



## PAW PRINT NEWS

Fall 2010

### SAFE HAVEN APPOINTS JUNIOR AMBASSADOR

In an effort to reach out to the younger generation amongst us, we have appointed a Junior Ambassador for our organization. Taylor Harrison is 13 years old and is an eighth grade honor roll student at Vista Middle School with a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the Academy of Young Scientists as well as the Science, Engineering, Mathematics & Aerospace Academy.

Taylor has a deep affection for animals and as a representative for Safe Haven, she hopes to raise community awareness about how many animals suffer needlessly. She believes that all animals deserve to be loved and treated with respect. Since they do not have a voice, Taylor says she will be honored to be their voice and to share with our community ways to improve conditions for our pets. We are honored to have this bright young lady represent us in the Las Cruces Public school community as well as at other events.



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

#### SAFE HAVEN ANIMAL SANCTUARY RECEIVES DONATION FOR NEW VEHICLE

We at Safe Haven owe a big thank you to the Dona Ana County Humane Society for the gift of \$10,000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle for the Sanctuary. This vehicle will be a replacement for the Jeep we currently have and will be used primarily to transport animals to off-site adoptions. We are in the market for a used cargo van that will allow give us larger capacity for this purpose. We trust that this vehicle will materialize in the very near future.

#### WHATABURGER PARTNERS WITH SAFE HAVEN

Thanks to the folks at the local Whataburger locations for allowing Safe Haven to place donation boxes, have can collections and maintain a bulletin board at each of their three facilities in Las Cruces. In addition, Whataburger agreed to underwrite the printing and mailing of this edition of the Newsletter.

We are grateful to these and other businesses in our community that lend their support to our organization.



This edition of the SHAS Quarterly Newsletter is sponsored by Whataburger.

## SHAS FEATURED VOLUNTEER — PJ CURRY

One of the long time volunteers at Safe Haven, PJ started helping with projects before the organization was officially formed as a non-profit in 1996. Her motive for giving so much of her time over the years she says has been the people. "People who want to take care of animals are my kind of people" says PJ. She also is motivated by the overall mission of Safe Haven.

When a few people got together to form a sanctuary for cats and dogs, PJ was among the first handful who gathered at a lady's property on Shoestring Ranch Road, not far from the current location at the Cronin Ranch. There the owner of the property allowed them to occupy her barn in exchange for them helping to care for her numerous dogs, goats, a horse and other critters. Here PJ helped with the sorting and pricing of donated articles which were sold to support the care of the animals.

For the past seven years, PJ has been a regular on a number of days during the week at the

current thrift store location. She has served as cashier and sorter and now confines her



volunteer time to pricing. Of the store, PJ comments that she enjoys the social interaction with her fellow workers and the clean environment in which she works.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- ◆ **PetCo**, 3050 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
- ◆ **Pet Smart**, 2200 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
- ◆ **Animal Hospital of Las Cruces**, 3171 N. Main, Las Cruces
- ◆ **Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic**, Mesquite, NM

- ◆ **Denise Cooper, CPA**, 1155 Commerce Drive, Las Cruces
- ◆ **Target**, Las Cruces
- ◆ **Sam's Club**
- ◆ **Hampton Inn & Suites**
- ◆ **Whataburger**
- ◆ **PicQuik**

## THRIFT STORE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

After a long, hot summer at the store and an influx of items too numerous for the space we had at Wyatt Drive, the board made the decision to start looking for larger quarters. As a result, our new home, effective November 1<sup>st</sup> will be at 840 El Paseo, right across the street from Sutherland's and between Family Dollar and Business Products Center.

This new location will afford us almost twice the space that we currently have and will provide us with a large storage area in the rear of the building, plus a loading dock for large and small items. Plans are underway to actively solicit larger items, such as furniture and other household items. The space will allow us to departmentalize better and have more viewing space for our customers.

The move from our current location will begin on October 15<sup>th</sup> and will complete by the end of the month. Please tell all your friends and neighbors about this move and ask them to donate their gently-used items to a worthy cause.

As you may know, the store provides the bulk of the operating budget for the sanctuary. In order for us to expand our capacity for the housing of cats and dogs and to implement other programs, we need to increase our revenues. Come by and visit our new location and if you have a few hours to spare to help us move, we would love to have you join us on October 28, 29 & 30 as we roll up our sleeves together.



## 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
- ♦ HP22 and HP27 Inkjet Cartridges
- ♦ Frontline Plus Flea and Tick products
- ♦ Laundry Detergent
- ♦ Wire Dog Crates – Large
- ♦ Dishwashing Liquid
- ♦ Sponsors for Quarterly Newsletter
- ♦ Landscaping Services & Plants
- ♦ Paving stones
- ♦ EXCEED Dry Dog Food from Sam's
- ♦ Purina Cat Chow
- ♦ Pine sol and other cleaning supplies
- ♦ Chain link fencing
- ♦ Gift cards to pet stores
- ♦ Sam's Club or Lowe's Gift Cards
- ♦ Plastic Coat Hangers
- ♦ Trouser and Skirt Hangers
- ♦ Aluminum cans for recycling
- ♦ Large furniture items and household furnishings
- ♦ A Used Cargo Van in good condition
- ♦ Dog harnesses and leashes

## A Case for The American Pit Bull Terrier

Originating in England, the Pit Bull Terrier we know today is a cross between the Bulldog and the Terrier that resulted in the English Staffordshire Terrier, which was originally called the Bull-and-Terrier Dog, or Pit Bull Terrier. Later, it assumed the name in England of Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

These dogs began to find their way into America as early as 1870, where they became known as Pit Dog, Pit Bull Terrier, later American Bull Terrier, and still later as Yankee Terrier.

Today we hear many stories regarding this popular breed. From the horrors of the Michael Vick dogs to the local abuses in the Las Cruces community, pit bulls are regarded as mean and vicious. So is this a fact or a myth? Before we can talk about the dogs, we must address the owners. Healthy pit bulls with stable temperaments are succeeding in hundreds of thousands of homes across the continent. Dogs that bite people are typically troubled canines and they represent every breed, not just pit bulls. The good news is, these types of personalities offer warning signs well in advance of biting, although unfortunately, many ignore or misinterpret their dog's troubling behaviors.

According to the American Temperament Testing Society (ATTS), pit bulls achieved a passing rate of 83.9%. that's as good as or better than beagles.... 78.2%. The achievement of pit bulls in this study disproves once and for all the old and tired belief that pit bulls are inherently aggressive to people. They are, after all, a terrier breed and therefore tend to be scrappy with other dogs.

Several months ago, a young couple adopted one of the very few purebred pit bulls that came through the Safe Haven gates. Betty came from the Animal Services Center, just hours away from being euthanized. Josh and Megan drove from Alpine, Texas, to meet Betty and it was love at first sight. Betty is a young reverse blue brindle and has turned out to be the perfect companion dog for the



couple. Says Megan, "I want you to know that she is loved and cared for and socializes well with other animals. She goes on hikes regularly and leashes well and has some finely honed instincts. Oh and she now knows the commands, sit, wait, down, crawl, paw, other paw and some agility routines. Thank you so much for rescuing her from the kill shelter, she is now a part of our family and one of the best dogs we have ever owned."

While Safe Haven does not make it a practice to take in purebred pit bull terriers,

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once in a while one comes along that evaluates well, is young, and ready to go to a responsible owner to be well trained and cared for; one that we have deemed worthy of a second chance.

So who's afraid of the Big Bad Pit Bulls? Well, LOTS of people, no thanks to some very damaging myths, the deeds of unscrupulous breeders/owners and the hyped up media coverage that has been plaguing this breed for years. So many untruths and half-truths have been repeated so many times that the general public has begun to believe them. Megan describes Betty as "a fantastic pit bull who is a prime example of the side people never get to see due to fear and ignorance." Let's not rush to judgment on this breed but let's take the time to educate ourselves to the more positive side of this breed.

## SANCTUARY APPOINTS NEW MANAGER



A new facility manager was recently hired for the sanctuary. Safe Haven welcomes Jeff Barker to the team. Jeff is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the sanctuary and this is no small task. From the intake of cats and dogs to their adoptions, Jeff sees that they are well taken care of during their stay at Safe Haven.

Other duties include the maintaining of the facilities, working with volunteer help, readying pets for off-site adoptions, handling veterinary appointments and keeping needed supplies on hand. Jeff lives on-site in the home provided.

Jeff's background includes 4 years in the US Navy as a damage control engineer and firefighter and also as an auto mechanic. He has a life-long association with animals and their behavior modification and training.

We are pleased to have Jeff as part of the Safe Haven team and we hope you will extend a warm welcome if you happen to run into him on one of his busy days.

## From the Executive Director

The board met in August for a Strategic Planning weekend retreat. We looked at where we're coming from and where we're going over the next five years. From this emerged a clear set of plans. These were shared with the paid staff of Safe Haven and then with all the volunteers during a town hall meeting held at Branigan Library. The final document will form the basis for the 2011 Business Plan and Budget for the organization.

What clearly emerged from the above meeting was the need for Safe Haven to keep pace with the demands of our growing community and to increase the re-homing of animals. In order to do this we need to grow revenues and grow our facilities. As part of this growth, the Thrift Store will be relocating to a new location at 840-D El Paseo, next to Business Products Center and Family Dollar store and across from Sutherland's. This move will give us much needed space and allow us to accept donations of larger ticket items such as furniture.

The location of the Sanctuary at the Cronin Ranch has served us well these many years and we will continue to increase capacity at that location to the extent allowed by zoning. We will, however, be on the lookout for about 10 acres of land with utilities. This plan has, obviously, forced us to re-think the construction of a large, expensive building at the current site. We will fill the need for a small isolation unit but as we are planning a possible move, it does not make sense to sink \$90,000 into a permanent facility that would make the property even harder to sell.

We welcome new folks to our organization; Jeff Barker, sanctuary manager, Sharon Hartford and Lynn Ellins, board members, and Wendy Baldwin, volunteer coordinator. We are still seeking assistant manager positions for the Thrift Store and the Sanctuary.

This has been a busy and challenging time for Safe Haven and I thank everyone who has helped make these changes a success in numerous ways.

~ Lorna Harris

## SHAS Board of Directors & Staff 2010

### Officers:

**President** ..... Sharon Perrone  
**Vice President** ..... Rita Popp  
**Secretary** ..... Carol Mellen  
**Treasurer** ..... Tina Lutz

### Directors:

Robin Hutchins  
Eleanor Bencomo

Sharon Hartford  
Lynn Ellins

**Executive Director:**..... Lorna Harris  
**Sanctuary Manager:** ..... Jeff Barker  
**Thrift Store Manager:** ..... Ismael Lujan  
**Website:** ..... Dorian Rudin  
**Volunteer Coordinators:**

Sanctuary – Wendy Baldwin – 575-522-5350  
Thrift Store – Mary Ann Boone – 575-382-7316

*Safe Haven is seeking qualified board member candidates. If you or someone you know can dedicate a few hours each month to serving, please contact the Executive Director and we will send out an application form.*

## **Sanctuary Volunteer Coordinator**

Wendy Baldwin has assumed the position of Volunteer Coordinator, working with the volunteer base at the sanctuary. Wendy's duties include maintaining an up-to-date database of volunteers, processing new applications and being the "go-to" person for all volunteers. When volunteers cannot come in for their regular scheduled shift, they will call Wendy and she will find a replacement; when there's a fundraiser or special event, Wendy will be calling volunteers to staff those events and help work on committees. She will always try to match up the task with whatever the individual has indicated an interest in doing.

Wendy is a relative newcomer to Las Cruces, having moved here with her husband from the east coast. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in animal welfare, having worked for 21 years as a veterinary technician and also as Director of Medical Operations at the Delaware Humane Society. Of animals Wendy states, "I have loved and lived with animals for 35 years. All my pets were rescues, including 9 cats, 10 dogs, a rabbit, fish and 150 birds".

We are pleased to have Wendy join the Safe Haven volunteer base and fill this important position for us.

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## **Fall President's Corner**

As we head into the Fall, we have much to report on the progress at Safe Haven. The articles in this newsletter attest to that and we are glad to share that progress with you, our supporters.

The strategic planning retreat produced great results and we feel we now have a blue print moving forward that will guide us to continued success. The move of the thrift store to the more heavily trafficked El Paseo presented itself early in the process and we trust you will take the time to come by and visit us at our new location, effective November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Safe Haven has been the recipient of a number of donations as a result of fundraisers held by others and we give a special thanks to the promoters of those events.

Volunteers and board members rolled up their sleeves in mid-September to clean up the

sanctuary grounds in anticipation of the annual Open House which was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We really did look nice for our company. Special thanks to all those who helped make this happen.

The store has held two sidewalk sales this year and both were successful events, thanks to Ismael Lujan at the store and his team of volunteers and help. These will be semi-annual events from now on, to coincide with the summer/winter change of inventory. We also took advantage of the location and had an off-site adoption event for our pets.

~ Sharon Perrone

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## **Email vs. Snail Mail?**

In an effort to help us reduce our mailing costs, if you would prefer receiving the Quarterly Newsletter via email, please contact us at [shaspets@yahoo.com](mailto:shaspets@yahoo.com). We will use your email address for future mailings.

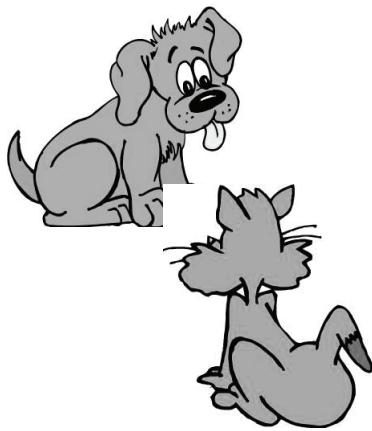
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# Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

840-D El Paseo Road  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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



## HOURS

### *Office:*

Mon-Friday – 8 am-1 pm

### *Thrift Shop:*

Tues-Saturday – 9 am-3 pm,

### *Sanctuary:*

Tuesday-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

**Please Donate!**

*Website:* www.SafeHavenAnimalSanctuary.net



*Sanctuary E-mail:* shaspets@yahoo.com

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