

### A Tale of Two Kitties

At our cattery, behind every feline, there's a tale. Take Chelsea, a standoffish tortoiseshell, who came to Safe Haven as a kitten in 2007. When she was tiny, a volunteer wrapped her in a towel to give her meds. That saved Chelsea's life but taught her to be afraid of being held. Over the years, volunteers have spent countless hours socializing Chelsea. Now she accepts treats and lets us gently touch her head and back, but pick her up? No way! One time she was adopted but was brought back to the sanctuary when she didn't immediately bond with her owner.

Chelsea did get close once—to another cat. For a few blissful months, she was smitten by a big, orange, longhaired male in the cattery. The two cuddled and took catnaps together. But then he got a new home, and Chelsea was left behind. Since then she never has been as fond of another feline.

Chelsea's tale has parallels to our human experiences. Sometimes we two-legged creatures don't fully trust each other. And sometimes when we do, we get hurt. So we may shy away from being deeply touched again.

But on the other hand, take the easy-going Cherie. Pregnant and sick, this fluffy black beauty was dumped in a bag by the back door of the SHAS thrift store a few years ago. At the sanctuary, she gave birth, got well and got adopted. But then her owner developed Alzheimer's, so Cherie came back to SHAS. However, these experiences haven't fazed her; she purrs when being petted and basks in the sun as if all is well with the world.

It's wonderful that at Safe Haven, both these felines are equally loved and cared for, as are all the animals at the sanctuary. They've gone through so much and have so much to teach us.



*Cherie*

Rita A. Popp  
SHAS volunteer & board member

## Thrift Store Business Up at New Location

It has now been six months since the store moved into its new location at 840 El Paseo Road.

Sales for the first quarter have been steady and we are always seeking donations of items. We especially appreciate receiving your used furniture items and other large ticket items such as working appliances, lamps, and other household goods. We seem to have an overwhelming amount of clothing donations and our new and expanded space has rapidly filled up. You can arrange for large items to be picked up by calling the store at 541.4942.

The store manager is Ismael Lujan and he, along with the help of his assistant manager and a group of wonderful volunteers, keep the store running on a day to day basis. The store will start opening on Sundays effective June 5<sup>th</sup>. It was felt

that we were missing quite a bit of business by being closed that day. So now we will be open 7 days a week. Sunday hours will be 11am-4pm. There is a drop-off door at the rear of the building and someone will always be glad to help you unload your donations.

As you may know, the store supplies the operating income for the sanctuary. So, whether donating or purchasing, you are helping the animals of Safe Haven.



## Items We Need More Of:

- ◆ Galvanized metal buckets
- ◆ ProForce disinfectant from Sam's Club
- ◆ Pedialite - unflavored
- ◆ Canned cat food
- ◆ Dry cat food (not Beneful or Ol Roy)
- ◆ Clumping kitty litter
- ◆ Clorox wipes
- ◆ Exceed dry dog food from Sam's Club
- ◆ Sam's Club gift certificates
- ◆ HP22 & HP27 Ink Cartridges
- ◆ Copy paper
- ◆ Letter size manila folders
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Cat beds with covers

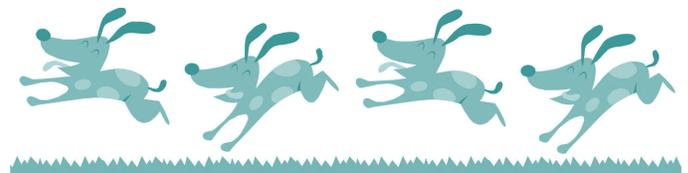
## Seeking Board Members

Safe Haven is actively seeking qualified board member candidates who care deeply about the animals in our community and the mission of Safe Haven. If you, or someone you know, can dedicate a few hours each month to serving, please contact Lorna Harris at 527.4544 and we will send you a board application form with more information.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm and usually last about two hours. If you are familiar with the workings of a non-profit organization and can bring a professional skill to the table that will contribute to the overall wellbeing of a terrific organization, we would love to have you join the team.



*The Fraternal Order of Eagles, Las Cruces Lodge, presented a check to Safe Haven in the amount of \$1,000. We are most grateful to the members of the Eagles for their generosity.*



### SHAS Board of Directors & Staff 2011

**Officers:**

President ..... Carol Mellen  
Vice President ..... Lynn Ellis  
Secretary ..... Rita Popp  
Treasurer ..... Sharon Hartford

**Directors:**

Robin Hutchins  
Jennifer Goude

**Executive Director:** .....Lorna Harris

**Sanctuary Manager:**..... Jeff Barker

**Thrift Store Manager:** ..... Ismael Lujan

**Website Administrator:** ..... Dorian Rudin

**Volunteer Coordinators:**

Sanctuary – Wendy Baldwin –  
preciouspaws6@yahoo.com  
Thrift Store – Shari Randle - 575.805.4385

## Volunteer Corner

*On a cool and blustery afternoon on April 10<sup>th</sup>, Safe Haven volunteers turned up at the sanctuary to celebrate each other and to share in food and fun.*

*At the Volunteer Party, awards were given in several categories. Award for most volunteer hours went to PJ Curry of the Thrift Store, and Ruthie Jimerson and Maggie Wells at the Sanctuary. Artie Ford is the volunteer who has been with us the longest at both the Sanctuary and the Thrift Store. Artie has been with the organization since its inception in 1995. John Hanna was recognized for the many hours he spends playing the violin at the Saturday market and for donating all the money he receives to SHAS. Thanks to all who helped make the party a success.*



*Brandon Burch & Ewa Shropshire sharing dessert*

### Email or Snail Mail??

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](mailto:shaspets@yahoo.com) if you wish to go green!

### 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
- ◆ Mt. View Co-op
- ◆ Denise Cooper, CPA, 1155 Commerce Drive, Las Cruces
- ◆ Target, Las Cruces
- ◆ Sam's Club, Las Cruces
- ◆ PicQuik, Las Cruces
- ◆ San Saba Pecans, W. Amador, Las Cruces
- ◆ Central Bark Grooming service
- ◆ Wal-Mart, E. Lohman

## Safe Haven Gets a New Ambassador

Gypsy is Safe Haven's first-ever Animal Ambassador, representing all the dogs and cats at the sanctuary that have so much to offer as companion animals. While Gypsy waits to be adopted, she keeps busy each week visiting nursing homes with SHAS volunteers to bring cheer to the elderly. A small dog, she is just the right size to stand on her hind legs to greet folks in wheel chairs. People love petting her plush coat. Gypsy, in turn, wags her tail and gives kisses. She is also scheduled to attend fundraisers and other off-site events.

A senior dog, Gypsy came to Safe Haven after her owner passed away, leaving no one to care for her. She is housetrained and leash trained. Her Animal Ambassador status brought her to the attention of a local dog trainer who plans to give her obedience lessons and prove that older dogs can learn new tricks!



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## Evening of Fundraising at Amaro Winery



*Safe Haven supporters and volunteers gather at the Amaro Winery*

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, friends of Safe Haven, together with volunteers, gathered for a fun evening of food, friendship, wine and music on the patio at the Amaro Winery, 402 Melendres Street. The indoor outdoor venue was attended by approximately 93 people. Among the evening activities was a silent auction, raffle ticket sale, door prizes and a complimentary glass of wine, along with finger foods. The money raised will go to the new construction and remodel taking place at the sanctuary.

During the 60-day New Mexico Legislative Session this year, things started looking brighter for the animals in our state after five new pieces of legislation were passed.

***HB 234 (Wallace R-Los Alamos):*** Animal Sheltering Board Sunset Date Extension. Passed House & Senate. In 2007 the Animal Sheltering Board was established to regulate humane euthanasia and to recommend shelter standards and statewide spay-neuter planning. The extension to the sunset clause of this Board, to July 1, 2014, will allow them to continue the work they do to improve conditions for homeless animals in New Mexico.

***SB 11 (Wirth D-Santa Fe):*** Bill passed giving restaurants the option to serve customers who come to a restaurant patio with a leashed dog. Restaurants, the tourism industry and social dog-lovers lobbied the bill, currently the practice is prohibited for most NM towns and cities due to federal regulations. Awaits Gov. Martinez's signature to make this law.

### ***More Good News:***

***Senate Memorial 36 (Sanchez D-Belen):*** Requesting the Animal Sheltering Board conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a fund to lower the cost of spaying and neutering cats and dogs. This was successful. We look forward to hearing more on this important subject in the months ahead.

### ***Cruelty Bills Perish:***

Mirror bills in both the House (HB 319) and Senate (SB 348) to strengthen animal cruelty laws made good progress during the session but were not successful in the end. These bills had a tremendous amount of support across the State from citizen lobbyists, the APNM, and the media. During Animal Lobby Day at the Capitol many spoke in favor of stronger laws for the treatment of animals in our state. Hundreds more wrote legislators and called during the session. While the cruelty bills did not make it through the various hurdles, all of this work paves the way for better results in the next session. We will need even more voices raised next time.

Meanwhile, back at the sanctuary, we continue to work closely with those involved in animal issues in our community and across our state, and continue our mission of saving cats and dogs, one at a time, and finding them new, loving homes.

Lorna Harris

## President's Corner

Safe Haven has made great progress towards achieving our strategic goals for 2011. Based on the Building Committee recommendations, several structural changes are underway at the sanctuary. Kickbacks around the top of each pen were added to seven outdoor dog runs allowing us to place dogs that are known jumpers in any of the pens whereas before we were limited to only two. A small shed was donated to the sanctuary and is being renovated for use as a new cat isolation building. It has been located adjacent to the existing cattery. Work is underway to finish the inside and install an a/c unit. Now we have all the cats in the same physical area.

The cattery was remodeled on the inside for a more efficient operation. Flooring was replaced and the entire building has a new paint job. The exterior wood and chicken wire structure that allows

the cats to be outside is being replaced with chain link. Future plans for later this year include adding a porch to the west side of the cattery and also on the west side of the visitors' center (inside the dog park). This will not only help reduce utility bills in the summer but provides shade for volunteers and visitors alike as well

as some shelter from the spring winds. The Committee also recommended the remodel of the three-sided barn to increase the number of dog pens. The current structure will be torn down and replaced with up to 5 pens (4 intake and 1 isolation pen). This will allow us to accept pets of unknown origin and to isolate those coming in from surgery.

The Building Committee is also looking into the viability of increasing the capacity for safely housing additional animals within the current sanctuary confines. Adoptions have been slow the first quarter, but are beginning to increase. The income from our new Thrift Store is gradually increasing, thanks in large part to the selling of donated furniture and larger ticket items. The first of several planned fundraisers was held at the Amaro Winery - "Wineing for the Animals" in April.

Carol Mellen



# Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

840-D El Paseo  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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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 3 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: [shas.pets@yahoo.com](mailto:shas.pets@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 • 840-D El Paseo • Las Cruces NM 88001, or visit the PayPal link on our website. **Thank you!**