

# new mexico animal friends



SUMMER 2010

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is back!! Keep watching for more!

*Interested in volunteering? There are several ways you can help!*

*Volunteer for an event, fundraiser, donate, foster an animal,  
work adoption clinics, or become a member!*

*For more info on any of these, call 881-PAWS (7297) or email NMAFInc@aol.com*

## *From Abandoned to Adored* "Becky"



She wasn't supposed to be there. We were at a high-kill facility picking up some very neglected dogs that had been rescued from a hoarder. At the same time a breeder dumped Becky at this facility. She was blind in one eye, had tumors on her chest but still had the happiest smile you have ever seen. The lady from the local rescue group looked at us sheepishly and said; "I was hoping you guys might consider taking her. You don't have to, I just don't want to leave her here". What could we do? How could we turn down that little face?

Becky, an adorable Shih Tzu mix, came with us and we went to the veterinarian. Upon examination, she was found to have a heart murmur, tumors, needed dental work, spaying and had an eye problem. Due to her age and heart murmur, the vet was concerned that her first surgery should be as short as possible, so her eye would have to wait. Her tumors were removed and found to be benign. She had several teeth pulled and was spayed. Her later eye surgery revealed an eye that had been traumatically punctured but was never treated. The eye that had been so irritating and was of no use to her was removed. We learned that Becky likes to chew and sometimes swallow small objects (hair ties, string, etc.). This resulted in another visit to the vet from which she recovered completely.

Through all of this Becky has actually thrived. She still has a heart murmur which means she will always need special care and may need medication for this condition someday. She is happy, very loving and grateful to be alive! We could all learn a lesson from her!

Situations like this are what makes us different from the big shelters. We know we can't help all of the dogs and cats who need us but we can help those who come into our lives.

To sponsor Becky, please see the membership/donation form on the last page! Thank you for helping us help them.

If you are interested in adopting Becky, please call our office 881-PAWS (7297) or email NMAFInc@aol.com.

-SallyFortner

### ***LOCATION CHANGE***

We are now showing our animals at PetSmart,  
8070 Academy NE at the corner of Wyoming  
and Academy.

**CATS:**  
Saturdays 11am-4pm

**DOGS:**  
Saturdays 9am-12pm

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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“THERE’S NO NEED FOR A PIECE OF SCULPTURE IN A HOME THAT HAS A CAT.”

-Wesley Bates

*Need a feral cat spayed/neutered?*

*Perhaps a colony of feral cats?*

*Don't know where to turn?*

*We are here to help you!*



# Street Cat Companions

The Street Cat Companion (SCC) Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program is alive and thriving. In August 2009 funding was secured that allowed the program to offer free spay/neuter services to the Community. The surgeries are performed at the Animal Humane Association's (AHA) clinic on the second Sunday of each month.

There are approximately 20-25 volunteers from all walks of life that make this day-long event a huge success. There is a LOT to do, from logging the cat's information, transferring cats into traps, prepping them for surgery, performing the surgeries, giving vaccinations and fluids, monitoring the cats as they "come out" of anesthesia, laundry (it's amazing how many towels we use), surgery cleanup, supply inventory, to logging the cat's vitals (and the list goes on). Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the Program has sterilized over 1,000 feral cats since August 2009.

The Street Cat Companion Feral Cat Program is working in collaboration with the Animal Humane Association which allows them (AHA) to offer free feral cat spay/neuter services to the community as well. This combined effort has resulted in over 2,300 spay/neuter surgeries since August 2009.

As we move into the fall of 2010, the goal is to increase the number of surgeries performed at the SCC Sunday clinics and at AHA during the week days. Funding has once again been secured which will allow the program to continue offering free spay/neuter services to the community.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all of the volunteers, and especially the veterinarians, who give of their time and talents, and for their continued compassion for the feral cats that cross our lives.

If you are interested in volunteering with anything involving the organization of the clinic (there is a LOT to do in preparation) or volunteering the day of the clinic, please call NMAF at 881-PAWS (7297) and listen for the Feral Cat Option to leave a message, or contact Jayne Sage at 247-9357.

~Vicki Williams

## How It Works

The process starts the day before the Sunday Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic, when compassionate feral cat caregivers from all over the city use humane traps to capture feral cats. The morning of the spay/neuter clinic, the caregivers arrive at AHA's clinic on Virginia SE with the cats still in their traps. They also bring an empty cat carrier for the feral to recover in. The cats are checked in, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, given fluids, other necessary care and transferred to the carriers. One of the cats' ears is "tipped" as well, to allow the caregiver to know which cats have already been neutered in their colony. The caregivers pick up the cats in the late afternoon, and keep them in a safe place overnight to allow them to recover. The cats are then released back into their colony.

The benefits of the trap-neuter-return approach are enormous, including eventually stabilizing the population in a particular colony, once a large percentage of the colony is sterilized. The individual cats are helped as well: neutered males are much less prone to fighting and infections, and spayed females avoid the burden of multiple litters throughout their lifetimes. For general information on the benefits of feral cat trap-neuter-return, as well as trapping how-tos, visit the Alley Cat Allies website at [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org). For more specific information on the Street Cat Companion feral cat program, visit NMAF's website and select "Feral Cats" from our menu, or phone 881-PAWS (7297) and select the Feral Cat Option.

Do you have spare time & a mellow dog or cat who's good with people? **Consider getting him/her certified as a Therapy Pet.** You'll be able to participate in Therapy programs & take them to visit hospital patients or people in rest homes who've had to give up their pets.

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR DONATING,  
CALL 881-PAWS (7297) OR EMAIL NMAFNC@AOL.COM**

## CAR WASH!

Stop by and get all cleaned up! **August 21st, 9am-3pm - Golden Corral, 3401 Hwy. 528, at Alameda & 528.** We are looking for volunteers to wash and direct traffic. Please ask your teenagers to help! We also need you to stop by and support the animals by getting a wash. Tell your friends too!

## Bark In The Park

Save this date! **Sept. 11, 10am-2pm, Olympus Park, 500 Quantum Rd., Rio Rancho,** from Coors Bypass, go north on Alameda approx. 4.3 miles, left on Quantum Rd. Sponsored by Enchantment Pet Resort, there will be vendors, non-profits, demonstrations, doggie contests and more! NMAF will be there with adoptable dogs! Bring your dog(s) and come enjoy!

## Adopt-A-Thon

Adopt-A-Thon at **PetSmart, 8070 Academy NE, Sept. 10-12.** PetSmart Charities donates \$35 to the rescue organization for each pet adopted that weekend! Come and adopt and send your friends too! Dogs **Saturdays 9am-12pm** & cats **Saturdays 11am-4pm.** We are there weekly too! Same dates & times!

## It's Almost Time For Another Yard Sale

**September - date, time and location to be announced.** Throughout the year we hold yard sales at homes of volunteers, when enough donated items are collected. We are looking for donations of household and sporting goods; items for the yard, tools, furniture, and appliances are all very popular items at our sales. Donations of books are especially appreciated. If you have a donation in the Albuquerque area and would like for it to be picked up please call Bart Koerner at 306-0622.

## 5th Annual DXS Dance Xperience

DXS is an Albuquerque-based dance company featuring HIP HOP, JAZZ & LYRICAL dance! They were "Best Dance Troupe" & "Best Dance Performance" in the Alibi's 'Best of 'Burque '08 & '09. **Oct. 22nd & 23rd, 7:30pm, South Broadway Cultural Center.** Tickets can be purchased at the box office: \$15 for adults & \$12 for students & children under 14. They are donating a part of their proceeds to NMAF.

## Custom Coats and Harnesses by Jan

These coats are custom made to fit YOUR dog. They are made by Jan, one of our dedicated volunteers, in various fabrics and color schemes with no two being exactly alike. The walk-in soft harnesses are for dogs under 15 lbs. We will need the following measurements: collar to tail, girth and neck. Visit our website to see some of the wonderful coats she has made! **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO NMAF.** [www.nmaf.org/coats-by-jan](http://www.nmaf.org/coats-by-jan)

### Board Members:

**Vicki Williams**  
President

**Kiff LaBarr-Shelton**  
Vice President

**Patty Bolnick**  
Treasurer

**Cindy Patulski**  
Secretary

**Sally Fortner**  
Member

**Web Site Administrator**  
Sandy Schmidt

**Photo & Data Managers**  
Tania Hake-cats  
Mary Ellen Carr-dogs

**Foster Coordinators - Cats**  
Jeri Ramrath  
Jessica Reeb

**Foster Coordinators - Dogs**  
Sally Fortner  
Traci Sailor

**Clinic Coordinator - Cats**  
Jennifer Souhrada  
Jeri Ramrath  
Jessica Reeb

**Clinic Coordinator - Dogs**  
Alan Duhon

**Special Events Coordinator**  
Patty Bolnick

**Data Coordinator**  
Cindy Patulski

**Newsletter Layout & Design**  
Jennifer Souhrada

**Editors**  
Jeri Ramrath  
Tania Hake



### OUR MISSION:

- Rescue homeless dogs and cats and provide temporary quality care for them in foster homes until permanent adoptive homes can be found.
- Promote animal welfare through educational efforts and other services
- Reduce overpopulation in companion animals and feral cats through spay-neuter services.

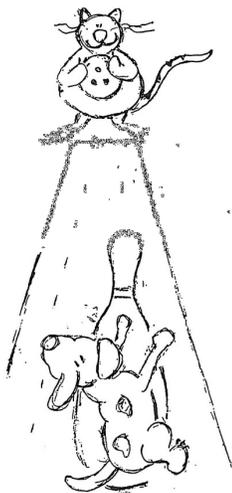
### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Adopting a pet
- Fostering a pet until a permanent home can be found
- Donating funds or gift cards for our foster homes
- Donating towels, beds, cat toys, food and litter for our fosters
- Be a foster "buddy" - help the foster by driving animals to/from adoption clinics or vet appointments if needed
- Volunteer for adoption clinics and fundraising events

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

## Fur Bowl

The Third Annual Fur Bowl was a tremendous success! A fun time was had by all! Thanks to the many donors, participants and volunteers. **A special thanks to our Lane Sponsors:** Iron Stone Bank; Cindy Patulski; Scott Patulski; DXS Dance Company; Gone to the Dogs; Vicki Williams; Vanecek Family & Genay Express, Inc. We appreciate all of your support and we look forward to seeing you next year. **Another special thank you to Lucky 66 Bowl** for having us!



## Robbie's Chica Spay/Neuter Program

Thanks to an anonymous donor, NMAF is able to continue our Robbie's Chica low cost spay/neuter program. Low income residents of Valencia County can have up to four of their pets sterilized at Vetco, Los Lunas for a reasonable copay. The co-pays range from \$15 to neuter a male kitty to \$80 for a large dog, male or female.

Each day we receive calls from pet owners in Valencia County who are so grateful for our help.

To be a part of the solution to pet overpopulation, you can make a specific donation to NMAF for Robbie's Chica Low Cost Spay Neuter Program.

## Memorial Donations:

The following donations were made on behalf of family, friends and beloved pets. NMAF is honored to accept these donations made in remembrance of and as a tribute to their loved ones, and we deeply appreciate your memorials.

### Human Memorials:

Vadis Rhodes  
Janine Menefee  
John Davis  
Robert Hodges  
Wydola Lauxmann  
Alyce Bluett  
Amy Deangelis  
Beth Petronis

### Pet Memorials:

Holly  
Tuco

## A Huge Thank You to all our generous Donors, Sponsors and Volunteers:

Although we do not have room to thank each of you in this newsletter, we want you to know how very much we appreciate your donations and help. You're all the best and every one of you has made a great difference in the lives of New Mexico's animals!

### Sponsors:

Fortner Pound Fund  
PETCO Foundation  
PetSmart Charities

### Donors:

United Way contributors  
Robbie's Chica donors  
All donors

### Volunteers:

Fosters, website managers, data and clinic coordinators, photographers and all volunteers are the life-blood of our organization! We couldn't do it without you!

## Summer & Your Pets

The "Dog Days of Summer" are the hottest, most sultry days of summer and are harsh on your family pets! The Old Farmer's Almanac lists the traditional timing of the "Dog Days" as the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11, coinciding with the ancient rising of the Dog Star, Sirius. These are the days of the year when rainfall is at its lowest levels (except in N.M. during monsoon season) so be sure to follow these safety tips to keep them safe and healthy:

1. Give your pets access to cool, fresh water 24 hours a day, and a shady spot to rest in.
2. Securely fence your pool area, and consider adding a ramp as an emergency exit.
3. Hide any chemicals that could be toxic on a high shelf or in a secure cabinet. Chemicals that can harm your pets include: ~Pesticides ~Herbicides ~Fertilizers ~Radiator & other car fluids ~Swimming pool cleaner ~Household glues & solvents
4. Consider heartworm and flea and tick preventives if needed, and consult your veterinarian about whether your pet needs a pre-summer heartworm checkup.
5. Install springs on all gates to reduce the chance of your dog slipping out of the yard.
6. Keep ID tags up-to-date with your contact information in case your pets escape.
7. Take walks in the early mornings or evenings when the sun's heat is less intense. Avoid strenuous exercise on hot days.
8. Keep your pet's coat clean & mat-free, but don't shave it. The coat provides insulation and works best when tangle-free.
9. After a swim in a pool, lake, or ocean, rinse your dog off with fresh water so his coat stays clean.
10. Accidents can happen, so keep your veterinarian's phone number close at hand and available to all family members.

~Jennifer Souhrada

**DOING WELL AND DOING GOOD****Caring for Our SPECIAL-NEEDS PETS**

Keeping NMAF's foster dogs and cats happy and HEALTHY while they're in our care is an ongoing job, and one that we take seriously. Our foster program has successfully re-homed dozens of cats and dogs who have special needs, whether medical or behavioral. Sometimes it's a special diet, daily medication, surgical intervention, or it may be as basic as extra socialization or training. NMAF and its foster homes try to meet these needs so that each dog or cat in our care gets the continuing care and a home life they deserve.

If you would like to become a SPONSOR, a FOSTER CARETAKER or if you think you might be interested in ADOPTING one of our SPECIAL-NEEDS dogs or cats, please call Jeri Ramrath at 292-6114 or 550-1280. We are their lifeline, and their well-being depends on our every effort on their behalf. You can visit them on our website at [www.nmaf.org](http://www.nmaf.org).

(All dogs and cats are vaccinated, neutered/spayed and all our cats have been tested for FeLV and FIV.)

**Cats with health-related special needs**

- ~Dilly – Male senior kitty (13 yr. old) with hyperthyroidism and sensitive intestinal tract needs calm home with ongoing treatment. Special diet required to promote optimum health.
- ~Izik – Male (6 yr.) with history of gum/mouth condition needs loving one-cat-only home, high-quality diet to keep his immune system healthy.
- ~Rasta Kitty – Female Senior kitty with kidney disease needs sanctuary home as only cat. Prescription diet required.
- ~Pounce – Male with history of gum condition, now appears to be asymptomatic, prognosis pending. May need home as only cat if symptoms reappear. He loves dogs, even lets them groom him! Needs high quality diet to stay healthy.

**Cats with anxiety/fear- related needs**

- ~Cosette & Mamacita – Beautiful 4-year-old mother and 3-year-old daughter are very close. Cosette is very shy and both need new foster home due to family illness.
- ~Kyra & Keesha – 1-year-old, black, long hair, female siblings who need a home or homes with built-in socializing skills. Do not do well at adoption clinics.
- ~Leo – 10-year-old male, very shy, needs special home with patient, caring caretaker. Does not do well at adoption venues. Has been with his sister Cleo for 10 years, so they would like to stay together.
- ~Sedona – Beautiful girl, shy with people but she loves other cats! History of gum condition; now appears to be asymptomatic.
- ~Kip – Male who needs home with someone who can be patient while he adjusts to new surroundings, probably as an only pet. Does not like adoption clinics!
- ~Ophelia – 8-year old, black, female, medium/long hair crippled from an accident, gets around well now and uses litter box. Does not do well at adoption clinics. Prefers to be the only cat. Needs a new foster or permanent home!

**Dogs with special needs**

- ~Becky - 8 yr. old, female, Shih Tzu mix, with heart murmur and one eye (see her story on the front page)
- ~Moby - 11 yr. old, male, basset hound with health incontinence issues
- ~Lilah, 7 yr. old, female, harrier hound mix, had her leg amputated after the previous owner neglected an injury, she also has severe storm related anxiety
- ~Frieda, 1-1/2 yr. old, female dachshund has anxiety due to being rescued from a hoarder and is working through fear-induced aggressive response
- ~Junior, 4 yr. old, male, terrier mix with anxiety due to being rescued from a hoarder and is working through fear-induced aggressive response
- ~Kiki, 3-4 yr. old, female, miniature greyhound mix with anxiety and is working through fear-induced aggressive response

***IN LOVING MEMORY OF VALENTINE - Feb. 2000 - Jul 2010***

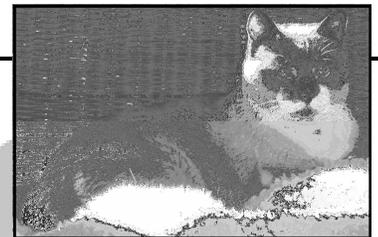
This month NMAF lost a very special family member, our sweet and beautiful poster kitty, Valentine, who has long greeted visitors to NMAF's website.

At eight years of age, Valentine was returned to NMAF by her adopters because they were unable to deal with her health needs. When it was discovered that Valentine was diabetic and, later on, that she had kidney disease and was thus an unlikely candidate for adoption, Jessica Reeb cared for her lovingly until the end came, July 19, 2010. We thank Jessica for her devotion and the many hours of love and care she gave to our precious feline friend, Valentine.

~Jeri Ramrath

***Valentine was a wonderful companion whose presence will be missed in my home. No matter how sick she was feeling physically, there were three comforts (along with her daily medical treatment) that I could provide for her in my home: brushing—Oh, how she loved to be brushed—, sleeping beside me in bed, and eating canned cat food. I'll miss her dearly and hope that her angel will always be watching over me and my other pets. I'm so grateful to have been able to provide a loving home and companionship for Valentine over the past two years and hope that other members of the NMAF family will open their loving hearts and homes to our pets with special needs.***

~Jessica Reeb





New Mexico Animal Friends  
P.O. Box 40189  
Albuquerque, NM 87196

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### T.I.C.A. Cat Show!

We know it's early,  
but the next show,  
"On Safari", is  
Oct. 22-24, 2010 at  
the Albuquerque  
Convention Center!  
We again will have  
some of our  
adoptable kitties  
there!  
Watch for more  
details in our fall  
newsletter!

NMAF is a registered  
501(c)(3) non-profit  
organization. Your dona-  
tions and memberships  
are tax deductible to the  
extent permitted by law.  
We are a foster based  
organization and our  
work is primarily done by  
volunteers. We need  
your support to continue  
this work for the animals!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to become a member of NMAF in the following category (please make checks payable to NMAF):  
NMAF has a PayPal account if you would rather visit our website [www.NMAF.org](http://www.NMAF.org) to use a credit / debit card for your donation!  
Please check here for information on volunteering or fostering for NMAF - please provide email address or phone # for this:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Member (\$500 or more)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Membership (\$100)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor or Family (\$45)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$30)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hero (\$300/yr.= \$25/mo.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friend (\$200/yr.= \$17/mo.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs Animal (name & amount) \_\_\_\_\_

**NMAF—New Mexico Animal Friends - P.O. Box 40189, ABQ, NM 87196**  
**505-881-(PAWS)7297 NMAFinc@aol.com www.NMAF.org**

Your membership dues are completely tax deductible and your generosity is a life-line for many needy animals!