

NMAF

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WINTER

2014 - 2015

NMAF NEWS

Winter Membership Renewal Issue

A MESSAGE OF COMPASSION From The Newest Member of the NMAF Board of Directors

By Gloria Graeber

I wasn't sure. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know what would be expected of me. The new year had begun. I had just gotten off the phone with Vicki Williams, president of NMAF, who asked if I would like to serve on NMAF's board of directors.

I've rescued animals all my life, from fins to feathers and everything in between. "New Mexico Animal Friends" sounded just perfect. I asked if I could attend the next board meeting before making a decision. This gave me an opportunity to ask about goals and philosophy.

I was told that NMAF does not take euthanasia lightly, and that it is only used when the situation is without hope. They explained that the focus is on the needs of the animal, then working with the animal to make it adoptable.

I soon found this to be true. I had just rescued a little Labrador-cross puppy and was fostering her. I named her Promise. After taking her in for her first vet check, I got a call from the volunteer

coordinator. He said, "I just spoke to the vet, and he said Promise is in need of eye surgery."

My heart sank. I asked, "Does that mean she'll be euthanized?"

"Of course not!" he retorted, in an angry voice. "Once the surgery is approved by the board, you get to make the appointment."

What a refreshing reality-focus on the needs of the animal, then working with the animal to make it adoptable. I was overjoyed! When I rescued Promise, I promised her a better life, a lifelong, loving home; through NMAF, I was able to fulfill my promise to her.

Now as the year is approaching its end, I have worked with the board members and the volunteers, fostering, helping with fundraising events and at NMAF's weekly adoption clinics. It has been made clear to me that working together, we can make a difference in the lives of homeless animals.



Gloria shares her life with three dogs, Rikka, Clover and Mr. Bojangles, three resident cats, The Wizard, Prana and Bliss, a baby Russian tortoise, Buckaroo, two fish, Honey and Elma, a feral cat colony, Shadow, Scat, Sammy, Buddy and Nuby.

She enjoys a vegetarian lifestyle and believes that nothing could ever taste as good as rescue feels.

Member Appreciation Meeting and Election of New Members of the Board of Directors

Sunday, February 22, 2015, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Adelante Development Center

3900 Osuna Rd. NE

Please come help us celebrate with all the members of NMAF

(prospective new members

are welcome, too!), and get ready for an interesting presentation and discussion with our Mystery Guest Speaker. We will also hold elections for a few of NMAF's devoted officers — Vicki Williams, Patty Bolnick and Sally Fortner, who now serve proudly on our Board of Directors. We appreciate your support for this key event!

Easy Money for NMAF!

Anyone with a Smith's Reward Card can make a donation to NMAF, simply by designating NMAF as their charity.

To make NMAF your designated charity, simply go to

www.smithscommunityrewards.com, enter your information and choose NMAF as your charity.

NMAF's NPO# is 55541.

Update on Street Cat Companions: The SCC Program is ALIVE and WELL!

By Vicki Williams

The SCC program has evolved, and it is still doing wonderful things for the feral/free-roaming cats living in Albuquerque and the surrounding areas.

SCC has been working closely with Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and Vetco, sterilizing 1,254 cats this year. Working out of a house we all call “the Hub,” which is the nerve center for the collection, transport, recovery, and return of the cats that come in for surgeries, the program runs 24x7x365.

There is always plenty of care and feeding to be done, so please call Jayne Sage at (505)681-4713 to volunteer if you can find a few hours to donate.

Panama: A Cat I Will Never Forget

By Gloria Graeber

When I’m asked about feral cats, I am eager to spread the word about Street Cat Companions and our TNR — trap, neuter and return — program.

Jayne, who has a very special understanding of feral cats, and her team of dedicated volunteers that includes Rose, Phoebe, Joseph and a host of others, are what make SCC so successful.

When I started volunteering at SCC, I worked in “the Hub.” This is the area where feral cat intakes are done and also where they come back for recovery after surgery.

This is where I met Panama. Panama was a very large, unusual black feral cat — a cat I will never forget.

He resembled an old dirty rag, a rag that you might keep at your back porch to wipe the mud off your shoes.

After going through the TNR program, Panama was about to be released when Jayne noticed something very different about

The program has purchased additional traps and carriers so volunteers can easily transport the cats to and from surgery. The big purchase was a commercial clothes washer (well, towel and bed washer), for the Hub, which makes laundry detail easier and more efficient. We have also provided vaccines, food, litter, toys, and any necessary medical care.

SCC teamed up with PAWS New Mexico during PAWS NM’s yearly spay and neuter event to get 20 tame cats fixed for their owners. Tame-cat surgeries are an important component to the TNR program. SCC’s resources and education help prevent irresponsible pet ownership that leads to unwanted feral cat populations.

SCC continues to work with the City of Albuquerque, and our contract

him. Panama had brain damage. Someone had apparently either kicked him, beaten him, or thrown him with such force that he could not survive on his own. Jayne brought him back to live in the Hub, where he soon ruled the roost. We weren’t sure how well he could see or hear, but he walked constantly and very methodically. If he happened to walk toward a group of cats eating, they would move out of his way to allow him to eat or to continue his journey right over to the food dish.

Anytime a visitor or a new volunteer would stop by, “Look out for Panama!” was the greeting.

Panama was the recipient of one of Jayne’s not-so-famous haircuts. She got most of the mats out, just enough to reveal scars that indicated a very long, hard life. I brought over some coconut oil to help with his grooming, and it did. After his coconut treatment, he looked like Elvis Presley — very slick and constantly moving!

His litter-box habits were not the best, but no one seemed to mind cleaning up after him — everyone loved Panama. We did it for him.

with them will be in place until June of 2015. This contract allows SCC to provide FREE feral/free roaming cat spay/neuter surgeries to Albuquerque citizens. For further information or assistance with this program, please call the NMAF office at (505)881-7297 or Jayne at (505)681-4713.

NMAF is very grateful to the folks at Intel for their generous donation. This gift has made it possible for SCC to continue to help cats in need.



A clipped ear indicates a feral that has been spayed/neutered

Then one day, he slowed down and wasn’t walking very much. Jayne knew it was time to say goodbye. As we all know, this decision is never easy.

He was surrounded by people who loved him. In silence we all said our private, personal goodbyes to Panama.

As I glanced around the room, I could see that everyone was crying, even the vet. How this “throw away,” feral cat could have such an impact on so many was beyond comprehension. That was Panama.

I was overwhelmed with gratitude that at the very end of his long life Panama found love and compassion at last. Because at the very end, he found Jayne.

If you want to know how you can help save the lives of animals, I invite you to volunteer at SCC, where you’ll meet Jayne and her wonderful team of volunteers.

Looking for a Soul Mate?

Our Canine Companions



Norman

This is Norman. Norman is about three years old. He is very serious. Very serious about wanting a permanent home. Very serious about life in general. VS about using the doggie door. VS about being a really good boy. Not much of a player but gets along well with dogs. Shy initially with people but quickly warms up and is very happy to sit on a lap to watch documentaries. Wants to be a good companion for a single person or house without kids. With his VS look, give him a call...

Ginger



Ginger came back to us after five years when her master became gravely ill. She is a mix of Italian Greyhound and Chihuahua and is sweet and playful and full of energy. She is about 15 pounds of sleek brown hair, gets along well with dogs and people, and is happy to be a lap dog or ride in the car. She has long legs that can keep up with the best of them and eyes that will melt your heart. She will make someone a great friend. Is it you?

Our good friend Merrilee Dolan passed away Nov. 5, leaving behind several cats who need our help. Please call Jeri at (505)350-7463 for more information.



Sully

Greetings! I am Sully, the terrier. I only weigh about 10 pounds but it is 10 pounds of independence. I love dragging my bedding and my toys in and out and rearranging them all. I am happy to play by myself and can entertain myself for hours. I can go in and out but love being in, keeping track of everyone. I can tolerate cats and dogs but do well without either. I would prefer a mature house. I like riding in the car and am very low maintenance.

Our Feline Favorites



Tigger

Not double trouble, but double the fun! These twin tigers are still sweet and playful like kittens with each other, their people, and other cats, and are handsome dudes to boot!



Toby

Binky



His full name is Sir Ollyfur Binkaus, and he is a senior cat. He purrs like crazy when you cuddle up with him, stroke or brush him. He's fun-loving, too, chasing flyer toys and rubbing his whiskers on everything to show you how happy he is!



Kyra & Keesha

Twin knock-outs, up for grabs, and they are not ashamed of it! They will show you their love as they do one another, and will probably make friends with your friendly doggie, too!

HELP WANTED

New Members of the Board of Directors

We are looking for people who are energetic and enthusiastic! We're especially interested in those who have any of the following experience or contacts: radio, TV, media, marketing/branding skills, grant writing. The position is for a staggered 2-year term; meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in NMAF offices. Please call (505)881-7297 for an application and submit no later than January 15, 2015

Cat Adoption Clinic Supervisor

Coordinate weekly adoption clinics. Duties include: keeping calendar of adoption events (Saturdays and special events); keeping inventory of current foster homes for coordinating attendance; helping organize clinic set-up (equipment, literature, and displays) and arranging for emergency substitutes as needed; inventory clinic needs, advise office of any needed supplies, equipment repair or replacement. Similar on-the-job experience and organizational skills useful.

Media Coordinator

Propose press releases and liaise with media to improve NMAF's visibility. Includes preparation of ads, marketing, promotion of special events, special announcements. Collaborate with volunteer Coordinator for special events. Communication and organizational skills required.

Volunteer Coordinator

Keep events calendar and list of volunteers up to date; communicate with volunteer base; organize events to recruit, promote, and maintain a healthy and happy volunteer base. People-person with organizational skills needed.



By Pat Murphy

Four NMAF volunteers attended the Best Friends National Conference this year. 1700 participants represented 48 states, 9 Canadian provinces, and 10 countries. Each day, six hours of general sessions and workshops were scheduled. Although emphasis was on improving municipal shelters, most topics were general enough to apply to NMAF. They included: increasing adoptions, fund raising, media relations, animal behavior, use of social media sites, and valuing volunteers. Networking lunches and an extensive exhibitor's hall expanded the learning experience.

The NMAF participants returned to Albuquerque exhausted and exhilarated, full of practical ideas to make NMAF a stronger, more efficient organization, and with a renewed commitment to our fundamental goals. Consult the Help Wanted Ads in this newsletter and go online for a glimpse of coming changes.

**Mark Your Calendars;
we want to see YOU !!!**

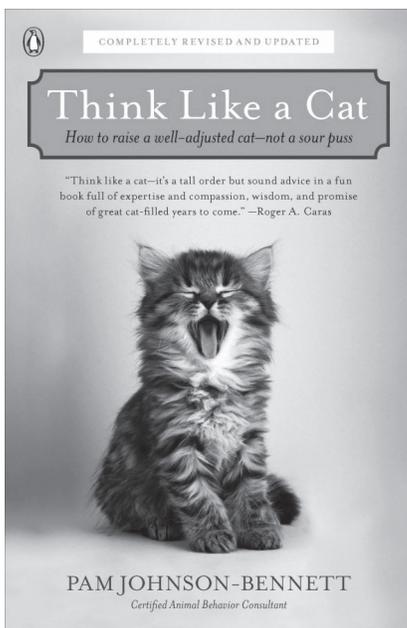
The Member Appreciation and
Annual Meeting at Adelante
Sunday, February 22
2:00pm - 4:00pm

The Fur Bowl will be at Lucky 66 Bowl
in late April. Look forward to more
information early next year.

The Enchanted Cat Club Presents
The International Cat Association
(TICA) Cat Show
at the State Fair Grounds
March 27 - 29

“The Real Scoop” By Jeri Ramrath

The Best Friends National Conference Oct. 23 through Oct. 26 was an overwhelmingly positive experience for animal lovers, giving hope to those who believe that each and every animal counts! A good workshop we attended there was “The Real Scoop: Understanding Litter box Problems in Cats,” by Pam Johnson-Bennett. We thought we had mastered Litter Box Management 101, but we were in for a surprise or two.



Briefly, here are the qualities she recommends for optimum litter-box bliss:

- **Clean:**
scooped twice daily, scrubbed when dirt accumulates.
Replace when worn out.
- **Number of boxes to equal the number of cats, plus 1.**
N + 1 — 1 cat gets 2, 3 cats get 4, etc.
- **Location:**
convenient for the cat(s), not just for us humans:
not near cat's food source, in a quiet place with easy
access, private, and where the cat feels safe and is safe.
- **Type:**
easy for the cat to get in and out of, easy to clean —
avoid covered boxes or crazy designs that make cleaning,
entry or exit difficult.
- **Size:**
at least 1.5 times your cat's body length.

If you're already doing things right and still have problems, or if you just love cats, you can go to Pam Johnson-Bennett's information-packed website www.catbehaviorassociates.com, and pick up a copy of her latest book, “Think Like a Cat,” as a Christmas present for yourself and your lucky kitties, or for a cat-loving friend!



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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

YOUR TRASH IS OUR TREASURE!



A standing ovation is in order for our wonderful, indefatigable volunteers who have done and continue to do mind-numbing and back-breaking work at our yard sales and estate sale! We are grateful to those of you who have donated items, large or small, for our yard sales. We will be happy to receive your donated items all year long for our ongoing yard sales. You will receive a receipt for donation that is tax deductible, too.

Please call and leave a message for Bart at **881-7297** if you need to arrange for a pick-up of larger items.

WISH LIST

- Foster Homes for dogs & cats •
- Donations for medical expenses •
- Sponsors for our Newsletter •
- Pet supply gift cards •
- Volunteers for Adoption Events •
- Collapsible wire dog kennels •
- Sponsors for Ad in "Fetch" •
- Van or bus for mobile adoptions •