



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

# Barks and Mews

## April 2024 Newsletter

### From Homeless to a Home

APAS, with its partners Rotary Club and Socorro Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, is now in its third year producing the Pet of the Month ads for *El Defensor Chieftain*. Rotary Club is continuing to pay for the ads, and each month the shelter selects a resident dog they feel would be an ideal pet. Medium to large dogs are commonly featured in the ads because they often stay longer at the shelter. These dogs are spayed or neutered, and what they now need is a little publicity to highlight their many desirable qualities—their friendliness and playfulness. They just want to be a loving companion, to take long walks, and rides in the car. They want so much to be part of a family. All of us hope that these ads will encourage you to visit the shelter and meet these and the other

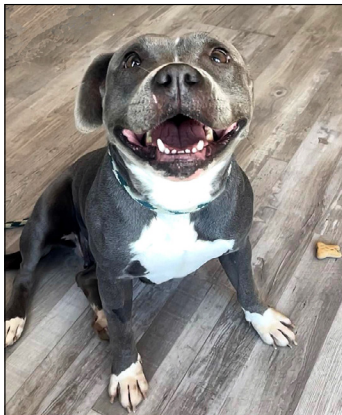
delightful animals temporarily living there. Look for Pet of the Month in the third week's *Chieftain*.

Since March 2022 thirteen Pet of the Month dogs (and one cat) have been adopted, and seven have been transported to rescue organizations, such as Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

Gigi came to the shelter in April 2022 as a 2 year old. She was Pet of the Month in September. She saw lots of visitors come and go as the months passed until July 2023 when she met her special person. In her new home Gigi discovered the love and loyalty that humans have developed for dogs and their desire to protect and care for vulnerable animals. Gigi also gained a new canine companion and playmate named Bentley.


### Pet of the Month

Socorro Animal Shelter and Adoption Center introduces Gigi



Gigi is a 2-year-old, female Pitbull X. She weighs 63 lbs., and her ID no. is 4-50. Gigi is a very gentle, laid-back, and loving dog. She is very friendly and has gotten along great with everyone she has met. She does well on a leash and would love someone who could spend time with her. She is very calm and would do great in your family. If you are interested in meeting or adopting Gigi, please call us at (575) 838-3103 or visit the shelter.

Socorro Rotary  Proudly sponsors the APAS Pet of the Month

 Animal Protective Association of Socorro Working for animal welfare in Socorro County since 1968



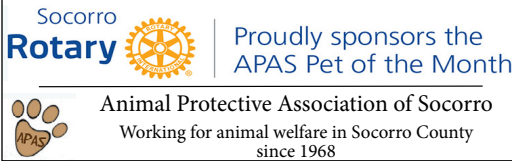
Billie Jean was July 2023 Pet of the Month. Her favorite days at the shelter were when volunteers came to take the dogs for walks. In August a couple came to Billie Jean's kennel and took her out. They thought they wanted to adopt a larger dog, but Billie Jean was so

## Pet of the Month

Socorro Animal Shelter and Adoption Center introduces Billie Jean



Billie Jean is a 3-year-old, female Labrador-Heeler X. She weighs 46 lbs., and her ID no. is 154-23. Billie Jean is known to be a dignified, playful, friendly, and loving dog. She enjoys spending time outside, as she is very curious. She also gets along well with other dogs and currently spends her day playing and cuddling with her new best furr-iend Cujo. Billie Jean would do great with any loving family. If you are interested in meeting or adopting Billie Jean, please contact us at (575) 838-3103 or visit the shelter.



affectionate she won their hearts, and they took her home. She's now called "Trixie," and she is thriving in her new home where she'll always be loved and protected.

When you volunteer to walk dogs at our animal shelter, you are giving them exercise and the socialization they'll need for the rest of their

lives. You'll also get to know the dogs and find your perfect life-long companion. The shelter employees are



*All photos used with permission.*

often looking for dog walkers and foster families. They will tell you that "shelter dogs are the best breed."

—Jane Love

## In Service to Dogs

With the passing of Ruth White last February, some of Socorro's neediest dogs lost a dedicated friend. When Ruth moved to New Mexico from Ohio, she brought with her a passion for animals and theater. She performed in several Socorro Community Theater productions. Ruth was also a member of APAS and served as its president in 2001. For more than 13 years she walked dogs every Friday at the city shelter. Those who volunteered with her remember that she consistently picked



*Photo courtesy of Socorro Community Theater.*

the large dogs despite her age and petite stature. In 2018 Ruth was one of three shelter volunteers recognized by the city as "outstanding volunteers" for that year. A quotation on the award by Jane Goodall, a famous animal rights activist and a contemporary of Ruth's, best explains their devotion to animals and tenacity: "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

—Jane Love

# APAS's Spay/Neuter Program 2019–2023

## Lingering Effects of COVID

Much of APAS's long-time work has been offering low-fee spay and neuter surgeries for the cats and dogs of city and county residents with limited incomes. The table below shows the number of procedures APAS has helped pay, for each of the last 5 years. The table also shows that we rebounded from COVID-19 limitations to accessing spay/neuter services, and that in 2023 APAS surpassed previous years in total subsidized procedures. So far in 2024 we are on track to match or exceed the 2023 totals thanks to the generous donations from our members and friends and funding from other private and state resources.

Spaying and neutering dogs and cats is beneficial for their health, and it is important in controlling the pet population. Nonetheless, last year animal shelters and rescue organizations across the country reported record numbers of relinquished pets, in addition to the typical numbers of strays and litters in their care. APAS doesn't want pet surrender to be a pet owner's only choice. In addition to doubling the number of surgeries in the past 2 years, APAS's response has included increasing its subsidy for each surgical procedure to \$200.00 and expanding the spay/neuter program to Catron County.

Overcrowded shelters are not just related to the pandemic. In fact, adoptions and fostering increased as more people worked from home; however, adoptions and fostering then declined when workers returned to their offices. Pets are ending up in shelters also because of natural disasters and the shortage of affordable housing. Unemployment increased in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, and rent and mortgages went unpaid. When government restrictions on eviction were lifted, many families were forced to look for more affordable housing. Many rentals won't accept large dogs or certain breeds or require exorbitant pet fees or don't allow pets at all. In some regions veterinary services are in short supply, and the cost of pet care and medications has increased.

Pets are an important part of our lives, and adopting a shelter pet creates a special bond and a heightened sense of responsibility to that animal when times get tough. APAS will continue to use its resources to keep families together through the spay/neuter and emergency medical programs and through its distribution of supplementary pet food at the Socorro Storehouse.

—Jane Love

*Spay and neuter procedures and other medical emergencies subsidized by APAS from 2019 through 2023. Data compiled by Kelly McLain, APAS treasurer.*

Year	Total Spay and Neuter	Number of Canine Spay	Number of Canine Neuter	Number of Feline Spay	Number of Feline Neuter	Emergency
2019	236	114	71	40	11	21
2020	185	95	55	17	18	19
2021	216	93	45	57	21	11
2022	240	113	69	32	26	16
2023	434	167	93	84	90	16



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

**Thank you**  
to our business sponsors

Animal Haven Veterinary Clinic  
Beckham & Penner, CPA  
Indian Hill Farms  
Raks Building Supply

### 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.**