

Spring 2017

FREE!

Dog Cruces

Information for the Las Cruces Dog Lover!

Viva los Volunteers!

Page 15

Volunteering is good for the soul—and priceless for the animals that benefit from the efforts of unsung heroes.

No Bad Choices

Opportunities abound to volunteer in the Mesilla Valley, so you're bound to find a perfect fit with one of our numerous local animal organizations.

Pages 21 & 30

Playing it Safe

Kids and dogs are great together—as long as both understand how to behave around each other.

Page 19



Say it Isn't So!

Yup, they're back.

Page 24

PLUS . . . You Had Me at (The Cat's) Meow . . . Butthead's Backstory . . . Wake Up, Jess! . . . and More!

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DogCruces 🐾 Spring 2017

The Wind Beneath Our Wings

Batten down the hatches and secure your pets—Spring is sweeping through Las Cruces once again! Seems to happen about this time every year....

This is our 24th issue of *DogCruces*, and in almost every magazine we've featured an article about one of our amazing local animal organizations. All of these groups rely either mostly or *totally* on help from dedicated volunteers in order to accomplish all the good work they do for our community. Our "Workin' Like a Dog" section has occasionally highlighted some of the individual volunteers who have devoted an incredible amount of time and talent to the causes they support. This army of volunteers is such a vital part of DogCruces (the animal-loving community within Las Cruces, of which I'm the self-proclaimed Mayor) that it's simply impossible to overstate how important they are. Or to thank them sufficiently for all they do for the furry, voiceless victims of abuse, abandonment, and neglect here in the Mesilla Valley.

For our current cover story, *DogCruces* staff signed up to work alongside volunteers at the Animal Service Center (our municipal shelter) to discover what *their* volunteers do and find out why they do it. You can read all about our experiences beginning on page 15.

One thing that *all* of our local animal groups have in common—without exception—is that they need **MORE** volunteers to achieve the goal of helping as many animals as possible find permanent, loving homes. In this issue, three of these organizations have outlined their missions and detailed some of the volunteer opportunities available for people who want to make a

positive difference in the lives of animals. Get an overview of Forever Homes Animal Rescue, ACTION Programs for Animals, and Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary on page 21. The Cat's Meow is yet *another* great volunteer group featured in this issue's "Kat's Korner" on page 29.

We hope you'll be inspired to find a little time *somewhere* in your busy schedule to join the ranks of those working on behalf of all animals.

Also in this issue....Kids and dogs go together like peanut butter and jelly—and their relationship can be every bit as messy if they're not properly trained and supervised. Kim Fuqua, professional dog trainer and mother of two young children, writes about the importance of making sure both dogs *and* kids are safe and respectful around each other. Dr. Pirtle has a timely warning about household poisons and household pets, and Jess whines about losing a little sleep shares his profound insights about the relevance of Daylight Savings Time.

It's been almost two years since we last made Wayne put on the dog suit to star in a cartoon for the magazine—although I'm pretty sure he wears it around his house at least once a week, just for fun! I hope you enjoy the occasional *DogCruces* 'toons, because we have a blast doing them—even our poor photographer/graphic artist, Spider, who works overtime to make sure everything looks just right. Special thanks to ACO Ann Vander Vliet for making a cameo appearance and being such a good sport. And, I guess, ditto to Wayne.

We have big news to announce! The first-ever DogCruces Pet Expo is coming to the Las

Cruces Convention Center September 9th & 10th. If you've ever wanted to learn about all the pet-focused businesses, services, products, activities, and resources available to you and your companion animals in our area, you won't want to miss this! We'll have agility and obedience demos, classes on pet care, animals available for adoption, and vendors, vendors, vendors—just for starters. We'll have a lot more information in our Summer issue, but until then you can visit the DogCruces website or **DogCrucesPetExpo.com**.

And finally, we always look forward to seeing the pictures you send in for "Pets of DogCruces"—keep them coming! To ensure your pet's photo has the best chance of being published, please make sure it is high-resolution (large size), not too dark, and not blurry. We want your babies to look their furry best!

Try to keep a spring in your step (and some ice in your water bowl) as things heat up here in the Mesilla Valley.

Vic Villalobos

Mayor of DogCruces

Write to us at:

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

or email us at:
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Publisher

Marla Honeycutt

Managing Editor/Mayor of DogCruces

Vic Villalobos

Senior Editors

Charissa Paskowski, Jenifer Woods

Contributing Editor

Phyllis Wright

Graphic Artists

John Connell, Andie Fierro, Jenifer Woods

Advertising

Charissa Paskowski, Wayne Sinclair,
Michelle Sullivan, Vic Villalobos, Chris DiMora

Contributors

Margaret Dubbin, Karen Fuqua, Kat Lacy, Charissa Paskowski,
Dr. Scott Pirtle, Wayne Sinclair, Michelle Sullivan, Vic Villalobos,
Jess Williams, Phyllis Wright, Jenifer Woods

DogCruces ❀ Spring 2017





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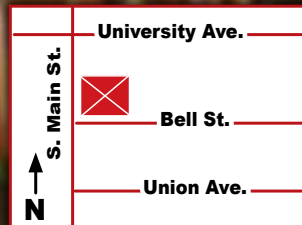
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Doggie

RECURRING & ONGOING EVENTS

SPRING 2017

Red Brick Pizza Monthly Fundraiser for HSSNM

Thursday, April 27th

Thursday, May 25th

Thursday, June 29th

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, May 13th

Saturday, June 10th

Saturday, July 8th

PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman, from 10am to 4pm. These events feature many wonderful rescue dogs and cats seeking loving homes 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.

APRIL

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month

Be an advocate for animals. Be a conscientious consumer. And choose the option of adoption to give an animal a second chance to have a loving home.

Pet First Aid Awareness Month

Update your pet's first aid kit! For more information, see the link on DogCruces.com for Pet First Aid Tips.

Saturday, April 22nd

APA Adoption Event & Donation Drive

Sam's Club, 2711 N. Telshor Blvd., from 11am to 4pm.

April 23rd- 29th

National Volunteer Week

DogCruces would like to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voices and support to companion animal causes.

Sunday, April 30th

APA Adoption Event & Donation Drive

PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman (by Ross), from 11am to 4pm.

MAY

Thursday, May 4th

Restaurant for Rescues

Habanero's Fresh Mex, 600 E. Amador Ave, Las Cruces. A portion of the proceeds will be

donated to APA. For more information, call APA at 575-644-0505.

Saturday, May 6th

Paws 'n Claws Road Rally

Rev up your motorcycle or favorite vehicle and ride in the 4th Annual Paws 'n Claws Road Rally on Saturday, May 6th to help animals in need in Doña Ana County. Run begins at Barnett's Las Cruces Harley-Davidson. Registration begins at 10:30 am. Kickstands up at noon for a scenic ride around Las Cruces that ends at Young Park, where Adams Radio is hosting the after party at their Fiesta de Mayo celebration. The party includes food, beer garden, car show, live/silent auction and concert. Registration fee of \$20 per rider, \$15 per passenger gets each participant food and a drink ticket for the beer garden. Register on the day of the event or online at brownpapertickets.com/event/2903975. Call 575-642-2648 for more information.



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Dates



Saturday, May 13th

APA Adoption Event & Donation Drive
Sam's Club, 2711 N. Telshor Blvd., from 11am to 4pm.

Wednesday, May 17th

Yappy Hour

St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, outside on the patio and lawn, from 6-8pm. Music, games & door prizes. Free goodie bags for the dogs. Food & drink, including wine and beer, available from the menu. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome. \$5 donation at the door benefits DACHS and SNAP. For information, call 575-642-2648.



Sunday, May 28th

APA Adoption Event & Donation Drive
PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman Ave (next to Old Navy), from 11am to 4pm.

JUNE

Saturday, June 17th

APA Adoption Event & Donation Drive
Sam's Club, 2711 N. Telshor Blvd., from 11am to 4pm.

Wednesday, June 21st

Yappy Hour

St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, outside on the patio and lawn, from 6-8pm. Music, games & door prizes. Free goodie bags for the dogs. Food & drink, including wine and beer, available from the menu. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome. \$5 donation at the door benefits DACHS and SNAP. For information, call 575-642-2648.

Friday, June 23rd

Take Your Dog to Work Day

Encourage your employers and co-workers to experience the joys of pets in the workplace for a better atmosphere!

Sunday, June 25th

APA Adoption Event & Donation Drive
PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman (by Ross), from 11am to 4pm.

JULY

Saturday, July 15th

National Pet Fire Safety Day

Wednesday, July 19th

Yappy Hour

St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, outside on the patio and lawn, from 6-8pm. Music, games & door prizes. Free goodie bags for the dogs. Food & drink, including wine and beer, available from the menu. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome. \$5 donation at the door benefits DACHS and SNAP. For information, call 575-642-2648.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 5th

5th Annual Mulligans Fore Mutts

Picacho Hills Golf Course, benefiting APA. For more information, contact Rich Fisher, 575-373-0159 or email fishyanyees@sbcglobal.net

Saturday & Sunday, September 9th & 10th

The DogCruces Pet Expo

Las Cruces Convention Center, from 10am to 5pm. An event that gives pet lovers the opportunity to discover what type of services and products are available in the area when it comes to our pets. For more information, go to www.dogcrucespetexpo.com.

For a complete calendar of events, visit

DogCruces.com

List is updated as events are announced



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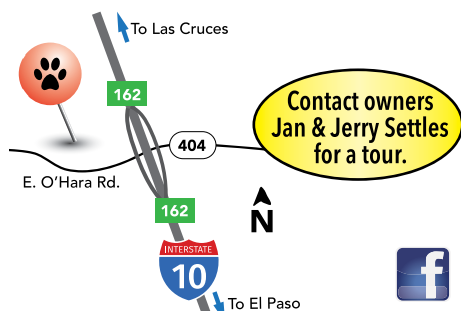
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Beware The Old

Any veterinarian with a few years of practice under his or her belt has no doubt seen a fair number of pet poisoning cases, both intentional and accidental. Of all the toxins to which dogs can be exposed, anticoagulant rodenticides have probably been the most common thing I've seen.

Anticoagulant rodenticides are commonly referred to as "rat poisons," and are presented as some form of "bait" which mice, rats, or other rodents will ingest. The bait also contains one of several different forms of toxins that inhibit the clotting of the rodent's blood. Usually, the pest will die within several hours or days of ingesting the bait due to internal bleeding. Unfortunately, these baits can attract the attention of dogs who will often eat the bait just as readily as a rodent would.

While ingestion of anticoagulant rodenticides has always been a serious problem, at least we had good options for treatment and control of their consequences.

These types of toxins do not show effects immediately. This allows time for a pet owner or veterinarian to administer hydrogen peroxide orally to their dog to induce vomiting. Getting the bait out of the dog's

stomach within a few minutes to hours after ingestion will greatly reduce the risk of developing toxicity over the next few days. In addition, the anticoagulant properties of these toxins can be neutralized by administration of vitamin K. Depending on the type of toxin,

either injections or oral vitamin K for several weeks is usually effective at preventing problems related to ingestion of these products.

But now manufacturers of rat poisons have mostly "switched" to a new kind of "bait." Our clinic has seen several cases of this new toxin in the past week alone! Oh, how I long for the good old days when

my treatment options made me reasonably optimistic about treating my patients.

Apparently there have been some government mandates implemented over the last several years that directed manufacturers of rat poisons to move away from anticoagulants and find other types of toxins for use in their rat poisons. These were well-intentioned directives aimed at increasing safety for pets and children—but for whatever reason, the toxin of choice seems to have become a neurotoxic chemical called Bromethalin. This toxin induces damage within neurologic tissue including nerves and the brain. These

effects are not treatable with any antidotes, and supportive measures are generally the only treatment options a dog owner and veterinarian may have. "Supportive measures" essentially involves trying to keep the dog hydrated, fed, and active as needed until symptoms of the toxin might

...rat poisons are probably the most common toxin I've seen over the years.

But this new toxin is on a different level of bad, and I'd suggest staying away from using these products altogether.



The Vet's View

by
Dr. Scott Pirtle, DVM

"Bait and Switch!"

slowly go away over days to weeks. That is, *IF* the pet survives the initial exposure at all.

Our only real *treatment* option for this toxin is to remove it from the dog's gastrointestinal tract as soon after ingestion as possible. This requires intervention within the early

hours of ingestion to have the best chance of success.

Inducing vomiting soon after ingestion can remove the bait from the dog's stomach. Plain old household hydrogen peroxide is a safe and effective agent for causing a dog to vomit, but the peroxide needs to be fresh ("foamy") to work well. The other treatment is to administer charcoal agents that will help to bind and remove the toxin from the intestinal tract. The biggest issue affecting the success of using

these treatments is that owners frequently have no idea exactly how much of the toxin their dogs have eaten or how long it has been in their systems. Finding a chewed up bait or empty package when you arrive home from work might tip you off to a dog's exposure, but ingestion *several* hours ago is going to create a more difficult situation than exposure *one* hour ago.

Symptoms of exposure to Bromethalin are typically seen as weakness, stumbling or staggering, dizziness, trembling, fever, or even seizures. Paralysis in the hind limbs is a common sign as well, but all of these

symptoms can mimic many other medical issues. If an owner is not aware of their pet having ingested Bromethalin, a veterinarian will have a difficult time assigning these symptoms to a toxin ingestion. There is no quick or easy test to confirm exposure to this toxin, and unfortunately our chances to

offer meaningful treatment are almost nil once these symptoms have developed. Again, early intervention within the first hour or two after ingestion offers the most hope of treatment. Symptoms of ingestion can manifest within a few hours after ingestion of the poison—or lower doses may cause a delayed syndrome that can take several days to show up.

My suggestion as a veterinarian that is seeing more and more of these cases is to find other ways to control

rodents around your property. I have never been a fan of rat poisons due to how easily pets are able to find and ingest these products. As I said at the beginning of this article, rat poisons are probably the most common toxin I've seen over the years. But this new toxin is on a different level of bad, and I'd suggest staying away from using these products altogether.

Numerous other options exist for rodent control. Consult the internet, a pest exterminator, or local extension office for other viable options to control rodent pests around your property!



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by
Jess Williams

THE PERSISTENCE OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Toby is a pretty smart dog. He knows by what clothes I put on whether or not he's likely to be invited to hang around with me all day. For this reason, he hates my neckties. If I leave one anywhere that he can get to it, he treats it the way a grizzly bear treats a salmon. It's not a pretty sight.

But Toby picks up on many clues. He knows that when the alarm clock goes off to wake us up, I'm way more likely to wear a necktie than on days when we wake up when we damn well feel like it. He gets pretty giddy if that alarm doesn't sound before I start stirring.

On mornings when I'm awake but lying still before the alarm goes off, I can feel his little body snuggling close close close in those moments when he is still unsure what to expect. I interpret the snuggling as his way of praying to the Cosmos that Mr. Alarm will keep his stinking yap shut.

I tell you these things not to brag about Toby's near-Einsteinian intellect, but to point out that he never would have been stupid enough to invent Daylight Savings Time.

We hate Daylight Savings Time in our household with a hotly intense fervor. Toby and I are creatures of habit, and it takes us weeks to adjust to all the havoc caused by random, malevolent and useless time changes.

I have written in the past about the fact that Toby and I share our home with parrots. Parrots certainly don't have any use for time changes. They care only about when the sun rises and sets. Those are noisy, boisterous times for them, and they like to rattle the neighborhood with joyous shrieks of celebratory acknowledgement.

I have not polled my neighbors, but I can tell you that from within the house, the parrots' collective jubilation about the sunrise occurs at the approximate volume of an Anthrax concert. There is no getting used to this daily occurrence, and it is not one bit enhanced by the imposition of Daylight Savings Time, which the birds—much like the State of Arizona—don't observe.

Surely, other households experience these issues. Perhaps there are even other residents of our community who—like me—actively throw shoes at the televised faces of perky newsmen who chirp about springing forward and falling back as if it were something fun to do. We have very harsh words for these people and their infuriating Alternative Time Facts. During these episodes, Toby looks up at me with admiration, and he silently vows to be a better and more committed enemy to the nefarious neckties.

That's just in our house. I can't imagine we are alone.

Imagine the poor coyotes and bunnies who have figured out when it is and is not relatively safe to be in a roadway of a morning or evening. Then one morning—out of freaking nowhere and for no discernable reason—traffic gets crazy busy a full hour before normal! The carnage! "Watch out, Bubba!" <spat!> "Damn."

Clearly, Daylight Savings Time is evil. And yet it keeps happening, year after year, like perverse clockwork in which whole hours of time just appear or disappear willy-nilly—like tigers at a David Copperfield show.

As a civilized and humane society, we should stop doing this to both tigers and hours.

I was going to stop there, but Charissa—my Dog'Cruces Task Dominatrix—told me I needed to pad the word count. She also advised that it wouldn't hurt me to chill the heck out.

Fine.

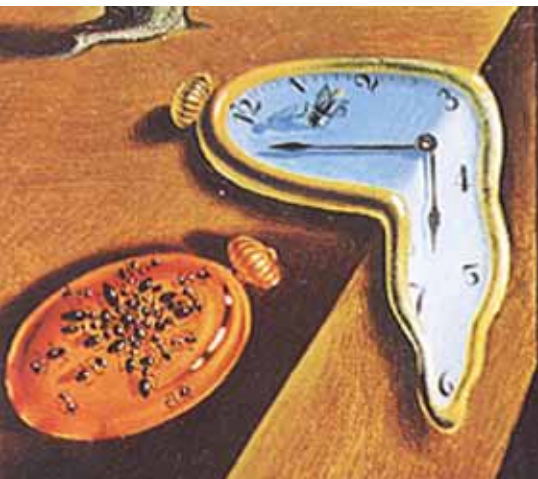
Nope. Can't do it.

Why 2 a.m.? Why on earth would someone be so sadistic not only to insist that clocks be molested twice annually, but also to set 2 a.m. as the appointed hour to make the infernal changes? Even David Copperfield schedules his tigers to be space/time molested before the graveyard shift begins.

Back in the pre-Toby days, I spent some time as a bartender, but that wonderful bar (a moment of silence for My Brother's Place, please) was closed on Sundays, so I never even got the questionable advantage of reaping whatever extra tips might have dribbled in during the add-an-hour night. DST is pernicious, I tell you!

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to spend most of the spring season adjusting to the stupid time change. Toby is here with me, waiting for a necktie to be left exposed and vulnerable.

Jess Williams is normally a pretty chill guy, but certain topics clearly set him off. Toby is a Yorkshire terrier, and he's got an odd and inexplicable hostility toward people wearing hats. Charissa is the nicest woman ever until you threaten to miss a deadline or a word count, and then she channels her inner Elvira. Dog'Cruces Mayor Vic Villalobos spends a lot of his time shaking his head and muttering, "Ay, Jess." (Hey. You get what you pay for).



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Centennial Freshman Kaitlyn plans a career as a veterinarian. Volunteering gives her a head start.



Becky, a writer, walks one of ASCMV's "big dogs" on the trails behind the shelter.



Fireman Mike and his wife, Becky, volunteer as a way to "give back" to the shelter from which they adopted their dog.

The Value of Volunteering

"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

We are lucky to have numerous non-profit groups in our area that act on behalf of the voiceless, furry victims of ignorance, abuse, neglect and abandonment. These groups are all headed up by unbelievably focused and devoted advocates who work tirelessly to rescue and relocate companion animals whose lives are in danger—all the while facing the ever-present limitations of time, space, funds and manpower.

Volunteers are the heart and soul and backbone and lifeblood of our animal community. Just as every animal needs the stability and security of a permanent, loving home, every animal rescue organization needs a committed, reliable core of volunteers they can count on to help accomplish their vital work.

VIC

We decided to focus our story on volunteers at the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley, our municipal shelter, because I wanted to go straight to "the source"—of a lot of different things. It is certainly a source of controversy, because it is a "kill shelter." As a government facility, the ASCMV is not allowed to say, "Sorry, we're full!" They *must* accept all animals delivered to them by both City and County Animal Control Officers, as well as individuals who turn in animals they've found... or those they've grown tired of caring for. As new animals are admitted, space has to be made for them—so an equal number of healthy, good-natured companion animals already at the shelter have to be killed to make room. It's a *nightmare*, and it happens every single day.

But this controversial practice has also become, ironically, a source of good—namely, the rise of the very animal rescue groups that have helped reduce ASCMV's kill rate by providing alternative outlets for shelter animals facing execution. The shelter serves as a source of some of the dogs and cats that find themselves—thankfully—up for adoption instead of slated for death.

Rest assured, ASCMV volunteers are not at all involved with the killing—they work on caring for, socializing and exercising the animals, as well as helping people see if their lost pets are at the shelter, introducing potential adopters to available pets, preparing dogs and cats for off-site adoption events, even accompanying ASCMV's truck driver on road trips to deliver some of our area animals to shelters in other parts of the country. And a whole lot more.

DogCruces staff members filled out ASCMV volunteer applications and arranged times when we could work side-by-side with the good folks who have devoted their time to caring for the animals at the shelter. We thought it would be a pretty straight-forward account of the many different jobs they tackle, the reasons they decided to volunteer in the first place, and what they personally get out of the experience. And it was—our accounts and impressions of these experiences still make up the body of this story.

But after we had completed our volunteer assignments, a crisis-level shortage of volunteers resulted when the new Volunteer Director (a paid position), who wasn't up to the job, quit without notice, *via e-mail*, after only three weeks. It just reinforces how infinitely valuable the truly dedicated volunteers are.

PHYLLIS

Cupcakes. I couldn't stop thinking of cupcakes after a volunteer session of walking and training the "big dogs" at the Animal Service Center. Without volunteers to walk those dogs, they will be stuck in the kennel for days and days without any exercise except barking and jumping and throwing themselves against their cages when anyone walks past. They're desperate for attention, desperate to be loved, but, ironically, that can be intimidating behavior for potential adopters. And

so begins the cycle: humans move on, the dogs become more frenetic and the humans move even faster—in the other direction.

This is the cycle that the ASCMV would like to interrupt. The plan is to train a cadre of volunteers



**It's impossible
NOT
to make
friends when
you
volunteer!**



by Vic Villalobos, Phyllis Wright, Michelle Sullivan,
Charissa Paskowski, and Jenifer Woods

Volunteering is a joyful celebration of

specifically for walking the shelter's "big dogs" (over 60 pounds). Volunteers will be treated to a short series of obedience classes with trainer Lela Hunnicutt-Mack, formerly of Clever Canine Dog Training. Lela describes the content of the sessions as including everything from retrieving the big dogs from their cages to teaching them to sit and relax on leash.

I was lucky to attend Lela's very first session and meet her first four wonderful volunteers. Mike, a firefighter, and his wife, Becky, a writer, jumped at the chance to "give back" to the shelter where they found their rescue dog, Brooks, "the greatest gift of our lives." Michelle accompanied her daughter Kaitlyn, a freshman at Centennial High, who's getting a jump on her plans to become a veterinarian.

The dogs were *wild* when we first took them outside. Lela demonstrated how to help them relax, and we were off! At first, they were straining and tugging and trying to reach one another, and

as we made the steep descent to the trails behind the shelter, trying to maintain our own balance, we all understood how "big dog" walking could be difficult. Lela supported everyone, offering suggestions and reminding us that everything we learned would also be "applicable to our own dogs, as well."

Perfect! What could be better than practicing training strategies while getting Fitbit steps on a beautiful New Mexico morning in the company of four sweet dogs and new volunteer friends? Cupcakes? Not quite yet.

Within thirty minutes we had witnessed four transformations. Our initially-frenzied fur balls were now ambling calmly along the trails, happy to pause periodically for attention and praise. I was completely relaxed and content. Wait! This isn't about me, is it? Actually, yes. Volunteering is a joyful celebration of our potential to do good in the world, to step away from ourselves for just a minute and step back refreshed, reminded that the simple act of caring can save lives. In this case, when these dogs go back to their cages, they'll be more adoptable because of their calmer demeanors. When they're adopted, their kennel spots will open for other dogs who need saving.

It's an ambitious plan, because all the big dogs in the shelter need the same advantage. That's as many as 40 adoptable dogs—and that means more volunteers are needed!

Now for the cupcake metaphor: As a child, I marveled at how 35 minutes in the oven could transform messy, gooey batter into yummy cupcakes. I still marvel at that, actually, but this training program allowed me to witness a transformation I do understand—35 minutes of our human time can transform cooped-up, unruly dogs into big sweetie pies. That's better than the cupcakes for me!

MICHELLE

Vic and I spent time with the "small dogs" at ASCMV. We got to meet and talk with a few of the volunteers, and we learned that each of them has a different reason for doing it. Maybe they were retired and wanted to use some of their free time

to help out, or perhaps they simply loved being around the animals and wanted to do whatever they could for them. Regardless of the reasons, having volunteers there to work at the animal adoption counter, walk dogs or just show people around who were interested in adopting, the shelter appreciates the help from each and every one of them.

Two of the volunteers we worked with were a couple who, just a few short months before, had lost their beloved dog of 13 years. Naturally, they were heartbroken—not only losing their fur baby but feeling alone in their home after having had him there for so long. They decided to visit the shelter and look around at the puppies—but once there, they decided it was too soon for them to adopt. Instead, they began volunteering to walk dogs and help socialize them, knowing that eventually they would find that perfect dog for them to adopt—or, more likely, that the perfect dog would find them.

We sat with the couple for quite a while, watching as they played with puppies. There was sadness in their eyes as they talked about the pet they had just lost, but it was evident they still had the capacity for joy as they interacted with the animals waiting for their forever homes.

CHARISSA

Michelle and I went to the shelter one Friday afternoon to prepare dogs for a road trip and help load them onto ASCMV's long-haul transport truck. The dogs were going to be transferred to another shelter in Oregon, where—believe it or not—they have more potential adopters than homeless pets! But that job had already been completed before we even made it into the parking lot, so we offered to make ourselves useful elsewhere. We headed to the adoption side of the shelter where, although there were no other volunteers at that time, the office staff assigned us some tasks and gave us instructions. We jumped right in to help.

The dogs needed to be walked! Saturdays are busy days for adoptions—both at the shelter and at off-site adoption events. Walking the dogs on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning not only gives them much-needed exercise but also relieves some of their nervous energy, so they're more relaxed when meeting potential adopters.

We began our volunteer shift by walking dogs from the "small dog" area. They were so excited when we hooked the leashes on them! It got a bit too hot for us to walk in the sun, so we decided to take small, manageable groups of dogs out into the meet-and-greet area to play with them and get them out of their usual environment. We were struck by how little time it took to make a big difference in the way the dogs interacted with us. We asked one of the shelter employees if every dog got to go for a walk every day. He told us they do what they can, but there is always so much to do



The Mayor spends a little quality time with some of his favorite constituents.



ASCMV's transport vehicles take dogs and cats to off-site adoption events—and other shelters around the country in search of forever homes.

our potential to do good in the world...

and so little time. "Having volunteers really makes a difference," he said.

Michelle and I decided to walk some of the larger dogs next, so we hit the paths behind the shelter with some of the "big dogs" that were really happy to be out of their pens. They didn't want their walks to end, and neither did we. There were so many more that needed time outside, and we knew there was no way the two of us could get to all the dogs that needed our attention. It was sad and eye-opening to realize that many of these guys wouldn't get walked that day. What a great day it would have been if we had started earlier and had more people to help!

The staff explained that they needed volunteers during their peak time, when people pick up their animals that had been spayed/neutered that day. They said it gets really hectic and extra hands helping would make an impact. We ended our volunteer work at the front counter of the shelter while the staff called people to confirm spay/neuter appointments for the following day. While manning the counter, we met some wonderful people who had just put a "hold payment" on an older dog, and we also took the opportunity to talk to others who were at the shelter to find forever dogs to join their families.

It broke my heart to leave—but I'll be back. Even though it was my first time volunteering at the shelter, I knew what I'd done was important—I had, at least for a little while, allowed the dogs to leave their cages behind and feel free.

JENIFER

Volunteer opportunities for ASCMV are not limited to the shelter site on Bataan Memorial West. Off-site adoption events allow selected pets to make a day trip out to meet the public and, hopefully, charm their way into somebody's heart and home. The Farmer's Market is a weekly destination for shelter pups and cats, and is faithfully facilitated by a core group of devoted volunteers.

This group sets up at the Farmer's Market every Saturday from 9am to 1pm. They occupy the same location each week—at the far end of Main Street by the roundabout.

Dogs are outside on the east side of Main, while cats are across the street inside the Center for Spiritual Living. They attract attention immediately.

Long-time volunteer Faith St. Marie leashed *Ralphie*, one of the smaller dogs available for adoption that week, and walked him through the crowds on Main Street, stopping along the way to greet

old and new friends and talk up *Ralphie's* good qualities. "I usually have a vest for the little guys that says 'adopt me' on the side, but today we'll just use word-of-mouth. *Adopt Ralphie!*," she sang out, as people stopped to pet the furry little charmer. Afterwards, Faith set up two folding chairs and posted a "Lap Dogs" sign, inviting folks to sit and cuddle the small dogs in comfort. It worked! *Ralphie* found his human, Eddie Rodriguez, who filled out the preliminary adoption paperwork and (after meeting all requirements) took *Ralphie* home that very day!

Clare Kapner, a versatile 10-year veteran volunteer for ASCMV, and Susan Krueger, who has been active with the shelter for eight years, head the group that staffs the Farmer's Market week after week. I asked both ladies what they got out of volunteering. Susan exclaimed, "The camaraderie! With my fellow volunteers, with the animals, with everyone here at the Farmer's Market. So many people who have adopted from us come back to let us know how their dog or cat is doing—it feels good to know we're making a difference in so many lives." Clare's response to my question was short and simple. She spread her arms wide to take in the whole scene and said, "Love."

VIC

I've stated many times that *DogCruces* readers are the proverbial "choir" that does not need to be preached to. Our pets are family. We would never abuse, neglect, or abandon them at the shelter. We are not "the problem."

But...are we all doing as much as we can to be part of the *solution*? I know it's unrealistic—if not downright irresponsible—to advocate that every DogCrucean run out and add one more furry member to our families (although it's possible that some of you out there might be a dog or cat short of your ideal number...). But I believe it is my responsibility, as Mayor, to encourage everyone to take a moment and ask yourselves, "Could I do something more? Could I find even one hour every week—or a Saturday afternoon once a month—to remind an abandoned animal what it's like to be loved?"

For some of you, life may already be so chock-full of work, kids, community activities, household chores and other obligations that it really would be next to impossible to find a spare hour or two to get involved. Luckily, there are many ways to help! Pick up an extra bag of dog or cat food for APA's pet food bank. De-clutter your garage and closets and take your former treasures to Safe Haven's Thrift Store. Sponsor a kennel at ASCMV. Buy a pre-paid gas card for Forever Homes Animal Rescue. Find a foster family for a homeless pet—or open your own home to a foster animal. Take your best buddy for a bath at a dog wash fundraiser. Donate towels, blankets, toys, collars, leashes, pet carriers, collapsible kennels, pet beds, cots—whatever you can think of—to any of the non-profit organizations that are fueled by the tireless efforts and dedication of their volunteers. Oh, and cash. Always cash. Never enough cash.

And that's the point—*everything* helps. Every single bit of time, money, food, effort and stuff donated to a local animal organization is a step taken toward making life in the Mesilla Valley better for all companion animals.

We all want the same thing—for every dog and cat in Doña Ana County to have a safe, loving home and a long, happy life. But *wanting* isn't enough. *Wanting* won't stop the killing of healthy, adoptable animals that have done nothing wrong. Only *doing* will make a difference. It won't happen overnight—I know this is like making a U-turn in an aircraft carrier—but it is *doable*.

Each of us just has to decide what we can and will do as individuals to transform our community into the animal haven we know it can be.

First—go hug a volunteer. Then join them in their efforts to change our world!

Volunteer Faith St. Marie played matchmaker for new Doggie Daddy Eddie Rodriguez and *Ralphie*.



Delbert Dickerson met his new best buddy, *Duke*, at the Farmer's Market. *Duke's* adoption was made even more affordable by taking advantage of DACHS' Pets for Seniors program.



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Workin' Like a Dog



Raising Kids with Rover

**The dog was created specially for children.
He is the god of frolic.**

—Henry Ward Beecher,
Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit

That is truly one of my favorite quotes, because as a mother of a three-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy, there is nothing more fun than watching my kids play with their five dogs in the yard. As a dog trainer, I have seen, heard about and witnessed the horror of child/dog encounters gone wrong. It is so easy to blame the dog, but as a parent and a professional, I shake my head (in most cases) because I know that these unfortunate events don't just happen out of the blue, and can usually be avoided by taking some basic precautions.

When I found out I was pregnant for the first time, I remember being worried about how the dogs (who were very much family) and the kids would do over the years. Our dogs are herding breeds (Australian Shepherds and Border Collies) and they are well known for herding children!!! So what do we do as parents and dog owners? There was a recent meme on social media that sums it up pretty well: "Don't allow your child to test your dog's good nature—be a responsible parent and pet owner."

DON'Ts

Never leave your new baby, toddler or child unattended around dogs—it is just not worth the risk. Dogs exhibit signs of stress before they actually bite, so it's important to have an adult present to watch for these. They include yawning, trying to get away or leave, licking their lips, stiffening their body and tail, and seeing the white of the dog's eyes.

Teach your babies and toddlers that it is *never* okay to climb on a dog, or to pull on its fur, ears or tail. I started this with my babies as soon as they were able to grasp, by taking their hands and teaching them how to stroke the dog while saying "gentle." They learned quickly how to be gentle and kind to the dogs. And—believe it or not—when my toddlers went to playgroups I never had any issues with them mistreating other children. I believe that teaching my babies to be compassionate towards animals transferred over to friends and family.

Teach your children that it is *not* okay to chase

dogs, hit them, tease them, lie on them or hug them (in most cases). Hugging is a hard one. My daughter, in particular, really wants to hug the dogs. I will allow it under LOTS of supervision and with only certain of my own dogs. When a child hugs a dog, the child's face is just too close to the dog's face and teeth. Not only is this a very dominant position to a dog, it is not natural and can be scary to many dogs.

Teach your children that it is *not* okay to approach dogs they don't know unless they ask the



owner's permission. As a parent, it is important that you be extra vigilant of all the signs of stress mentioned above with dogs that you and your children don't know very well. If, when visiting friends or relatives, you notice the signs of stress in their family dog, it is perfectly okay to ask that they put their dogs somewhere else or suggest a more comfortable place for everyone. This is much better than trying to explain a dog bite in the hospital emergency room.

DOs

When you bring your baby home, allow your dog to continue to be part of the family. Take a few minutes out of your day to play with your dog while the baby is napping. Take your dog for a walk with the stroller. You might even try to familiarize your dog with the smells and sounds of a baby by allowing it to go into the nursery before the baby comes home. If you have a friend or family member with a new baby, ask if you could bring your dog around (in a very controlled manner) to introduce it to the baby. Make sure your dog has had plenty of exercise beforehand and

that you have a way to reward your dog for good/calm behavior.

Teach your child how to properly greet a dog. If it is a dog you don't know, ask "May I pet your dog," and be respectful if the answer is "no." Don't allow children to pet unfamiliar dogs on top of the head—it is better to go to the dog's side and greet it from there. Be sure the child puts out his or her hand and allows the dog to sniff it. As the parent, you should always be watching for signs of stress in any dog that your child is interacting with. You can also teach your child to look for these signs.

Do teach your kids how to play fetch with your dog and allow them to participate in feeding your dog (assuming you don't have any dogs with food aggression). Allow your kids to help with basic commands, leash walking in the yard and everyone's favorites—tricks!!!

Do protect your dog. I think this step gets overlooked in so many ways. Our dogs love us so much, and they depend on us to keep them safe. Unfortunately, dogs have no way of verbally saying "Please stop doing that, it hurts or it really bothers me," and they only know one way to protect themselves—with their mouths. As parents and pet owners we have a responsibility to protect both our kids and our dogs. I

have five wonderful, well-trained dogs that are all very tolerant of the kids dressing them up and playing Scooby Doobie Doo with them—but there is definitely a limit to their patience. Always be very aware of what is happening with the dogs and kids when that sort of play is going on.

I can't ever remember a time we didn't have a family dog. A dog brings so much joy to the family. Kids learn about love, compassion, responsibility and addressing the needs of others when there is a dog around. Therefore, it is important to be a responsible parent and pet owner for everyone's safety and enjoyment. Don't ever assume that kids are pre-wired to conduct themselves safely or properly around dogs or that all dogs will be tolerant of a child's behavior. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that both ends of the leash are well-behaved and well-protected.

A great resource for families with kids and dogs or for kids who are exposed to dogs is www.dog-gonesafe.com.

Kim Fuqua is the owner of Las Cruces Dog Sports.



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DogCruces Spring 2017



There are so many ways you can get involved and make a difference in our animal community! It takes a village of volunteers to staff our local animal organizations, and every volunteer plays a vital role in the ongoing effort to rescue, care for, and find homes for all the abused, neglected and abandoned animals here in the Mesilla Valley. Whether you volunteer because it will look good on your college application, or have retired and are starting the "second act" of your life, or because you just want to dedicate yourself to making a real difference in the lives of innocent animals—there is always a need for volunteers.

We asked a few local non-profit groups about the kind of help they need to keep their operations running smoothly. If you have love to share and some time you can spare, your talents would be greatly appreciated!



Forever Homes Animal Rescue (FHAR)

Forever Homes' mission is to rescue at-risk dogs and cats and relocate them to areas outside southern New

Mexico. Due to the animal overpopulation in our area, FHAR (based in Alamogordo, but operating all over southern NM) transports shelter animals from here to rescue groups outside our area where they are more likely to find permanent homes. The pets FHAR takes in are either strays, owner-surrendered animals, or furry souls facing their final days at the shelter. Forever Homes' network includes about a dozen different rescues across three states: Colorado, Arizona and other areas of New Mexico.

FHAR volunteers engage in fostering, transporting/driving, fundraising and community outreach. FHAR is always in need of more foster homes (temporary placement for pets before their road trips are scheduled) and especially drivers. If you travel to one of the three states listed above, maybe you can volunteer to carpool with a furry friend! Fundraising efforts are equally vital in order to pay for fuel, medical treatment, fostering expenses, and vehicle maintenance.

Forever Homes Animal Rescue was featured in the Fall 2016 issue of Dog'Cruces.

601 1st Street #72, Alamogordo
email: ForeverHomesAR@AOL.com
Facebook.com/NMForeverHomesAnimalRescue



Action Programs for Animals (APA)

APA's objective is to help Doña Ana County reach our "No-Kill" goal and eliminate the unnecessary killing of companion animals by promoting progressive and friendly animal-welfare programs and services. APA focuses its efforts on encouraging our community to improve the quality of life for companion animals while greatly reducing the number of abandoned and homeless animals impounded and killed at our municipal shelter.

APA has many opportunities for volunteers depending on where your interests and talents lie. Helping in the adoption center could include doing basic chores, walking dogs, and socializing the animals. Their Pet Food Bank needs people to organize food donations and re-bag the food for distribution, when needed.

Volunteers are also needed for animal care shifts at the APA facility, adoption ambassadors to help promote dogs and cats who live at the facility 24/7; fosters who care for cats, kittens, dogs, and puppies at their homes until the animals are adopted; help with clerical work; help with grant writing and other behind-the-scenes work; and help with marketing and public relations.

Action Programs for Animals was featured in the Fall 2011 issue of Dog'Cruces.

800 West Picacho, Las Cruces
575-644-0505 or 575-571-4654
email: mail@apalascruces.org
ActionProgramsForAnimals.org



Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary (SHAS)

SHAS seeks permanent, responsible

homes for abandoned cats and dogs while caring for them in a no-kill environment. They also promote humane principles and behavior. SHAS, like APA, envisions a community in which no domestic animal must be euthanized because it cannot find a compassionate, caring home.

Because SHAS uses donations and funds from their off-site Thrift Store, volunteers are not only needed at the sanctuary but the Thrift Store as well. At the thrift store, volunteers are needed to help receive donations, price products received, display/store maintenance and cleaning, and to assist with retail duties. At the sanctuary volunteers are needed to assist staff with daily tasks, which might include dog/cat socialization, landscape maintenance, cleaning, and supply organization. Off-site event volunteers are needed as well to help with dog wash fundraisers, adoption events and other fundraisers (promoting events, providing information to the public, handling dogs, setup and breakdown of events and, occasionally, transporting).

Safe Haven currently needs volunteers for the following areas: adoption facilitation, animal transport, artistic/creative input, building maintenance, cat caregiving, clerical duties, dog caregiving, dog wash event assistance, event planning, fundraising, grant research, graphic design, grooming, groundskeeping, plumbing/electrical, and Thrift Store staffing.

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary was featured in the Spring 2012 issue of Dog'Cruces.

Sanctuary—6890 Eagle Rd., Las Cruces
575-805-5338
email: info@SHASpets.com
SHASpets.com

Thrift Store—840 El Paseo Rd., Las Cruces
575-541-4942

WHEW! If you have the desire to be part of something great and help these (or other) organizations make a difference, GET OUT AND DO IT! Every small step each of us takes is a step toward saving an animal's life—and we can all make a difference, one voluntary step at a time.

Charissa Paskowski is a Senior Editor for Dog'Cruces.

**"No act of kindness,
 no matter how small,
 is ever wasted."**

—Aesop





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Rev up your motorcycle or favorite vehicle and ride in the 4th Annual Paws 'n Claws Road Rally on Saturday, May 6 to help animals in need in Doña Ana County. Run begins at Barnett's Las Cruces Harley Davidson. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.; kickstands up at noon for a scenic ride around Las Cruces that ends at Young Park, where Adams Radio is hosting the after party at their Fiesta de Mayo celebration. This party includes food, beer garden, car show, live/silent auction and concert.

Registration fee of \$20 per rider, \$15 per passenger gets each participant food and a drink ticket for the beer garden.








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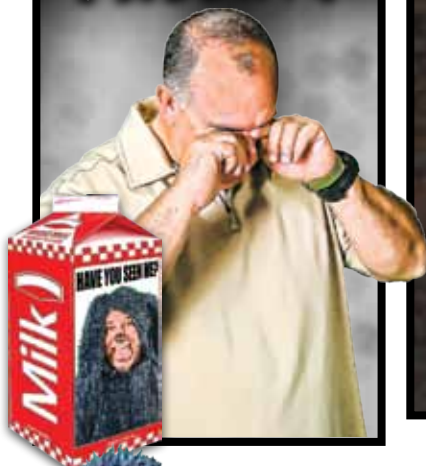


...or **MAYBE** his escape was more

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RUT ROH!



I tried **EVERYTHING** to find **WAYNE!**



WAYNE!



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I WANT MY DADDY!



Or somewhere he shouldn't have been!



LOOK AT ALL THIS SMELLY FOOD! JACKPOT!



and **RETURN!**



MEANWHILE!

Animal Control Officers (ACO) received a tip about a stray dog sighting.

ACO Ann found a **frightened** Wayne & gently coaxed him to her.



Wayne was relieved to be out of danger



The ACO helped Wayne into her vehicle. She noticed he wasn't chipped and had lost his tags



ACO Ann immediately posted Wayne's picture on the **DogCruces Facebook Page** to get the word out...



LET'S GET YOU CHIPPED!



...Then she took Wayne to the shelter.

DOG'CRUCES FACEBOOK TO THE RESCUE!



I saw Wayne's picture on my Facebook newsfeed and headed for the shelter!



DADDY!



When I arrived, **WAYNE** was overjoyed to see me!



THANKS OFFICER ANN FOR BEING SO NICE AND HELPING MY DADDY FIND ME!

YOU'RE WELCOME, WAYNE! I LOVE MY JOB!



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Walter's Lunchbox

by Walter Dubbin
(as told to Margaret Dubbin)



Foster Fail: How I Met My Brother

Hi there peeps! I hope y'all are having a great year so far. The focus of this issue of *DogCruces* is shelter workers and the challenges they face everyday. I was not a shelter pup, so I can't say I know what it's like to be on that side of the chainlink looking out. But Mom does share with me the stories she reads and hears about shelter life and the selfless people who work hard to try to make things better for those poor discarded pups hoping for their forever home. I was only four months old when my original family discovered I was born deaf and decided they did not want me anymore. Luckily, the fantastic peeps at Great Dane Rescue of El Paso took me in, and I lived with a great foster family for a short time until I got my own forever family.

Right here in the LC there are hundreds of animals who need a warm, safe place to sleep, nourishing meals, and a family to call their own. But there is a huge shortage of volunteers and foster homes. While Mom and I try to help in ways we can through sponsorships and donations, Mom always feels there is more she needs to do.

Lucky for me, Mom and Dad work hard to give me and *Butthead* a wonderful life filled with love and care. But Mom's a real sucker for sad puppy dog eyes, and sometimes she gets this crazy idea that she would like to bring a foster dog or two into our house. Whoa there!!! That's when Dad and I have to remind her that *Butthead* was supposed to be a foster dog when we found him in the street nearly four years ago. That lasted fewer than three weeks before Mom declared that *Butthead* was here to stay.

That little mangy stray weaseled his way into Mom's heart from the very minute she scooped *Butthead* up in her arms after Dad literally scared the pee out of him—chasing through the back alleys of Downtown trying to keep him from running into the morning rush hour traffic (and delaying my morning treats at the office!). Ever since Mom saved *Butthead* from the scary man in uniform (Dad), that little turd worked his charm on her by sticking to her like glue, hanging on her every word like it was gospel, and pretending to be the most perfect little angel there ever was. Now we have *Butthead*, the *Foster Fail*. What makes Mom think she could succeed next time?

I mean—really?! It's bad enough I already have to share my Mom, toys, beds, food, and treats with *Butthead*! How could I possibly be expected to welcome yet *another* mouth to feed and belly to rub? I'm not sharing MY MOM with anyone else. Period. End of story! Isn't it enough that I share

the super-secret special treat recipes she makes for me here with you folks? Mmmmm...treats.

Lately, Mom's been making homemade yogurt for all of us. It has a cleaner flavor than the store-bought kind. *Butthead* and I get a couple tablespoons with our morning kibble—sometimes mixed with berries, bananas, or sweet potatoes and honey as a treat. I know there's debate about giving dairy products to pups, but Mom's been adding yogurt to our diet since we were young to keep our digestive systems on track—and it's worked out great. But check with your vet first.

We are super-crazy about the Salmon & Veggie Biscuits—I hope you like them, too!

Homemade Yogurt

1 Gallon Milk (Skim, Whole or 2%)
Yogurt Starter or 2 Tbsp of Prepared Yogurt
(Must be milk and active cultures only)



You can use an Instant Pot (electric pressure cooker w/ yogurt setting) or a Crock Pot (slow cooker). Pour the entire gallon of milk into the Instant or Crock Pot. Bring milk to a boil at 180°F using the Instant Pot saute or boil setting (about 30 min) or the high setting on the Crock Pot (about 2 hours). Once milk has reached temperature turn off and let cool to 110°F. Remove 1 cup of the warm milk and mix it thoroughly with the yogurt starter. Return this mixture back into the pot and mix completely.

Instant Pot: replace lid or use glass lid, select Yogurt setting and adjust time to 10 hours. **Crock Pot:** with the cooker 'off' replace lid, wrap the entire device in a bath towel and let sit in a warm, draft-free room for 10-12 hours. After incubation period is over, remove inner pot and refrigerate until cooled completely. You now have yogurt ready to eat! To make greek yogurt, strain with a cheese cloth, coffee filter or fine mesh strainer for 2-4 hours, depending upon desired thickness.

Salmon & Veggie Biscuits

1 egg - 7-10 oz cooked salmon
(or canned salmon, rinsed, skin & bones OK)
½ C Cooked Mashed Carrots
1½ C Baby Kale & Spinach (packed)
1 C Brown Rice Flour
1 Tsp Dried Parsley - Pinch of Dill (optional)



Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine all ingredients in food processor and pulse to a pliable dough-like consistency. Transfer to parchment paper and roll into a log or French loaf shape. Bake 20-30 minutes or until firm on the outside. Remove log from oven, slice into ¼" thick rounds and place on parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake again 20-30 minutes until center of biscuits are firm. Turn oven off, leaving biscuits in until completely cool.



DogCruces • Spring 2017

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



The Best Little Cat House in 'Cruces!

It took dedication, determination, big hearts, and a bit of good timing to pull it off. But all the hard work succeeded in creating the first feline-only, permanent adoption center in Las Cruces — **The Cat's Meow**—located at 2211 N. Mesquite Street (the old Green Thumb nursery), just around the corner from Apodaca Park.

The Cat's Meow Adoption Center (CMAC) is the brainchild of Michelle Corella. She realized how impractical it was for potential adopters to visit individual foster homes in order to meet and evaluate cats they might want to welcome into their families. Las Cruces needed a place where adoptable cats could live and be cared for in a dog-free environment—where people seeking to adopt could make one trip and interact with many different kitties. So The Cat's Meow was born.

Planning began in the fall of 2013 when Jake Sims, Anne Markman, Michel Meunier, Michelle Corella, and Evelyn Hancock joined forces to create the beginnings of this remarkable little kitty shelter. Realtor Jake Sims found the location and was able to secure a lease. APA's Michel Meunier generously agreed to cover the monthly rent for the first year. Renovations began in the spring of 2014 with the help of many—especially the tireless talents of Michelle Corella's husband, Art, who constructed mesh walls, mini runs, tall condos, and much more.

The completed CMAC facility can house approximately 25 cats. In its first year of operations The Cat's Meow was able to find homes for about 40 cats—not too shabby for a startup! In 2016 that number increased to more than 60 adoptions.

It takes 17 dedicated volunteers to feed, clean, socialize, and sometimes administer medicine to The Cat's Meow's many residents. Volunteers like Kim Jokinen and Anne Markman, who help with the day-to-day operations and coordinate the intake of kitties and their adoptions, are absolutely invaluable. All the volunteers' incredible loyalty to saving as many cats as they can in our community does not go unnoticed. They make our community a better place.



Volunteer opportunities extend beyond just the care of the cats. Fundraising, fostering, coordinating adoptions, and much more is needed on a regular basis. If you have some time and love cats, please consider volunteering. It can be very rewarding.

There are other ways you can help, as well. Join the CMAC Century Club! In order for this shelter to meet its basic monthly expenses it needs 100 members to join the Club and donate a minimum of \$25 per month. Help The Cat's Meow

reach its goal—they are only about half-way there! Ultimately, CMAC would like to purchase the property, and it plans to pursue a crowdfunding project to meet this goal.

Sadly, Jake Sims passed away in November. He was truly dedicated to our animal community, and his contributions to The Cat's Meow will never be forgotten. His heart overflowed for all the animals, and his spirit will always guide us.

Visit thecatsmeowlascruces.com and join the Century Club, or call 575-640-0011 or 575-639-3036 to see how you can volunteer. Please come by to visit the facility and meet the wonderful kitties—maybe welcome one into your home and heart! Be a part of our animal community and help make it stronger.

Kat Lacy is owner of Better Life Pet Foods.



The Cat's Meow/Adoption Center is paradise for kitties; all of whom enjoy their own condos and have the run of the place, as well!

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Local Animal Organizations always need good people to help them meet their goals. Contact the groups below to see which one(s) would be the best fit for you!

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www.2Hearts4PawsRefuge.com

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email: mail@apalascruces.org

www.ActionProgramsForAnimals.org

Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV)

3551 Bataan Memorial West, Las Cruces, NM

575-382-0018

www.las-cruces.org/departments/ascmv

Broken Promises SW

575-680-1955 or 575-915-7985

www.facebook.com/HelpKittenArthur

Cat's Meow Adoption Center

2211 N. Mesquite, Las Cruces

640-0011 or 639-3036

www.TheCatsMeowLasCruces.com

Cherished K9 All Breed Rescue

575-496-6085

email: cherishedk-9s@hotmail.com

www.CherishedK-9.com

Coalition for Pets and People (Zero in 7)

575-386-9212

www.ZeroIn7.org

Deming Animal Guardians

575-544-2209

www.DemingAnimalGuardians.org

Deming Animal Guardians

Sunshine Haven Intake Project & Rescue

575-545-8862

www.DagShipRescue.com

Doña Ana County Humane Society (DACHS)

575-647-4808

www.DACHSLC.org

Forever Homes Animal Rescue

email: foreverhomesar@aol.com

Facebook: NM Forever Homes Animal Rescue

Humane Society of Southern NM (HSSNM) /PetSmart Cat Adoption Center

575-523-8020

email: mail@hssnm.org

www.hssnm.org

Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition

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575-520-4382

www.LCDogParkers.com

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www.SHASpets.com

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www.SnapNewMexico.org

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