



SAFE HAVEN ANIMAL SANCTUARY

# paw print NEWS

SPRING 2013

## The Rewards of Fostering a Pet

Michelle Shawala has been fostering for Safe Haven for almost fifteen months and she says the experience has been wonderful. "I was a little nervous about fostering at first because I am such a dog person and at the time I took this on, I had two English Mastiffs one was 200 pounds and one 150 pounds and they were 'momma girls'. However, I couldn't resist Sadie, our first foster. She was a little wild and crazy and had no training whatsoever. With some love and patience and kindness she responded so well".

Michelle states that when taking in a foster you must keep in mind that you are doing this for the pet not for yourself. When fostering a pet in your home, that frees up space for Safe Haven to take in one more homeless animal. "If you can teach a dog to walk on a leash, be housebroken, and maybe learn a few tricks, that makes for a better chance of finding that dog a forever home," says Michelle. "Not all people who love dogs have the time to train them, but if they can find a dog that has been housebroken and crate trained and can walk on a leash, you have won them over as most of the work is already done. Fostering means you are providing the experience of a home environment for that pet which he may or may not have experienced before." Michelle goes on to say, "We have treated our fosters as we have treated our own dogs so they feel the love and know what is expected of them".

It is important to keep in mind when fostering that this is a temporary situation and that we are looking for a forever home that fits both the dog and the family. Safe Haven provides medical care for foster pets but the family is responsible for the daily feed bill. Fostering does require that you bring the pet to the off-site adoption venues for greater exposure.



It would be easy to fall in love with your foster pet and want to keep it, but, as Michelle says, that is not the goal. The aim is to get as many dogs fostered and into permanent loving homes as possible. The more dogs we get into forever homes means more space for dogs to find room at the sanctuary.

Speaking of their second foster dog, Scooter, Michelle says, "He was quite a handful, trying to tear apart his crate the first night home and then attempting to show our mastiff he was the boss. That didn't work! But once he realized that we would not hurt him

**GO GREEN** By choosing to receive this newsletter via email instead of a printed version, you will not only be helping Safe Haven save postage but will contribute to a healthy environment. Notify us at [shaspets@yahoo.com](mailto:shaspets@yahoo.com) if you wish to go green.

[SEE FOSTERING PAGE 4](#)

## News from the storefront

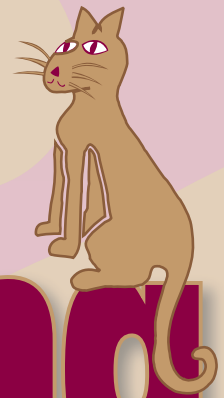
Thrift savvy shoppers continue to patronize the store, scouring for those great buys. There is a wide selection of many items available at any time. Books draw a large following, housewares, shoes, electronics, and of course there's a large selection of clothing. The one thing we are always short of is furniture. People are always looking for that one couch, easy chair, dining set, bedroom set, end table, or desk. So, as a way for you to support our program at the sanctuary, we would appreciate you thinking of the store next time you are rotating your gently used items. For pick up of larger items, call 575-541-4942.

The Semi-Annual Sidewalk Sale and Pet Adoption event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd from 9am-4pm. Hope to see you there.

If you haven't visited the store in awhile, come on by. We get in name brand items, antiques and collectibles, all guaranteed to fit your pocketbook.



Safe Haven  
Animal Sanctuary



# 3rd Annual WINEING for the Animals

Thursday, April 25th at the Amaro Winery 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

402 So. Melendres, Las Cruces

Mark your calendars for this fun and popular event. Once again we'll be serving great appetizers and ticket price will include a complimentary glass of wine. We'll have door prizes as well as a silent auction and raffle. Entertainment this year is by "Tuco John", a popular local trio. Tickets are \$25 each or two for \$45. This is a fun event and proceeds go towards caring for the animals at the sanctuary. And, well behaved dogs are welcome along with their well behaved owners.

Amaro has expanded their facilities so that means we can accommodate even more people. This is a great time to connect with other Safe Haven friends so be sure not to miss this annual event. If you have something you'd like to donate to the Silent Auction, please either bring it by the store or give us a call. Tickets will be available for sale at the Thrift Store and by calling 522-1044 or at Amaro Winery or at the door.

## In remembrance

We fondly remember Mawli and Adam, two wonderful dogs who passed away from old age in the past few months. They were lovingly cared for by foster mom Elizabeth Parker, seen here with both dogs. These two came to Safe Haven after their lifetime owner died.





## Paw News from the Director

As we move into 2013, Safe Haven is committed to its mission of saving the lives of our community cats and dogs by re-homing them into good and loving homes. While that process can often take some time, the pets are well cared for at Safe Haven.

The challenges we face are that most phone calls come from people wishing to relinquish their pets for whatever reason. Those calls from folks wanting to adopt are far fewer. Not being located on a major highway, we have the added challenge of people not always knowing where we are. Thanks to Google maps and GPS systems, that is no longer such a difficult task. We take pets to the PetSmart adoption site three Saturdays out of the month and we are working on the fourth Saturday also. There, trained adoption counselors meet and greet prospective new families. We now have an information booth at the WalMart on Valley Drive on the fourth Saturday of each month. While they shop, our giving community helps us fulfill our wish list with donations for the Sanctuary and for this we are very grateful.

During this year we plan to increase the number of volunteers at the sanctuary through a planned campaign. So, if you or someone you know has a few hours on a regular basis each month to give to Safe Haven, we would greatly appreciate your participation. Remember, you have a choice between the Thrift Store and the Sanctuary. Check out our web page under the Volunteer link for more information.

I continue to represent your sanctuary out in the community through attendance at business networking events and by attending other animal organization events also. I feel strongly that the more people who know about Safe Haven, the better the chance of more pets being adopted into good homes.

We thank you for your continued support of your “no kill” organization.

— Lorna Harris, Executive Director

### Giving Tree at the Thrift Store

In light of the great success of the Giving Tree at the store during the Christmas season, we have carried this on in the form of a Spring Giving Tree. We thank Lee Ann Parker, assistant manager at the store (seen in the photo here), for her creativity in decorating this tree. Envelopes are hung with a note from each pet at the sanctuary describing their needs.



### Wish List

- ProForce disinfectant from Sam's Club
- Pedialite – unflavored
- Canned cat food
- Dry cat food
- Clumping kitty litter
- Clorox wipes
- Exceed dry dog food from Sam's Club
- Sam's Club gift certificates
- HP 564XL or HP 60 Black Ink Cartridges
- Copy paper
- Laundry detergent
- Frontline Plus Flea and Tick products
- Wire Dog Crates – Large
- Landscaping services and plants
- Shade Trees
- Paving stones
- Chicken wire
- Plastic Coat hangers
- Skirt Hangers
- Cat beds with covers
- Easy walk harnesses for dogs

### Join us on Facebook

SHAS has a new Facebook page! We plan to keep you up-to-date on the latest news such as adoption events, animals that need homes, special requests for donations and more! Please join the community and use this page as an opportunity to share news and resources, plus networking with fellow animal lovers and SHAS volunteers.

### Safe Haven Website

Check out our website for all that's new at Safe Haven – [www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net](http://www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net). Here you'll find a new home page “Happily Ever After”, featuring stories of pets and their new families. If you would like to share a story and photo of a pet you've adopted from SHAS, send it to [shaspets@yahoo.com](mailto:shaspets@yahoo.com) and we'll post it for you.

### Compliments of

**Lynn Ellins,  
Dona Ana County Clerk  
and Safe Haven board  
member**

## FOSTERING FROM PAGE 1

or yell at him he responded quickly. He learned to walk on a leash, play catch and play second fiddle to a mastiff three times his size. We do all our training with a soft voice and treats". The foster experience allows one to observe the pet's personality and to evaluate them and recognize what sort of a match they need in a new family. At Safe Haven we pay particular attention to these compatibilities, thus reducing the chance of a return. To see a dog or cat leaving with their new forever family, knowing they have a great chance for a wonderful life together, is rewarding indeed. All the love and caring that has gone into the fostering of the pet is now paying off.

So who makes a good foster family? Anybody who has the dedication of time and love for an animal; retired people; folks who like to travel part of the year and can take a foster pet the rest of the year, or, a family, not sure whether a permanent pet is right for them at this time. To discover more about fostering please call (575) 527-4544 or 805-5338.

"Sadie and Scooter have found their forever homes - Scooter after just two weeks - and hopefully by the end of this year I will be able to foster another one or two dogs and have them become as adoptable as Sadie and Scooter." Michelle

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## Featured Pets

**Louis** – Here we have a grand orange feline who thinks he needs to run the show. He's big enough to do that and surveys his smaller companions with indifference to their inferior quality (his perception). He is a charmer for sure and a magnificent exemplar of his species. He gets along famously with his friend and roommate, Goob, who has learned to defer to Louis' superiority. At three years of age, he would make a great pet for that person who only wants one cat in the household. He would provide many years of companionship. Of course, we would be so happy if you'd take room-mate Goob along with him – they're kind of inseparable.

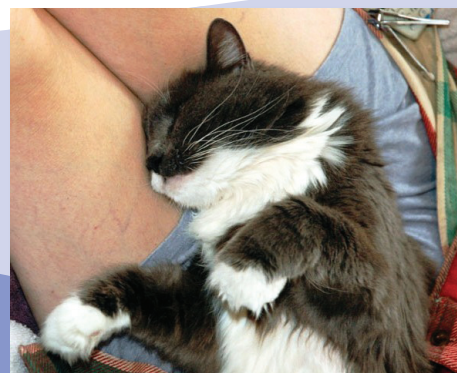


**Sam** – Now this big lug of a guy has the misfortune of getting overlooked when people come out to the sanctuary. He is a blue heeler mix and at three years of age, ready for a forever home. Our volunteers adore him and he loves to go on walks. He is friendly, gets along with other dogs but not cats and is just an overall great dog. We are perplexed as to why he's still at Safe Haven. He would need a large fenced yard and someone who can spend time with him and make sure he gets his exercise and continued training.



## Happily Ever After..... Lucky Miss Grizzie

"We adopted 'Grizwold' from Safe Haven in November, 2012. A trip to our vet confirmed that 'he' was in fact a 'she' and we renamed her Miss Grizzie. She is such a delightful "equal-opportunity" cat, spending equal time with my husband, Peter and myself. It took a while for our other four rescue cats to accept her as a member of our household. The attached photo shows Grizzie enjoying a quiet nap. Easy to see how well everything is functioning now. Thank you so much for providing a safe place where wonderful animals, like Miss Grizzie, can live until they find their forever homes."





## Board of Directors

President .....	Carol Mellen
Vice President .....	Lynn Ellins
Secretary .....	Susan Mitchell
Treasurer .....	Sharon Hartford
Directors .....	Robin Hutchins, Jennifer Goude Jack Smithhisler, David Zeemont
Executive Director .....	Lorna Harris
Sanctuary Manager .....	Jeff Barker
Thrift Store Manager .....	Ismael Lujan
Website Administrator .....	Dorian Rudin
Volunteer Coordinator:	
Sanctuary – Michelle Shawala	mikey195200@yahoo.com
Thrift Store – Stephanie Varela	nevaehfr@gmail.com

## Charitable Remembrance

Recently, Safe Haven has been remembered by families whose loved ones have passed away. In lieu of flowers, these families chose to have donations go to our program of caring for animals at the sanctuary. This is a wonderful way to contribute to the memory of those who have sadly left us. We at Safe Haven feel very honored and grateful to have been remembered this way.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Train to be a dog walker
- Cattery cleaner and cat socializer
- Information booth staffer
- Off-site adoption assistant (Saturdays)
- Landscape maintenance
- General odd-job maintenance
- Help at the thrift store – lots of areas

## Annual Meeting 2013

The Annual Membership meeting was held on January 23rd at Branigan Memorial Library. There were 27 people in attendance. An overview was given of activities and accomplishments for 2012 and the Strategic Plan for 2013 was presented. The new budget of \$290,000 was approved and the board was elected. Grants received in 2012 totaled \$9,085. County Commissioner Billy Garrett was the guest speaker and his topic was the Animal Coalition for Pets & People.

Outgoing board member, Rita Popp, was recognized for her past 5 years of service to the board. Rita has pledged to keep volunteering for Safe Haven. We are indeed grateful to the dedication of volunteers such as Rita.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Pet Smart, 2200 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
- Animal Hospital of 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
- A Dayley Grooming
- Tractor Supply Store
- Gonzales Nursery
- WalMart, Valley Drive

Bridget Burris, DDS, DICOI  
Jared Wallis, DDS

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## Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

840-D El Paseo  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

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U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 2101

### HOURS

#### **Office:**

Mon-Friday – 8 am-1 pm

#### **Thrift Shop:**

Monday-Friday – 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday – 9 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](mailto:safehaven@nightfury.com)

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

*Sanctuary E-mail:* [safehaven.pets@yahoo.com](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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!**