



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

# Barks and Mews

April 2023 Newsletter

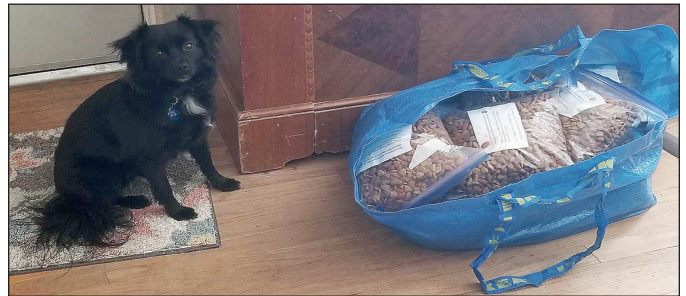
## Dog and Cat Food Donations through the Socorro Storehouse

Socorro Storehouse, the emergency food pantry for residents of Socorro County, distributes a box of food per month to about 200 families. Beginning in January 2023 those boxes could include dog and cat food, if requested by the families who have pets. When family circumstances lead to a need for food assistance, it is not just the human members who may go hungry. Their pets are also at risk of going without a regular meal. And worse, their owners may feel forced to relinquish them to the animal shelter because they can no longer afford to care for them.

During the Covid pandemic the federal government increased SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to aid families who experienced loss of income. With these added benefits, the Storehouse had a decline in families seeking assistance. Now, as pandemic-related SNAP emergency allotments end, the Storehouse is seeing their distribution increase to pre-pandemic numbers.

APAS's mission to relieve suffering among animals surely extends to the pets that may be hungry, or may be displaced from their homes and separated

from their families. Thus, for a family needing food assistance the Storehouse wants to take into account its human and animal members. This year, monthly food boxes may contain a gallon-size zip-lock bag of large dog kibble or quart-size bags of small dog or cat kibble, depending on that family's need. For the month of March, APAS donated 74 gallon bags of large dog food, 53 quart bags of small dog food, and 40 quart bags of cat food.



*Nelly guarding pet food awaiting delivery to the Socorro Storehouse. Both photos courtesy of Kelly McLain.*

Puerto Seguro Safe Harbor, just west of the Storehouse, supports the homeless with a weekly distribution of nonperishable food. The homeless with a dog or cat will receive the APAS-donated food from the Storehouse if they request it, and quite a few are asking for food for their pets.

Gifts from our members and friends support this project and APAS's subsidized spay and neuter program for low-income residents of Socorro and Catron Counties. Your gifts also fund educational outreach and other APAS programs. Donations will be used where needed most to help pets attain the life they deserve.

—Jane Love



## Wins for Animals in 2023 Legislative Session

2023, being an odd-numbered year, was a 60-day legislative session. Of the 1,000+ bills introduced, 220 bills passed both the house and the senate. Animal Protection Voters of New Mexico (APVNM), the statewide advocate for animal-friendly legislation in Santa Fe, designated two animal-related bills as “priorities,” Senate Bill 215 and SB 271. Both passed the two legislative bodies and were signed by Governor Lujan Grisham on March 30. Here’s a summary of APVNM’s priorities and other animal-friendly legislation this session.



*New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe.*

**SB 215, Establish Crime of Bestiality**, was sponsored by Mark Moores, Brenda McKenna, Daniel Ivey-Soto, Andrea Reeb, and Andrea Romero. New Mexico and West Virginia were the only two states where sexual abuse of an animal was not illegal. As of June 16 New Mexico’s pets will be protected, and bestiality will become a fourth- or third-degree felony, depending on the circumstances. This crime not only harms animals, it has been linked to child sexual abuse, child pornography, and others types of violence and exploitation. After animal advocates alerted local media and APVNM to alarming ads on Internet sites, APVNM worked to pass this bill.

**SB 271, Equine Definition**, was sponsored by Carrie Hamblen. Abandoned or abused equines (aka horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, and hinnies) in the custody of the Livestock Board, or an equine seized by law enforcement following a cruelty conviction, will be offered first to New Mexico’s currently registered equine rescue organizations before being sent to a public auction. At livestock auctions equines are in grave danger of being purchased for slaughter

in Mexico, and rescue organizations must use their precious resources to outbid the “kill-buyers.” SB 271 ensures that equine rescue organizations can save these animals before they go to auction.

**SB 72, Create Wildlife Corridors Fund**, was sponsored by Mimi Stewart. SB 72 follows the passage in 2019 of SB 228, the Wildlife Corridors Act, which directed the Departments of Transportation and Game and Fish to identify areas on our state roads where risks were highest for wildlife–vehicle collisions and to

provide a list of priority projects. The study focused on the movement and migration of six large mammals: elk, deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain lion. New Mexico Department of Transportation statistics show that more than 2,500 collisions with deer occurred between 2009 and 2015. Over the past two decades, more than 600 bears and 150 mountain lions have been involved in collisions. SB 72 will enable the state to begin implementing plans to protect the public and animals, as well as improve habitat connectivity. Local plans will benefit further from support through the **Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program** created within the federal **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**. \$350 million will be available over the next five years, including \$111 million in grants this year. This issue has been brought to the New Mexico legislature since 2011.

**HB 384, Social Worker & Veterinarian Licensure**, expedites licensure for veterinarians, thereby potentially increasing the number of veterinarians practicing in New Mexico. HB 384 was signed by the governor on April 5 and goes into effect July 1, 2023.

## APAS Loses a Dear Friend

Last January APAS lost its most senior member, Dorothy Brook. For many decades Dorothy's name was synonymous with the Animal Protective Association of Socorro and the Socorro Animal Shelter. She was in fact the institutional memory of APAS, as her involvement with the group goes back to its early days. Through Dorothy we can see 50 plus years of history and trace the evolution of a small-town animal humane movement: its challenges and its accomplishments. In many ways Dorothy was the public face of APAS: she was the person that Socorro residents called when their pet needed spay or neuter surgery or had a medical emergency that they simply could not afford. She was the hostess for all of APAS's annual yard sales.

One of APAS's enduring goals from its beginning was the creation of an animal shelter. It became a

legacy project, initiated and moved forward by early APAS members long ago and passed on to newer members. Dorothy was the last of those members who participated in the early years of planning and fundraising, who witnessed years of building the facility, and, with other volunteers, spent many hours running the shelter. One of Dorothy's great hopes was to see the shelter become a city-run municipal entity. Her dream was realized in 2008 when the city created the Department of Animal Control and hired a full-time shelter manager.

Following the death of our dear friend Dorothy Brook, our community became poorer in many qualities we admired in her. As APAS moves forward, let us endeavor to double in ourselves one of those wonderful qualities: perhaps her generosity, humor, persistence, or courage.

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On the national scene, the **FDA Modernization Act 2.0** was added to the federal omnibus spending bill (officially titled the **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023**) and signed by President Biden on December 29, 2022. This legislation eliminated an 80-year-old mandate requiring drug developers to conduct animal tests. They are now allowed to use animal-free, human-relevant testing methods for drug development, potentially saving millions of animals from painful experiments. Animal experiments are not only cruel, they are unnecessary because the results are not predictive of the results in humans. This legislation was renamed the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 after New Mexico's senator Ben Ray Lujan, an original cosponsor, added new

language to include biosimilar drugs, which are biological products that are already the subject of an application with the FDA. The omnibus bill provides \$5 million toward reducing animal testing and implementing effective, ethical, nonanimal testing methods. It's a beginning.

For more information on these bills and other animal protection legislation, visit APVNM's Legislative Session Tracker at <https://apvnm.org/legislation/> and Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) news at <https://apnm.org/a-major-victory-the-fda-modernization-act-is-law/>

—Jane Love



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

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### Membership/Donation Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by email. Yes No

Individual Membership \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Membership \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each membership type is entitled to one vote in APAS elections and motions and will receive one newsletter per address/email. Should you wish your donation to be anonymous, please mark so clearly on this form.

**Please mail this form and donation to: APAS, PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801.**

Donation:

\_\_\_\_ \$50 Silver    \_\_\_\_ \$100 Gold    \_\_\_\_ \$150 Platinum    \_\_\_\_ \$250 Business sponsor\*

\_\_\_\_ Other (Any amount is greatly appreciated!)

\* Business sponsors will have their logo included on our Business Sponsors page of our website.

**Membership and Donation Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your gift. Donations will be used where needed most to help pets attain the life they deserve.*

**Membership year is January 1 to December 31.**