

# FOSTER PARENTS TO THE RESCUE!

by Alan Duhon

*Become a Pet Ambassador for NMAF*

Looking for a rewarding experience? Fostering a pet can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life! When you foster a dog or a cat, you will forge an unforgettable bond -- and help save a life in the process.

Foster care is the key to our organization. Whether you foster a pet or you promote fostering to others, you can help NMAF with its crucial work. When you meet other animal lovers, talk to them about how they can help by becoming a foster parent. Our homeless pets need all the help and publicity they can get!

**How does it work?** A new foster parent is asked to fill out an application, an NMAF representative does a home visit, and the new fosterer signs an agreement similar the one we use when placing our animals in permanent homes. This ensures safety, compatibility and compliance.

We ask that our foster families bring their foster pets to **Saturday adoption clinics**, as this is where we do 90% of our adoptions. The fosterers don't have to stay, but if they can stay, it's really fun! It's a great social experience with fellow fosterers and the public. As a foster parent, you will become a pet ambassador -- no one can promote a puppy or kitty better than the person they're living with!

All resident animals must be happy with their new foster friend, and **everyone in the household needs to get along**. So we take steps to ensure careful introductions and placements in order to prevent any accidents or problems. Socialization of the new animal is critical to his or her long-term well-being.

**NMAF provides a wide net of support.** We provide medications and grooming. We can lend crates and kennels. Our corps of



**Top dog Alan Duhon has the total attention of his resident and foster dogs.**

volunteers has a vast knowledge of behavioral and medical issues. Veterinarians and vet clinics participate and provide services to foster pets. When vacations or emergencies come up, we coordinate alternate homes or boarding. (Even foster parents need a break once in while!)

Foster parents can turn into owners, too! This can be done easily just by signing an adoption contract and paying the adoption fees.

**Foster parents can become as involved as they would like to be in the adoption process.** They are encouraged to screen potential adopters and can be certified to do home visits and complete the necessary paperwork. Knowing where their foster companion is going, and having the final say as

to who can adopt them, eases the transition process. Foster parents are encouraged to keep in touch with the adopter to ensure that the adoption is going well.

We often hear people say, "I can never foster because I will fall in love and can never let go." If this sounds like you, you are **exactly** the kind of person we need -- **a discriminating pet lover who will be mindful about finding a good match for the pet.** If people understand that by saying no to fostering they are closing the door to many deserving animals, they may feel more willing to help.

**Please, help us by becoming a pet ambassador -- foster a pet or recruit a new foster home!**

**You're Invited!**  
**To NMAF's**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2014**  
**From 2:00 - 5:00**  
**Adelante**  
**3900 Osuna Rd. NE**

# NMAF NEWS

Fall Membership Renewal Issue

**NMAF**

P.O. Box 40189

Albuquerque, NM 87196

505.881-PAWS (7297)

Info@NMAF.org

FALL 2013

# by Dani Weinberg **IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES!**

You've just agreed to foster a new dog. Congratulations! You've prepared her crate with a nice, clean dog bed in it. You've washed out one of your old food bowls. And now you're ready! But how to introduce little Miss Ima Foster to the family dog, Hoover (the living vacuum cleaner)? Let me make a suggestion.

Taking turns seems to be a natural behavior in dogs. For example, when two dogs are playing, they take turns being on top and on the bottom. They take turns being the chaser and the chased. So why not use this to introduce two dogs to each other? Here's how I teach the turn-taking game.

Each dog should be on leash initially. If you have two willing friends to help, each person can hold one dog's leash. If you don't have any friends (unlikely!), just attach each

dog's leash to a heavy piece of furniture.

I start with the dogs at a comfortable distance apart - maybe 6 feet or so. Gradually, they can come closer, until they're right next to each other. But please wait until they tell you they're really into the game and not each other!

I arm myself with lots of tiny treats, the size of a pea, and stand facing the dogs. And here's how it goes. Let's play the game with Ima, the new foster, and Hoover.

Facing both dogs, I look at Hoover, say "This is for Hoover," and hand him a treat. Then I look at Ima, say "This is for Ima," and hand her a treat. Couldn't be easier! Now here's the turn-taking part of the game. If either dog tries to grab the other dog's treat (or, for that matter, my hand), that dog skips the next turn. I rarely have to do this more

## WISH LIST

Foster homes for dogs and cats

Sponsors for our Newsletter

Volunteers for Adoption Events

Sponsor for half page ad in "Fetch"

Donations for medical expenses

Pet supply gift cards

Van or bus for mobile adoptions

Cat & Dog Beds

than a couple of times, because dogs get it quickly.

It's not necessary for the dogs to be sitting, although I hope that Hoover has already been taught Sit! What I'm watching for is the intention to interfere with the other dog getting a treat. That's all.

If you have more than one dog of your own, play it first with each dog and the new foster. Once they've all played individually with the foster, try the game with the foster and 2 of your dogs, then 3, and so on.

I've played the turn-taking game with many dogs, and every one of them, without exception, gets it in one training session. It makes sense to dogs, it's easy, and it's fun.

**Here's a nice variation of the game on Youtube**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxT6orDVQ2A>

*Pictured here with two German Shepherd dogs, Certified Dog Behavior Consultant Dani Weinberg, Ph.D., is the author of "Teaching People Teaching Dogs."*





**IN MEMORIAM**

In August of 1999, **Caesar**, at 8 weeks of age, was staffing the Kissing Booth at an NMAF adoption event when he swept Jean Bernstein off her feet and went home with her that day. He is pictured here as a still-eager “puppy” of 13! Thank you, Jean, for giving Caesar a long and wonderful life!

*A Stroll Down  
Memory Lane*



**The Blue Kitty** “adopted” Bev Quinlan when he was 5 months old, in September of 1998. He is still healthy and handsome today at 15 years of age!



**Clarisse**, shown here awaiting Santa’s arrival, was adopted as a six-month-old puppy in 1998 by Adrienne Weiss.



**Stanley**, adopted as a kitten in 2004 by the Kuhn family, continues to bring joy into their lives.

***WE THANK YOU!***

***To our wonderful, generous Volunteers and Foster Parents --***

NMAF would not exist without you. There is not enough space here to allow us to thank each of you individually, but every single one of you is precious to our organization and to our dogs and cats. Thank you, one and all!

***A Huge Thank-You to our Compassionate Sponsors and Supporters,  
including but not limited to:***

- Adelante
- Animal Humane Assn. of New Mexico
- Best Friends
- Doggie Doos
- DXS Dance Co.
- Groomingdale’s Pet Spa
- Long Leash on Life
- Lucky 66 Bowl
- People for Animal Welfare of New Mexico

- PetSmart on Academy Road
- Print Express
- Southwest Federal Credit Union
- The Enchanted Cat Club
- TLC Pet & Uptown Cat Hospital
- United Way & its Contributors
- Vet-co of Valencia
- Vetstat & Dr. Gretchen Steininger
- VCA Wyoming Animal Hospital

***Thank you for your support!***

# Our Hidden Gems in Need of Friends

Some have special needs. Others may not fit in the average home. But every one of these cats and dogs deserves a safe, loving home. If you can't **adopt**, maybe you can **foster**, or become a **sponsor**?

Please help us help them. Please call NMAF at (505) 881-7297 for more info.

**Tigger & Toby:** Neutered longhair male siblings, 3 years old. Don't worry, you're not seeing double! These handsome, friendly twins are great pals and live comfortably with other cats, too. Would like a loving home where they can continue to romp together.

**Kyra & Keesha:** Spayed female longhair siblings, 4 years old, healthy and gorgeous. They play like kittens and are loving with their foster mom and one another. Gentle dogs are welcome friends.

**Rikkita:** 4-year-old spayed female Siamese cross. Shy, pretty and sweet, Rikki can learn to trust given time and a patient, gentle touch. She thinks ladies are the tops!

**Andy:** (Garfield's look-alike) 7-year-old neutered male. Gentle soul who loves to have his silky ears and coat stroked and to be fussed over. On a restricted diet for weight loss and in good health, "Andy Panda" just needs TLC and playtime!

**Lara:** Spayed shorthair female, 3 years old. Lara likes the company of other cats (especially her best snuggle buddy, Cleo) and still enjoys romping with the kittens!

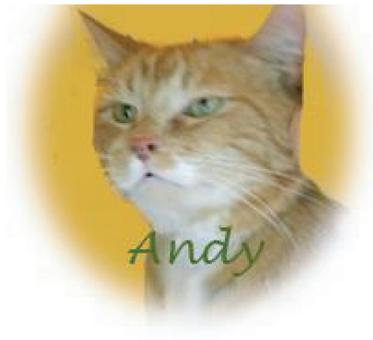
**Cleo:** Spayed female longhair, 13 years young. An "oldie but goodie," Lara's best friend, sweet and gentle. Cleo is looking for someone to snuggle with.

**Izik:** 9-year-old neutered male medium longhair. Looking for a human companion and a doggy pal, but needs to be a "solo" cat. Purring and happy, Izik enjoys a bit of conversation at day's end.

**Labrador/hound mix spayed females, both young and pretty, born in December, 2012:**

**Camille:** Plays well with other dogs her size, good with older kids, housebroken.

**Taylor:** Sweet but shy, knows doggy door, good with dogs her size, rambunctious and playful.



# Fall Membership Renewal Issue



\_\_\_\_ Please check here for information on volunteering or fostering -- please provide e-mail address and/or phone number!

**I want to be a member in the following category (checks or money orders only please, made payable to NMAF):**

- |  |                                    |                                      |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ____ Individual (\$30)                   | ____ Friend (\$200/yr. = \$17/mo.) | ____ Lifetime Member (\$500 or more) |
| ____ Sponsor or Family (\$45)            | ____ Corporate Membership (\$100)  | ____ Other                           |
| ____ Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$15) | ____ Hero (\$300/yr. = \$25/mo.)   |                                      |

NMAF has a PayPal account! If you would rather use a credit/debit card for your donation, visit our website [www.NMAF.org](http://www.NMAF.org). You can also donate through United Way right out of your paycheck! Visit their website [www.uwcnm.org](http://www.uwcnm.org) for more information.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**NMAF is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations and memberships are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.**

To save NMAF printing and postage costs, so that money can directly benefit the animals, please send all NMAF newsletters to my e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to receive the monthly e-newsletter at my e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to receive a hard copy of the monthly e-newsletter at my mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lost (Owners) and Found (Pets)

*by Patricia Murphy*

### Microchips

With all the hoopla going on about microchips, reuniting lost owners with their found pets should be a cinch, right? Most of the time, but not always. The fault may lie with the chip itself. It might be defective and not scannable, or it could have fallen out.

More often, the failure lies with us as owners. A microchip that tracks back to an outdated address or a disconnected phone number is useless. Have you moved, dropped your landline, or changed your cell phone number since the chip was registered? Did you remember to notify the microchip company ASAP to update your contact information? If "yes," congratulations, you are a gold star owner! If "no," you are now a lost owner and need to call the microchip company ASAP to update your contact information. (Along the same lines, if your pet goes missing, it's essential to call the microchip company to report the loss immediately and verify that all your contact information is correct.)

Another reason that an owner can be lost is that the pet was actually never chipped.



*Thanks to Spot's collar, microchip, and tags, Animal Welfare re-homed him pronto when he was lost in 2011.*

NMAF started chipping its animals in the spring of 2006. If your adopted pet is a senior, do not assume that it is chipped. Have your vet or a local shelter or NMAF scan for a chip, and if none shows up, have one inserted.

### ID Tags

Have microchips rendered identification tags unnecessary? We don't think so. NMAF provides every adopter with an ID tag listing

our phone numbers and the pet's personal ID number. We also urge all adopters to add a second tag with the adopter's contact information. Why do we do this? Imagine your own response to finding Pet # One wearing no collar or tags, versus Pet # Two wearing a collar with multiple tags -- owner's ID and/or phone number, NMAF ID, current rabies tag, and perhaps a microchip tag. Of course, factors such as time restraints will play a role, but chances are you will make more of a personal effort to find the owner of Pet # Two whose identity is easy to track. If you find a pet and are unable to contact the owner, and the pet is wearing an NMAF tag, be sure to call us. Whenever possible, we will pick up the pet and keep it at a temporary foster home until the owner is located.

The above article was inspired by several recent failures to reunite owners and their pets. These are just common-sense steps that can spare you the anguish of permanently losing your pet. Please consider getting your pet a tag with your current contact information on it, even if he or she is microchipped. Take the time and all steps possible to avoid becoming a lost owner!



New Mexico Animal Friends  
 P.O. Box 40189  
 Albuquerque, NM 87196  
**505-881-PAWS (7297)**  
**[Info@NMAF.org](mailto:Info@NMAF.org)**  
**[www.NMAF.org](http://www.NMAF.org)**

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**ADOPTION CLINIC HOURS**

We show our animals at PetSmart,  
 8070 Academy NE at  
 Wyoming & Academy.

***CATS:***

Saturdays 11am-4pm

***DOGS:***

Winter: Saturdays 11am-2pm  
 Summer: Saturdays 10am-1pm

**Santa Paws Holiday Pet Photos**

PetSmart on Academy Road

**Saturday, December 14**

Details will be posted on NMAF's website at  
**[www.nmaf.org](http://www.nmaf.org)**

Please call **881-7297**  
 if you would like to help with this festive event.



*Photo courtesy of Beth Sims*

**Street Cat Companions  
 "Second Sunday" Spay/Neuter Clinic**

*Need a feral cat or a feral colony  
 spayed /neutered? **Call us!***

Clinic is held the second Sunday of each month  
 at Animal Humane of NM, 618 Virginia St., SE.  
 \$15 Donation requested for each cat but not required.

For information or to volunteer at the clinic,  
 please call **881-7297** or  
 e-mail **[StreetCatCompanions@NMAF.org](mailto:StreetCatCompanions@NMAF.org)**.



**Every Yard Sale Item Helps!**

NMAF accepts donated yard sale items all year long!  
 Please call Bart Koerner at **881-7297**  
 if you need to arrange for a pick-up of larger items.

Big thanks to our donors of yard sale items and to our  
 wonderful, hard-working volunteers who staff our sales!