

## Artie Ford, Volunteer

If there is one name that is synonymous with Safe Haven it is that of Artie Ford. Artie has been a part of this organization since its inception in the mid-90's. She has watched it prosper from the ground up and has played an active part in all facets of Safe Haven.

Artie has an interesting background. She grew up on a ranch in the Panhandle area of Oklahoma. When she was 16, she attended the University of Colorado in Boulder. A job offer from White Sands Missile Range brought her to this area. She states that when she reported for work, they were horrified and said that the Range had no women in professional positions. Artie changed all that! After a grueling probationary period, they decided she was fit for the job and she went on to work there for the next seven years. She went on to work for NMSU and the City of Las Cruces, where she retired.



Artie took it upon herself to be the Historian for the organization and has devoted many hours into putting the history together in both words and photos. You can view this document at either the Sanctuary or the Thrift Store. When we of recent affiliation with Safe Haven have a question regarding the sprinkler system, septic system, landscaping, painting or any other matter, Artie is the "go to" person. She also developed and maintains the memorial garden at the sanctuary. When she is not volunteering her time at the Sanctuary, she can be found in the back at the store, pricing merchandise that comes in. She says that in addition to being around nice people and the wonderful animals, it is the knowledge that we are rescuing hundreds of animals every year from starvation, accidents or being euthanized that keeps her volunteering for Safe Haven.

Her generosity is beyond words. She bakes divine cookies, contributes of her time and money and is full of new and wonderful ideas on how to grow Safe Haven. She is indeed a loyal supporter and volunteer and we all appreciate her more than words can say. "Thank You" Artie for the many years of dedication to our mission and our pets.

**“MY BUDDY KODA”** *Doris Walker, Las Cruces*

A few years ago I lost my dog, then a month later my husband, to cancer. It took me a year and a half and a lot of thought before I decided I would like to get another dog, but this time it would be one that needed a home. I called Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary and made an appointment to look for a new friend. I chose six dogs to get acquainted with to find the best match, and the one picked was the first dog I spent time with, Koda.

There was just something about him. I'm not sure if I chose him or he chose me but it was a good choice for both of us. I had no idea at the time but he had been at Safe Haven for two and a half years. I still don't understand why no one had adopted him, especially a family, as he is a wonderful dog. Even though he had always lived outside, he took to the inside with no problems and has never destroyed things in the house. Apart from going for walks twice a day and hanging out with me when I am gardening, he likes being inside. He is loyal, enthusiastic, happy and patient.

He never runs off and he likes to be with me. Adopting Koda is one of the best things I have done for myself and for him.

There are a lot of dogs and cats in shelters that are just waiting for that special person or family to come along and adopt them. Please do this. They are waiting for you. Through no fault of their own they have been abandoned, lost or abused. They desperately need and deserve a good loving home, and they will let you know every day how grateful they are.

Koda has been with me for one and a half years and I would not like to be without him!



## Items We Would Love to Have More Of:

- Monetary donations always appreciated
- Pedialite – unflavored
- Galvanized metal buckets
- ProForce disinfectant from Sam's Club
- Canned cat food
- Clumping kitty litter
- Clorox wipes
- HP 22 or 27 Inkjet Cartridges
- Frontline Plus Flea and Tick products
- Laundry Detergent
- Wire Dog Crates – Large
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Sponsor for Quarterly Newsletter
- Landscaping Services
- Pine Sol and other cleaning supplies
- Carpet remnants
- Chain link fencing
- Gift cards to pet stores
- Sam's Club or Lowe's gift cards
- Plastic Coat Hangers
- Aluminum cans for recycling

## Safe Haven Raffles Condominium Vacation

Safe Haven recently held a successful raffle for a one week's stay in the Wyndham Condominium resort at Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The lucky winner was Joe & Ann Adams.

This vacation was generously donated to Safe Haven by Artie Ford and resulted in a \$1,280 fundraiser for the organization. Thanks to all who sold and purchased the tickets and congratulations to the winners of this wonderful holiday for this coming June. We know you will have a wonderful vacation in the beautiful country surrounding the Pagosa Springs area.

## Union Pacific Foundation Donation

Thanks to the efforts of Rep. Nathan "Nate" Cote on our behalf, Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary was the recent recipient of a grant from the Union Pacific Foundation. Safe Haven shared in this windfall with the Spay & Neuter Animal Protection (SNAP) program that resulted in \$650 being awarded to each organization.



*Photographed Left to Right: Curtis Childress (DAC Animal Control), Kat Lacy (SNAP), Zoe Zimmerman (Union Pac. Rep.), Rep. Nate Cote, Rebekah Coffing (SHAS Asst. Mgr.) with Regina, Lorna Harris (SHAS Exec. Dir.)*

## What Does Volunteering Entail?

Safe Haven has many opportunities for volunteerism. Whether you have a few hours each week to commit or even just once a month, there is something for everyone to do. First you will be asked to complete an application, next our volunteer coordinator will contact you. Once you are assigned, either the sanctuary manager or the thrift store manager will put you through an orientation process.

### **Some of the areas where volunteers can help are:**

*Thrift Store:* Sorting and pricing clothes, working on the floor of the store, cashiering, sorting and pricing books and magazines. Pick up large items occasionally - need to be a pick up owner.

*Sanctuary:* Grooming and socializing cats, cleaning the cattery, feeding cats. Walking the dogs, grooming and socializing dogs and monitoring playtime in the dog park.

Cleaning the office, making follow-up phone calls, helping with the landscaping, taking on special projects such as maintenance, repairs and painting, cleaning pens and helping feed.

*General:* Helping with fundraising planning, open house, grant writing research. Help with Newsletter

Don't forget that we are always in need of more foster families for either a cat or a dog. This would entail caring for the animal for a few weeks until it can be brought into Safe Haven for adoption. Here is a perfect opportunity for those not willing to take on a full time pet but wanting to make life better for that one pet for a short while.

We have a volunteer area and restroom on site and a small fridge where a snack can be stored. So whatever your talents and desires, know that you fit into our organization. We want our volunteers to have a positive experience while enjoying friendships with like-minded individuals. For further information call 527.4544 or log onto the website and click on the Volunteer link.

## Open House, September, 2009

Well attended and a beautiful day. Had a demonstration by the K-9 unit of the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Dept. Sold hot dogs, sodas and raffle tickets and had a beautiful cake. Thanks to Artie Ford for her wonderful home made cookies! Volunteers staffed the sanctuary at various locations and shared information with our visitors. The puppies were a big hit. Four dogs were adopted the day of the event. The sanctuary looked really nice after the clean up and the finishing touches that our volunteers put to the place. Lots of wonderful comments and feedback on our facility. Our thanks go to Comcast for their donation of cups and pens for the children. Also thanks to Sam's Club for the \$25 gift card.



### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- **PetCo**, 3050 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces – 532.5200
- **Pet Smart**, 2200 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces – 523.1154
- **Animal Hospital of Las Cruces**, 3171 N. Main, Las Cruces – 541.6610

- **Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic**, Mesquite, NM – 575.650.2000
- **Denise Cooper, CPA**, 1155 Commerce Drive, Las Cruces – 524.1040
- **Target, Las Cruces**
- **Wal-Mart, Lohman Store**



## A History of Safe Haven

Juanita Fisher brought safe Haven Animal Sanctuary into being in 1996. She had been a visitor and volunteer at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, and wanted the same type of organization for Dona Ana County. She invited Faith Mahoney, Best Friends Director, to come to Las Cruces to address people who had an interest in animal rescue and adoption. About 150 people attended her talk, some of who are still volunteering with Safe Haven to this day.

Without funding and with no permanent location, Juanita set about to rescue as many cats and dogs as possible on her own. Juanita's friends, Gitti and Ken Cronin, also rescued animals. They lived on five acres on the east mesa, just outside Las Cruces, and they agreed to take more animals on a temporary basis. The Cronin's and their children cared for the animals until adoptive homes could be found.

A short time after starting the project, a man from Deming offered SHAS 110 acres for \$1.00 per year on a hundred-year lease. It was very exciting, so the land was cleared, roads were graded, storm drains installed, and a well and pump were put in. With a great deal of hoopla, a huge sign was erected declaring this as Save Haven Animal Sanctuary. Unfortunately, it was discovered that the well would not support the operation that was planned and there were no water rights that could be purchased from the surrounding parcels. So, still no home for Safe Haven.

The Sanctuary was put on hold for a while until the Cronin's decided to move to Colorado. SHAS purchased 2.7 acres from them and decided to make this their permanent home. Moving to the Cronin Ranch involved a great deal of work and a lot of improvements to the property. Shortly

thereafter, Juanita Fisher decided to move to Texas and a Board of Directors was selected to operate SHAS as a 501c(3) non-profit corporation.

Fundraising, as with most not-for-profits, was a major problem and we have experienced most of them. Some grants have been solicited, a few of which have been successful, but not nearly enough money was generated to cover expenses. The major source of funding was the generous donations and bequests from the estates of Safe Haven supporters. The SHAS Thrift Store was established to help pay expenses. The first thrift shop was a small area about 4'x4' in a small office on Lohman Avenue. It was stocked with small items purchased from a "junk catalog". Pens, notepads, cheap jewelry, and small toys, made up the inventory. Needless to say, it didn't even begin to pay for the many bags of dog and cat food we needed, let alone the veterinary bills. The next store was on the corner of Solano and Madrid and was always full of items donated by many wonderful friends. However, there were too few volunteers to staff the store so the items were put out regardless of condition and it became just another junk thrift store. Our current location at 144 Wyatt Drive has professional paid management and as a result has evolved into a boutique-style thrift store. This store provides 70% of the funds needed to run the Sanctuary.

The whole purpose and focus of Safe Haven has always been and always will be, the animals. It is estimated that over 3,000 pets have been rescued and placed in adoptive homes. Since all have been spayed or neutered, that equals several thousand animals no longer wandering the streets of our community. Some of the animals are not adoptable and will live out their lives in quiet

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Another year has come and gone and lots of good things took place at Safe Haven during 2009. Many pets passed through our gates as we re-homed them. The total number of dogs adopted was 163 and 59 cats. This is slightly lower than 2008 but still a satisfying number given the current economic climate. Fundraising did well but the grant awards were down, as they are nation-wide. Donations for the year were over the budgeted number due to a bequest we received from a generous individual.

While we humans may be in awe of the beauty that comes with a snowfall, our dogs at Safe Haven looked a little bedraggled and wet as a result of the cold snap we experienced recently. Their doggie igloos, lined with straw, proved an effective warm haven from the freezing temperatures but we all are hoping they can each have the luxury of a nice home and family in the near future.

The Annual Meeting for the voting members of the organization was held at 6:30pm on Tuesday, January 26th at the Springhill Suites. Voting took place for new and renewing board members and there was a bylaws change approved as follows.

#### ARTICLE III – Members

##### Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS

Membership in SHAS shall be composed of all individuals and organizations that make financial contributions and/or provide volunteer time to SHAS.

##### Section 2. TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

An active member shall be defined as someone who makes annual monetary contributions to SHAS in the amount of \$50 or more and/or donates their time to SHAS business and/or special events on a monthly basis. There are no dues associated with membership.

Members must have attained the legal age of 18 years to be a member.

##### Section 3. POWERS OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

An active member will have, but not be limited to, the following powers:

- a. Attendance and voting rights at all membership meetings.
- b. Elect members to the Board of Directors.
- c. Ratify the Bylaws or any amendments thereto.

Elect one (1) person from the membership and an alternate to serve on the Nominating Committee.

— Lorna Harris

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dignity and comfort at Safe Haven. Buford, the “fierce guard dog” is such a resident. He moans with pleasure when his ears are scratched or a treat is offered. There are also the two cats who have been with us many years. These and others will most likely never leave Safe Haven.

Safe Haven exists because of the generosity of our many benefactors who donate items and money. Without our team of volunteers who add up to the hundreds over the years, SHAS would never have been able to take in and care for the animals as it has done to this day. These people who have given many hours of their time, hard work and funding have earned themselves a gold star in the overall picture of the Sanctuary.

President's Corner

As we come to the end of not only another year, but the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we take time to reflect on our accomplishments and challenges at Safe Haven.

Improvements have been many and among those recently have been the additional landscaping to the sanctuary and the remodel and painting of the Cattery.

Even though the economy has been slow this past year, it did not negatively impact our adoption rate by very much. Our rate of turnover is crucial as it equates to the number of animals that get to be re-homed. We did, however, see an increase in owner surrenders in 2009 due in most part to job losses. This seems to have affected all the local animal agencies.

The Thrift Store appears to have benefited from the economic downturn as more people were led to shop for bargains at stores such as ours. We ended the year slightly over budgeted sales, despite the opening of three new thrifts in the community.

A building committee has been established and is ready to get to work on the remodel of one of the existing metal barns. It has taken several months to wade through the zoning requirements, etc. We are envisioning this new building to serve as an isolation and recovery center, house a laundry facility, and have room for a small infirmary. We welcome any input and assistance from those among you with expertise in the construction and design field.

Safe Haven continues to move forward into this new decade with a positive outlook for our organization as a whole and with our goal of "no more homeless pets."

— Sharon Perrone



SHAS Board of Directors & Staff 2010

Officers:

- President ..... Sharon Perrone
- Vice President ..... Rita Popp
- Secretary ..... Trudy Cooper
- Treasurer ..... Tina Lutz

- Executive Director:..... Lorna Harris
- Sanctuary Manager:..... Charles Burns
- Thrift Store Manager: ..... Ismael Lujan
- Website: ..... Dorian Rudin

Directors:

- Janet Frame            Robin Hutchins
- Carol Mellen         Eleanor Bencomo

**Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary**  
144 Wyatt Drive  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Las Cruces NM  
Permit No. 2101



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### HOURS

**Office:**

Mon-Friday – 9 am-1 pm

**Thrift Shop:**

Tues-Friday – 9 am-3 pm,

Saturday – 9 am to 1 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:* [shaspets@yahoo.com](mailto:shaspets@yahoo.com)

*Website:* [www.SafeHavenAnimalSanctuary.net](http://www.SafeHavenAnimalSanctuary.net)

*Sanctuary E-mail:* [shascharles@yahoo.com](mailto:shascharles@yahoo.com)

**Please Donate!**



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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 • 144 Wyatt Dr • Las Cruces NM 88005, or visit the PayPal link on our website. **Thank you!**