



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

# Barks and Mews

October 2016 Newsletter

## Humane Education

Fulfilling our mission of humane education has always been a bit difficult for APAS. As you probably know, we're an all-volunteer, fairly bare bones operation, and most of our board and active members work full-time. Until a couple of years ago, we funded subscriptions of *Kind News* to many of the Socorro schools, but a survey of area schools led us to believe they were not being utilized much. So it was a nice surprise to recently discover the great educational resources of Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM).

We were contacted by a preschool teacher from Parkview Elementary about a month ago inquiring about humane education for her preschool class. Rather than just say "no, we don't do classes," we decided to look around. APNM has an education outreach director, Sherry Mangold, who teaches various humane courses on care and responsibility, loose dog safety and bite prevention, and more. They have registered therapy dogs, are insured, and know how to put on a great course for kids of many ages. Although the classes aren't free, we have a limited budget category for education, and we really wanted to try this.

On September 21st, 42 Parkview preschoolers got a lesson in humane and compassionate animal care, focusing on shelter, food, water, health care, exercise, hygiene, education, play, and love. The children learned to ask the dog owner for permission to meet the dog, how to approach and stroke the dog on the back, and how to offer a treat to the dog. The kids loved it, and the therapy dogs were a huge hit!



We sent letters to other area schools and recently heard back from Vannetta Perry in the Magdalena School District. We hope to do another three courses in Magdalena soon. We are so excited that school personnel are interested in teaching children about the humane treatment of animals. Although our education budget is pretty limited, we'd like to keep this ball rolling. If you think this is a worthwhile cause that you'd like to help fund, we can always use more donations. To bring two teachers and two therapy dogs to Socorro from Albuquerque for two, or three, back-to-back classes costs anywhere from \$350 to \$600 (for the loose dog safety and bite prevention class). Hopefully, we'll soon have an update on the Magdalena classes as well.

—Kitty Pokorny

## Shelter cats find work

Homeless cats were in the news this spring. They are finding important work in our homes, gardens, and businesses, keeping them free of mice and rats. Some of the most at risk businesses include craft breweries and distilleries that store expensive high-quality grain. However, cats that find themselves in shelters are coming to the rescue. They are spayed or neutered and are then rehomed for rodent control (See “Stray Cats Guard Chicago Brewery, Protect Precious Beer Grain from Rats,” <http://tinyurl.com/qa5wtv4>). Cats “working” in breweries are an old tradition going back to ancient Egypt. Towser the Mouser is in the Guinness Book of World Records for killing an estimated 28,899 mice in Scotland’s Glenturret distillery between 1963 and 1987. Every time she killed a mouse she brought it back and laid it out on the still house floor. (See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenturret\\_distillery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenturret_distillery)).

Among the many recent accounts of grain-guarding cats are those at the Empirical Brewery in Chicago and at the Apocalypse Brewery in Louisville, Kentucky. Chicago’s Tree House Humane Society has relocated nearly 500 cats to businesses and residences within the city and suburbs as part of their Cats at Work Project, which they describe as a “green humane program that removes sterilized and vaccinated feral cats from life-threatening situations and relocates them to new territories where their presence will help control the rodent population.” For more information on the Cats at Work Project go to: <http://tinyurl.com/grt5uoo>

Socorro cats are excellent mousers too. Our local shelter is following the working-cat trend by spaying and neutering feral or semi-feral cats unaccustomed to human companions and placing them with farmers and ranchers.

Did you know that mice avoid just the smell of a cat? (This “mouse repellent” does not necessarily require the territorial urine marking of unneutered male cats.) I learned this about 10 years ago when we were temporarily catless, and mice began coming into our house through the laundry room. We sealed every crack we could find, but they still found a way in, ending up in a live trap I set just for them. Every morning I would release a mouse outside farther and farther from the house, but the next day one would be back in the trap. This went on for weeks until we adopted Sunny Boy (pictured) from



our local shelter. From that day until now we’ve had no indoor mice, not one. Sunny has caught his fair share of outdoor mice too, even though he is attached to a bright red lead. Over the years Sunny has gotten two helpers, Itty Bit and Jeff. (All three cats use their cat boxes religiously.)

—Jane Love

# Shelter's New Puppy Patio

Best day ever! I went a couple of Thursdays ago to the Socorro Animal Shelter and Adoption Center for a visit with Victoria Murphy, our AWESOME shelter director, and the puppies in these pictures. The puppies all left town last Friday, on their way to rescue groups in Colorado and Utah, where they will find their forever homes.

Since Vicky started about a year and a half ago, she has made many terrific improvements at the shelter, including the new Puppy Patio pictured here. Plans are under way to build a "Catio," which will give cats at the shelter an opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and sunshine.



With the foundation laid by past shelter workers, and with Vicky's ongoing leadership and dedicated hard work, the Socorro Animal Shelter and Adoption Center has become a real success story. When it's time to add a new dog or cat to your family, please visit our Socorro shelter and adopt.

The shelter is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/socorroanimalshelter> and Petfinder: <http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/socorro.html>.

Visit the Socorro Shelter and find your new best friend!

—Connie Robnett



APAS wants to remind everyone that you can make a difference for the animals in Socorro every time you shop. If you shop online at Amazon (and who doesn't?), it's easy for you to select Animal Protective Association of Socorro as your charity organization.

Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), go to your account settings and select Animal Protective Association of Socorro. Each time you make purchases, Amazon gives a donation of 0.5% of your purchases to help support our programs. **Please note that you have to shop through the Smile.Amazon.com link in order for your purchases to count toward your charity.** It's handy to make a bookmark that is easy to remember and click. We currently have 17 members supporting us through Amazon and have made

\$230.10 through the program. Thank you so much for helping us in this simple way!

## Shelter's Wish List

Our Socorro Animal Shelter is always in need of a few small things for the animals in their care. Below is a link to a wish list on Amazon that includes lots of little things that are constantly in need at our local shelter. The link is set-up so people can purchase needed items from the list, and they will be shipped directly to the shelter. It's another way you can help the shelter animals.

Here is the Amazon wish list for the shelter: [https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1PQ825DI-UW6LO/ref=topnav\\_lists\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1PQ825DI-UW6LO/ref=topnav_lists_1)

—Kitty Pokorny

# Become an APAS Board Member

Each year APAS holds elections to staff our Board and carry out our mission, and **this year we are in need of members to staff our Board.**

After being president for 3 years, I made the decision that this would be my last year in this position. We also just learned that our treasurer, Nelia Dunbar, has become the director at the NM Bureau of Geology (congratulations to Nelia!). However, this means she will need to step down as APAS treasurer. **So we are in need of some new members to fill out the Board.**

We hope that some of our dedicated members will help us continue our efforts to offer spay/neuter services to our community and spread the word about animal welfare in our town. If you are interested in helping, **please come to one of our monthly meetings**, the first Tuesday of each month @ 5:15 pm at NM Bureau of Geology building on Tech campus (corner of Leroy & Bullock) Room 253.

Thank you for helping keep APAS going!

Kitty Pokorny  
APAS, President



Animal Protective Association of S<sup>o</sup>Corro



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PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

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### Membership/Donation Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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