crate away and who suddenly appears...? Or maybe you somehow manage to get Kitty into the crate and into the car—only to have her start yowling at the top of her lungs until the pungent smell of urine overwhelms your nice-smelling car freshener in an instant. Why does transporting your cat cause so much stress for you and your otherwise soft and cuddly baby? Why can't it be as easy as "Beam me up, Kitty"—instantly transporting your cat to another time zone without any undo trauma, right into the arms of her intended? It may never be as easy as beaming her to a new destination, but let's break it down into baby steps you both can handle.

The first thing to realize is that kitty probably *only* associates the crate with unpleasant experiences, like going to the veterinarian when she's sick or needs vaccinations—or to the groomer to be bathed. Or the crate might conjure up memories of moving from a comfortable, familiar place to a new, scary place. During the car ride, the earth passes by at ungodly speeds, only partially visible from the depths of the hated crate/prison. Kitty can only scream "WHY? WHY?"

To solve the crate dilemma, we can break it down into pieces and put it back together like a puzzle.

**1** Buy a new crate with new smells. Place a nice comfy bed or mat inside with kitty's favorite toys and some catnip. Leave the crate somewhere partially hidden, like you're trying to keep it from her. This will peak her curiosity, and she'll find this new object tantalizing. She will explore it and maybe roll in the catnip. Never startle your cat when she is exploring the new crate—instead, ignore her completely. Your indifference will only make kitty more comfortable with the strange, new object. When kitty is not around, leave tantalizing treats inside for her to find. This will lead to even more curiosity and enhance the allure of the new crate.

**2** Begin moving the crate into various other places in the home—but *only* after you have seen Kitty sleep or stay in it comfortably for long periods

of time. Take the crate to areas that Kitty must go hunting to find it. In her mind, this new crate is now hers and you are playing hide and seek with her.

**3** Occasionally close the door on kitty for brief periods of time—but only AFTER she has found the crate each time you've "hidden" it, and ONLY after she goes into the crate and stays comfortably on her own multiple times.

**4** Pick kitty up while in the crate, and move her to another area. Don't forget to give her the most tantalizing treats and some catnip (if she likes the high of catnip) inside the crate.

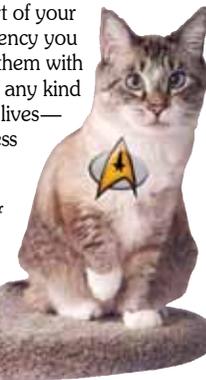
**5** Take kitty for short car rides in the crate. Make these first trips just around the block and back to her comfort zone in the house. Don't coddle her. If you think thoughts of worry and negativity, your kitty will certainly pick up on them!

**6** When you take your cat to her first vet visit or grooming appointment, let the staff know your kitty is in training, and you only want them to take her out of her crate, pet or brush her gently. Afterwards, give your good kitty a treat and take her right back home. Just doing this exercise once will make your kitty become the bravest kitty on the block. From this day forward, not even a serious vet visit or a complete de-matting at the groomers will send your kitty into an uncomfortable tizzy of stress.

While this method is not as quick as Star Trek's Transporters, you'll find that in a few short months your kitty will be the most courageous, most social kitty on the block. And the once-feared-and-hated crate will be a comfy zone of security instead of the stressful box of torture it used to be.

There are many reasons to keep your cats comfortable with travel and ready for any emergency. Your pets are part of your family, and in an emergency you want to be able to take them with you. Preparing them for any kind of travel will make your lives—and theirs—safer and less stressful.

*Kat Lacy is the owner of Better Life Pet Foods.*



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575-520-4382

www.lcdogparkers.com

### **Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary (SHAS)**

575-527-4544

email: safehaven@nightfury.com

www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net

### **Spay/Neuter Action Program of Southern NM (SNAP)**

2405 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM 88005

575-524-9265

www.snapnewmexico.org

### **Therapaws**

575-524-2026

email: therapaws@gmail.com

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 relies on donations and volunteer support at adoption and fundraising events, as well as people willing to provide foster homes for rescued animals. Your help is greatly needed to make Doña Ana County a "No-Kill" Community. To learn more about APA go to [www.actionprogramsforanimals.org](http://www.actionprogramsforanimals.org), or call **575-644-0505**.



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# PET-O-BERFEST

Do you love your dog? So does Adams Radio Group! This festival is to celebrate our love affair with our animals - a full day where you can bring your pet & listen to music, eat, enjoy Oktoberfest beer, watch pet-themed entertainment and even adopt an animal in need!

**OCTOBER 29TH @ YOUNG PARK**  
**from 9:00AM - 5:00PM**

For More Information Visit [KGRT.com](http://KGRT.com)

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# Reunited

and it feels so goooooood!



is partnering with City of Las Cruces Animal Control to help reunite lost pets and worried owners—faster, more easily, and more effectively than ever before.

*“Like” us on Facebook to widen the network and help lost pets find their way home.*



[facebook.com/dogcruces](https://facebook.com/dogcruces)



## **NEW** Time Limitations on Tethering Dogs

Beginning November 12, dogs in Las Cruces can only be tethered to a stationary object for no more than two hours in a 12-hour period, and can only be tethered to a running line, pulley, or trolley system for no more than 4 hours in a 12-hour period. These new time limitations on tethering dogs are in the City’s Animal Control Ordinance.

