



SAFE HAVEN ANIMAL SANCTUARY

paw print NEWS

SPRING 2012

At the sanctuary... progress and plans



Much was accomplished in 2011 at the Sanctuary. Although adoptions started out slowly at the beginning of the year, the pace picked up considerably by year's end. Jeff Barker is the resident manager and has a part-time assistant manager to help him run the facility. The highlight of the year was completing the construction of the isolation

unit. This has allowed us to take in more puppies and pets with unknown history. It is also a holding spot for any sick or recovering pets. There are currently two litters of rescue puppies in residence and they are quite a handful. They receive a great deal of attention from our volunteers and visitors and we're hoping for good homes for all of them. We now have a Face Book page and you can also find us on Twitter or, visit You Tube and see videos of the sanctuary. After the heavy freeze last February, there was a lot of landscape cleanup work that had to be done. The van we acquired this year is paying its way with the transportation of our pets.

2012 will see a newly constructed chain link exterior for the cattery play area. We also plan to add porches to the west side of the cattery and the visitors center as it faces the dog park. This will not only provide shade and shelter but will cut down on utility bills in the hot summer months. We plan to add additional dog pens this year and to improve the landscaping surrounding some of the buildings.

Thrift Store has great first year

Operating from a new location this past year, the store faced a lot of unknowns. By year's end we had seen a substantial increase in sales at the store, with December being the best month to date. We have been receiving calls for more furniture and large items pick-up but we would still like to see more of



these calls. A large utility trailer and pick-up truck were purchased in 2011 and this allows the manager, Ismael Lujan and his assistant manager, Philip Segura, to head out to more locations as calls come in.

In 2012 the store plans to create a space for a larger and more prominent and informative display for the Sanctuary. Additionally there will be a banner hung in the store informing shoppers that their dollars go towards the care of the pets at the sanctuary. The store recycles aluminum cans so please contribute whenever you are shopping at the store or dropping off donations. Picking up cans as you walk your dog is another way to contribute as well as aiding the environment.

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

Please! Don't bang on my crate...!

by Tessa Nelson-Humphries

Before horrendous cruelty and neglect shattered her she must have been, as we say in the U.K, "a bobby-dazzler." The perfect, show-stopping Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Now, her long once-ringletted ears were still matted despite her Atlanta rescuers' heroic efforts at grooming them, her beautiful eyes dimmed by neglect, almost blind...and when she opened her mouth to wait her wrongs it was plain this tiny dog had been abused for years...her few remaining teeth rotting and broken. Now, as I collected her crate from El Paso's airport the note on its top would be etched forever in my memory:

PLEASE! DON'T BANG ON MY CRATE. I KNOW MY CRYING ANNOYS YOU BUT I WILL SOON BE OUT OF YOUR WAY...I AM AN ABUSED CAVALIER SPANIEL GOING TO A NEW HOME. THANK YOU!

The pitiful scrap inside, flown in from Atlanta, was seen being tossed from a speeding car on to a freeway and rescued, at some risk, by a woman driving behind who saw the evil deed. She was taken to a Shelter and Cavalier Rescue contacted. The dedicated worker who went to collect her for their rescue place told me later that she cried when she knelt to peer into the little animal's cage...her eyes oozing, claws grown back into flesh, those matted ears, balding tail..and little boobs so pendulous that it was obvious the small creature had never, ever, been allowed to miss a breeding cycle.

As I was on Cav Rescue's file as one who had been very successful with "hopeless" cases, P. called me. "Could you...? She's pretty far gone but..."

I did, hence crate and heart-rending note.

I named her Perdita, after Shakespeare's lost princess in The Winter's Tale, who came home at last and she enriched my life for almost four years though the first weeks were nightmares. If she could not see me she screamed unceasingly.

She clawed the patio door so badly when put out briefly to do her "chores" that I had to re-paint it twice. However, my mantra is "Whatever dog arrives, stays."

Glacially, trust grew until Perdita only whimpered softly in dreams and howled only when put in the car to visit the vet, causing fellow-drivers at lights to glare at me accusingly! She was not blind after all, though needed drops forever. She ballooned to a whopping, for her breed, over 20 lbs of silky fur, as I was all too conscious when she decided to become a lapdog, "chirruping" softly to be lifted! When slippers began vanishing I spied on her and choked with laughter and tears watching her "mumbling" one into her toothless mouth and away to her basket where she curled up with it.

For her remaining years she enriched my life. Now her grayed little face, framed in her hooded sweater, watches from a bookshelf.

Sadly, Perdita's hideous life is not rare and not confined to "muttleys" either. Name any purebred dog and similar ugly tales appear - hauled to shows week after week, beaten and abused for not "winning" or producing "perfect pups", or being deemed too big for their breed. On that last I can cite another rescue, my Japanese Chin I re-named Zorro, as he was so foxy! Shipped from England his buyer reportedly took one look, screamed that he was "Too big for breed" and he was dumped in a kennel to live out his life. Not beaten or starved, just ignored. He, like Perdita, became a beloved pet, literally laughing aloud whenever he was petted, succumbing only finally to incurable bowel disease.

As our Safe Haven would agree, ALL animals deserve rescue and give back in spades whatever we give them.

(Dr. Tessa Nelson-Humphries is a supporter of Safe Haven and has adopted pets through their program)

Foster care ... angels helping our furry friends

Opening up your home to foster care for an animal is a wonderful and rewarding way of helping a pet come closer to being adopted into a forever home. Animals come to Safe Haven from all walks of life. Some may be shy around people, not like men/women very much, need socializing with humans. Others are sometimes being relinquished on a short time-frame and at a time when Safe Haven does not have space available. Still others may be recovering from a surgery. By placing these pets into temporary foster homes, they are getting a second chance at life. Stays can be from a few weeks to several months.

If you are retired, perhaps like to travel and do not want the full time commitment that a pet takes, fostering may be a way for you to fill that gap in your life that a pet once filled and to contribute to the work we do. You get to specify if you would like to foster a cat, dog, puppy, large dog, small dog – whatever your preference might be, or perhaps you don't



have one. Long time volunteer, Judy Miller, for instance likes to foster dogs some of which have had puppies with them. On the other hand, Elizabeth Parker fosters two senior dogs, one of whom is terminal with cancer. If you are interested in playing this important role in the Safe Haven program, please contact Jeff Barker at (575) 805-5338. Jeff can provide you with more in-depth information and get the Foster Agreement to you. Safe Haven pays for all medical needs the fostered pet may incur.

Safe Haven is home to a handful of cats that are permanent residents. For whatever reason, they are not deemed adoptable and will most likely spend their days at the sanctuary, living a great life at the cattery and tolerating with disdain their friendlier counterparts. The photo is of Sigmund who came to Safe Haven with his brother Freud. They have been residents for a number of years and still do not think too highly of humans. If you would like to sponsor one of these cats and provide for their care, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. You can donate through the PayPal link at the website or drop a check in the mail with a note for us. You can see more of these kitties at the website.



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
- HP22 & HP27 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
- Paper Towels
- Large Leaf Bags

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. 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 and we'll post it for you.

Lincoln ... a story of survival and love

Having never had a loving home, Lincoln arrived at Safe Haven as a stray. He started life out with a battle with giardia but, after a few courses of treatment, he was finally ready for a forever home. The volunteers and staff kept their fingers crossed that someone would come to visit and adopt this beautiful guy who was so deserving of a good home. Eventually a couple showed up and it was love at first lick. We recently heard from his new family who state that Lincoln is very much enjoying his new home! They write, "He is always happy to see us. He's been eating, drinking, and his health is great. He has lots of room to run when he wants, but he mostly enjoys the shade and lounges by our back door. He's great on walks through the neighborhood. Thanks for taking such good care of Lincoln until we could find him and bring him to his forever home! And thank you for all you do to improve the lives of our community's animals".

This story and others like it is what makes all the hard work we do at Safe Haven so rewarding. We wish for similar stories for all our beloved animal family.



Sasha's new life ... the story of a Safe Haven adoptee

I send news of Sasha's new life. She cried on the way to our house but the minute we let her out of her carrier she walked all around the inside of the house with ears and tail high. I thought she was going to dive under the bed and stay but she came right out after a precursory check. She was very affectionate the first day going from my lap to Mark's lap and affectionately kneading us with her sharp little nails. I gently grab her paws every time but she still likes to show her affection that way. We will work on that. I will try to find a small set of nail clippers at Petco this weekend and very carefully trim them.

On a more positive note, she likes her perch on the cat tree house and watches the birds I feed. She has a feather toy that I put up on rails by the fireplace and she dutifully pulls it down and runs through the house with it. She sits by us on the couch or under our footstool and sleeps at the foot of our bed. She is eating and hasn't cried. She is not spooky

and does not seem to be afraid of any noise; food processor, vacuum cleaner, other animals, television or really anything.

Overall, she is adjusting very well and it is apparent that she has had a lot of time spent on her social skills. I thank everyone who took the time to play with her and make her the friendly cat she is. I do not remember the name of the young lady who told us that she often took pictures of Sasha, but she must have spent some quality time with Sasha, because when I start to take Sasha's picture, it is almost as if she is posing for me. Tell the young lady thank you for me please and if she ever wants to share any of the pictures with us, we would be happy to have them. I am not much of a photographer but have attached a few shots. I will take some more and send you when the light is better this weekend. Tell everyone that Sasha is doing very well and just has a few things to work towards.

Sharon L. Hartford
Associate Broker

575.639.0222

sharonhartford@comcast.net

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Sanctuary Manager	Jeff Barker
Thrift Store Manager.....	Ismael Lujan
Website Administrators.....	Dorian Rudin & Bonnie Thorkeldsen
Volunteer Coordinator	
Sanctuary – Wendy Baldwin	preciouspaws6@yahoo.com

Seeking Board Members

Safe Haven is actively 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 you a board application form with more information.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm and usually last about an hour and a half. If you can bring a professional skill to the table that will contribute to the financial health and overall well-being of a terrific organization, we would love to have you on the team. It is truly rewarding time well spent.

Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership meeting for Safe Haven was held on January 25th at the Branigan Memorial Library. A small group of people were present. Accomplishments for 2011 were highlighted and the Strategic Plan for 2012 was presented and discussed and also the Budget for the current year was approved. There were no board positions up for election this year and the current board and its officers stays the same.

Community Partners

- PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
- PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
- Animal Hospital of Las Cruces
- Whataburger, Las Cruces locations
- Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic
- Denise Cooper, CPA, 1155 Commerce Drive, Las Cruces
- Target, Las Cruces
- San Saba Pecans, W. Amador, Las Cruces
- Central Bark Grooming service

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

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

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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

Website: www.SafeHavenAnimalSanctuary.net

Sanctuary E-mail: shas.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 _____

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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!**