



SAFE HAVEN ANIMAL SANCTUARY

paw print NEWS

SUMMER 2014

Safe Haven Receives Grant Award

We are pleased to share with you that we are the recipients of a \$5,000 grant from the Union Pacific Foundation. This award is earmarked for the installation of a new chain link dog pen and for the remodel of the existing dog pens. We are glad to partner with this outstanding company and welcome them to Dona Ana County with their new facility at Santa Teresa.

ON-SITE ADOPTION EVENTS

Beginning in June, Saturdays will be "Visitors' Day at the Sanctuary". Our trained adoption counselors will be on hand to welcome the public. With some 40 dogs and 40 cats, we have a wide selection of very adoptable, healthy pets for families to choose from. We are planning to add additional directional signage and promote these events through advertising. We will still participate in the occasional off-site location event but do share this news with your friends and family. Take a short drive, enjoy a rewarding and informative visit at the sanctuary and maybe go home with that new pet. Remember, by adopting a pet from Safe Haven you are helping create a space for another needy pet. Watch the media for more information on exact dates and times for these adoption events.



4th Annual "Wineing for the Animals" raises \$6,000



Pooch and his owner enjoy the evening

Supporters of Safe Haven gathered for an evening of fun at the Amaro Winery on May 8th. The weather cooperated, the music was great and the food enjoyed by all. A large crowd of animal lovers enjoyed the evening.

We thank the community vendors and people who donated items for the Silent Auction and Raffle. Also, thank you to those who purchased tickets for the event and turned them back in so some of our volunteers would have a chance to attend.

The Fundraising Committee devoted countless hours to the planning of this and we are very grateful to all who helped.

From the Board President

—Carol Mellen



News from the storefront

Safe Haven is pleased to welcome Cassandra Lockwood as Thrift Store Manager. Cassandra has been with the organization since April 1st and says that she is enjoying every minute of her work in the busy, fast-paced environment of the store. Her background is in art history and art education and she has a keen eye for those precious items that come through the back door of the store. Stop by and meet her.

Please bring us your donations. We have a staff and volunteers who will help unload your items and provide you with a receipt. For items that are too large for you to bring, we have a truck and trailer that will come to your home and pick up. Please call the store to coordinate pick up.

Recycled aluminum cans are an easy source of income for the store. If you work in an office environment or belong to a church or social group, please keep us in mind for those leftover cans. They can be dropped at the back door of the store during business hours.

So, just what does the Board of Directors do? Since I am asked that question, let me explain if I may. We define the Safe Haven mission and vision and set direction for the organization through the Strategic Plan. We also ensure leadership and resources by overseeing the Executive Director, serving as advocates, promoting community visibility, and seeking funding. In addition, we monitor and improve organizational performance by maintaining fiscal responsibility in decisions, and assessing employee and organizational performance against our mission and strategic goals.

We are nearly halfway through 2014 and I want to update you on the status of our four strategic goals. Firstly, to improve facilities and animal welfare, we have been trying to seek more adoption venues for our animals. It is critical that we increase the number of adoptions as our space is limited and we constantly have to turn down numerous prospective surrenders. During this year we plan to use our grant monies to obtain a new isolation unit for puppies, remodel a Tuff Shed to serve as an additional pet housing unit, purchase additional chainlink fencing to create a new pen, and are planning remodel-

els of existing outdoor pens. We purchased new shelving and racks along with installing energy efficient lighting for the Thrift Store and are exploring the possibility of getting a long term lease at that location. Secondly, to increase revenues, we participated in Rock the Rescue concert, the Asner/Swit Benefit Performances, Wineing for the Animals and a dog wash at Better Life in the first half of 2014. For the remainder of the year, we plan one more fundraiser and to implement an advertising campaign (this will also help increase adoptions). We plan to apply for 15 grants this year (we recently received a \$5000 grant from Union Pacific) and will be conducting another direct mail campaign this year end to targeted zip codes. Thirdly, to improve overall communication, we plan to advertise more and regular "Visitor Days" at the Sanctuary and increase our media exposure. Lastly, to develop/expand a quality workforce, we are focusing on expanding our volunteer base. We have a campaign developed and are making the application process more efficient. We need more manpower to achieve these goals!

The board meets monthly and will be holding its annual one-day planning retreat in August.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Do you have a few hours to spare during the course of a week or perhaps you would rather help with special events occasionally. We are in need of volunteers to

- Help at off-site adoption events.
- Staff information tables at special events.
- Work the fundraising team for the Amaro Winery event.
- Train and help as a dog walker at the sanctuary.
- Help at the thrift store.
- Maintenance work at the sanctuary. A "fix it" person.

It takes a great deal to keep things running smoothly and opportunities abound in all areas of the operation. To find out more about the Volunteer Experience, visit our website at www.shaspets.com and follow the Volunteer link for these and more opportunities.

Not crazy about going to a location to volunteer, then perhaps you can help us by working from home, making phone calls, sending out Thank You notes, keeping up our Facebook page, designing flyers, researching grants. There are many opportunities for your talents, so give us a call.

An Unexpected Journey

—By Laura O'Connor

I began volunteering with Safe Haven in 2010 for purely selfish reasons. I've always been an animal lover and I find being around them to be immensely therapeutic. Shortly before moving here, I had to put my cat down. We had recently adopted a dog that was not cat-friendly, so I started volunteering as a way to get my "cat fix". It wasn't long before I discovered the dogs of Safe Haven. The sanctuary was in need of dog walkers, so I thought, "why not, I'll get some exercise". Later on, I began escorting Gypsy, Safe Haven's first canine ambassador, to one of the local nursing homes. Seeing the joy she provided to the residents was deeply rewarding. Incredibly, one long-term patient was beginning to regain use of his hands as a result of his efforts to pet Gypsy. The improvement he showed was evident with each visit and the nurses were amazed. That is something I will never forget.

I currently serve as an adoption counselor at Safe Haven's off-site adoption events and I cannot adequately express the happiness I derive when I find a new home for one of our animals. I find myself so moved that I have to conceal sentimental tears as I give our new adopted critter a kiss on the head and wish him or her a wonderful new life.

My role at Safe Haven seems to be continually evolving. I recently joined Safe Haven's board of directors, which gives me the opportunity to help the animals in an exciting new way. In this role, I hope to help expand the public's familiarity with Safe Haven, as well as promote favorable animal care to pet owners and youth within our community.

What began as a self-centered journey has enriched my life with countless blessings. Such is the life of someone fortunate enough to know the love of an animal.

Featured Pets of Safe Haven



Meet **Chance**. His name is quite fitting considering the ordeal he went through prior to arriving at Safe Haven.

While our sanctuary manager was visiting the Jornada Veterinary Clinic early in the morning with another pet from the sanctuary, he suddenly heard

a screech of brakes and horns honking on Hwy. 70, in the midst of rush hour traffic. He and the vet turned to look and spotted a little brown Chihuahua that had been hit by a car.

After undergoing surgery at the vet's office, we brought Chance to Safe Haven to recover. He is a popular pet with our volunteers and we are hoping that he will be adopted by a family soon. He is 5 years old and is housetrained and appears to get along well with other dogs.



Ashley is one of Safe Haven's senior cats. She was born in 2002. Senior cats make wonderful companion pets. A senior cat's biggest selling point is that what you see is what you get as their personality is already developed. If you come to Safe Haven and the cat sits in your lap purring, rubbing, happy, it's a pretty good chance that cat will enjoy cuddling in your home. A kitten on the other hand, however

adorable, is an unknown quantity as its personality is not yet fully developed.

Potential adopters sometimes assume that an adult cat was brought to Safe Haven for behavioral or health issues. In reality, the surrender is often due to family upheavals, such as death, divorce, relocation or allergy. Come out and meet Ashley and our other senior residents.

Two Cemetery Plots for Sale

Safe Haven received a donation of two cemetery plots a few years back. We are trying to sell these. They are located in the Garden of the Good Shepherd at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. If you are interested please contact us at 575-527-4544. You will be supporting our organization in the process.

From the Director

As we approach the halfway mark for 2014, the organization is having a financially better year than the same time last year. This is due for the most part to successful fundraising and to a bequest and grants that we have received this year. Adoptions have been slower and this is due in large part to decreased traffic at the sanctuary due to numerous adoption events that take place each week in the City. When a dog is on death row at the municipal shelter, adoption to almost anyone is far better than the alternative. We applaud the Animal Services Center on reducing their euthanasia rate this year. However, their success has resulted in fewer adoptions at Safe Haven. Criteria for adopting from SHAS is high as we are seeking a “forever” home for our pets. While they await that certain family, they are quite happy at the sanctuary, but getting them into a home is our goal.

In order to increase our adoption rate and to encourage people to drive out to Safe Haven, we are launching an advertising campaign, installing better signage along the route and making sure we take in highly adoptable pets. Stay tuned!

Sales from the Thrift Store cover the bulk of the operating expenses at the sanctuary, but not all of them. We recently had five baby kittens dropped outside the store in a box. All needed immediate veterinary care and round-the-clock attention. I am pleased to say they are all thriving but without the immediate attention they received, they would have surely died. Next step is to have them all spayed.

By making a monetary donation to Safe Haven, you will be helping to support the work that we do in Dona Ana County. Your gift helps pay the veterinary bills and purchase the food the animals need. At any given time there are close to 90 pets at the sanctuary. As a “no kill” shelter, Safe Haven provides a valuable service to the community. Your support is greatly needed. Donations can be made by visiting our website www.shaspets.com and following the Donate button, or by mail. Please consider Safe Haven as part of your planned giving. Bequests are a wonderful way of ensuring the future of the organization and its mission.

—Lorna Harris

Emmy's Story

Hazel Coehlo

In 2013, my husband and I attended your fundraiser, “Wineing for the Animals”, for the first time. Emmy, a terrier mix, had arrived at Safe Haven's gates a few days previous and was attending the event with her handler in



Hazel & Al Coehlo with rescue dog, Emmy

hopes of finding a home. We had been without a pet for two years and had no intention of acquiring a dog. Ha! One look was all it took. She is the most wonderful animal, almost human, and has been a constant joy to my husband and myself. Thank you so much for taking her in and doing the work you do. The three of us are most grateful!

Sissy's Story

Art & Elizabeth Westberg

We adopted Sissy this spring from Safe Haven. She was a 6 month old with a sad history of abandonment and had never been inside a home. She is a beautiful blond with soft brown eyes and a soft coat. We suspect she is strongly represented by the Chihuahua, Whippet, and Beagle in her gene pool. There is no question all her senses are keen. She is also gentle, loving, and a quick learner.

We have renamed her Roxie. Right away she learned how to use the doggie door, but so far she has chosen to sleep on a bed just outside our backdoor and keep an eye on things. Our Catahoula tried to maintain an aloof air with Roxie, but she was relentless and now they are frequently found playing “chase” in the yard. After about two days, Roxie decided she could relax when she is inside and now loves her time in the living areas on her Queen of Sheba bed. She also loves her toy box and acts like it's a new discovery every day. She enjoys our walks up “A Mountain” and through the pecan orchards.

Our adoption process was simple and thorough. Safe Haven had already taken care of all details such as spaying, vaccinations, heart worm prevention, veterinary care, and the adoption fee was more than reasonable. Roxie seems very happy to be a part of our home, and the feeling is mutual. This little “Chiwhippet” truly lights up our lives.





Board of Directors

President Carol Mellen
 Vice President Lynn Ellins
 Secretary Susan Mitchell
 Treasurer Dave Zeemont
 Directors Jennifer Goude
 Barbara Dean
 Laura O'Connor
 Ron Fitzherbert
 Executive Director Lorna Harris
 Sanctuary Manager Jeff Barker
 Thrift Store Manager Cassandra Lockwood
 Website Administrator Dorian Rudin

Volunteer Coordinator:
 Sanctuary – Michelle Shawala mikey195200@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Pet Smart, 2200 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
- East Lohman Veterinary Clinic
- Jornada Veterinary Clinic
- Denise Cooper, CPA, 1155 Commerce Drive, Las Cruces
- Target, Las Cruces
- San Saba Pecans, W. Amador, Las Cruces
- Central Bark Grooming service
- Country Dog Grooming Salon
- Tractor Supply Store
- WalMart, Valley Drive, Lohman & Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
- Vista Middle School

WISH LIST

- Kuboto Tractor with Front End Loader
- Friskies canned cat food
- Meow Mix dry cat food
- Milk Bone dog biscuits
- Clumping cat litter
- Pedigree canned dog food
- Purina One dry dog food
- Windex, 409, Fabreze
- Nail polish remover
- Sm, Med & Lg garbage bags
- Case of bottled water
- Toilet paper, Kleenex
- Package & Scotch tape
- Address labels
- Batteries
- nylon rope
- Fabric bins
- Gift Cards
- Bleach
- Gallon & Quart Ziplock bags
- Paper bowls
- Paper towels
- Scrubber sponges

SHOPPING WITH AMAZON

Now you can help raise funds for Safe Haven each time you shop on line at Amazon.com, either go to the Facebook page for Safe Haven Animal sanctuary or to our website at www.shaspets.com. Follow the Amazonsmile link and log into your Amazon account from there. For every \$\$ you spend, SHAS will receive a rebate. Just another way of supporting your organization.

copy this link into your url to order from Amazon and benefit SHAS or just highlight the address below and hit CTRL + left click your mouse to access the link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0436884>

Volunteer Focus Corner

Pam Stuckey has been volunteering with Safe Haven at the sanctuary for a little over four years, since arriving in Las Cruces from San Diego. After attending an Open House at the sanctuary, she became impressed with the “no kill” policy we practice, with the layout and upkeep of the facility, and with the obvious loving care with which the animals are treated. After only two weeks volunteering with the organization, Pam adopted her beloved cat, Chaz, from Safe Haven.

When asked about the rewards of volunteering, Pam states that she loves interacting with all the cats that reside at Safe Haven. They all have their own personalities and she loves socializing them so they are ready for adoption.

Originally from Indiana, Pam loves life in Las Cruces. Besides her love of animals, she enjoys tennis, golf, hiking and spending time with her friends.



Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

840-D El Paseo
Las Cruces, NM 88001



HOURS

Office:

Mon-Friday – 8 am-1 pm

Thrift Shop:

Monday-Saturday – 8 am to 5 pm

Sunday – 11 am to 4 pm

Sanctuary:

Tue-Sunday – 10 am-5 pm and by appointment any other time

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

General Info 575-527-4544

Thrift Shop 575-541-4942

Sanctuary 575-805-5338

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-Mail: safehaven@nightfury.com

Website: <http://www.shaspets.com/>

Sanctuary E-mail: safehaven.pets@yahoo.com

Please Donate!



I want to help care for animals at our beautiful “no kill” Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary.

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your donations to SHAS are tax deductible. Please make your checks payable to:
Safe Haven • 840-D El Paseo • Las Cruces NM 88001, or visit the PayPal link on our website. **Thank you!**