



## It takes a village.....



Some jobs are too big for one person. What seems simple - finding a good home for a homeless dog or cat - actually requires a mosaic of efforts. When an animal walks into his/her forever home, they are there because of the many people who have offered helping hands along the way.

Take Brittany, for example. She showed up at a local animal shelter last spring sporting a New Mexico Animal Friends microchip. We were unable to track down the owner, but that microchip brought her to us. We picked her up, began her paperwork, and the network of supporters began to come alive.

She first went to Corrales Kennels where owner, Dan Meurer, kept her warm, safe and well fed. After a while there, John and Marissa Petrey fostered her, but Brit got cranky with their little dogs. Then she went with Theresa & Harry Hayden but she got scrappy with their dogs too. Brit was letting us know that she prefers a quiet home, maybe with one big, Gentle Ben boy dog, not a home with multiple pets.

So it was back to the kennel with our hapless friend. But life in a kennel is no life for a dog! So.... volunteers enriched her life with long walks on the Corrales bosque. Ed Goodman and Barb Mangano each went several times a week to take Brittany out for fresh air, sunshine and off-leash romps in Dan's grassy exercise corral.

Patty Bolnick, Jeanette Debar and yours truly helped transport her to the adoption clinics so she could hang out with her friends. After clinic, I would take her on field trips to pet-friendly locations to see the world and, dressed in her "Adopt Me" vest, look for a new mom or dad. To help in the search for a new family, Krista Gessing designed her adoption flyer, using photographs taken by Mary Ellen Carr.

During all this, we learned that eight-year-old Brittany needed thyroid medication and eye surgery to clean out a tear duct. John Heidrich, DVM, at VCA Town and Country Animal Clinic, did the surgery and provided thorough consultations to help us meet Brittany's middle-age medical needs. Jan Myszewski helped with transportation and Bill Payne kept Brit while she recovered from her surgery and to give her a break from the kennel (as did Renea Garrett and her family). As a special gesture, Brit's walking partner, Ed, used his artistic talents to make necklaces with Brittany's picture on them for NMAF to sell and raise money to pay for her surgery.

Now, Brittany is with Pat Murphy, a longtime volunteer and foster mom, and she is learning some simple obedience behaviors, like sit, stay, and wait at the door. She already walks like a dream on a leash. And Pat is teaching her to dance. The two of them can really cut a rug! Brittany's smile runs ear to ear as she dips into a bow. When her forever home shows up, Brittany will be a well-rounded dog with a village of friends to thank.

~Beth Sims



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**Santa Claws!**  
**Dec. 11 & 12, and Dec. 19, 11am-4pm**  
**Please come and have your pets' photo taken with Santa!**  
**If you are interested in volunteering to be Santa, Santa's helpers or taking and printing photos let us know!**  
**Call 881-PAWS or email NMAFinc@aol.com!**

ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS



## Friends in Need!

What could be worse than going to your cupboard and finding it bare? Many know firsthand how this feels. NMAF receives calls every week from people needing help because they are unable to provide veterinary care or buy pet food, or who are faced with the heartbreak of having to give up their pets for financial or medical reasons.

NMAF's cat foster homes and adopters are now also facing their share of hardships. Some have had to move family members into their homes; others have lost their jobs or even their homes, causing our foster cats to be displaced. This hardship has had severe repercussions on New Mexico Animal Friends' cat foster family as well: we recently lost several of our longtime foster homes, and the cats in those homes had to be relocated, some of them into a commercial boarding facility because there were no foster homes available. And since NMAF no longer has access to a permanent cat adoption center, our cats can only be viewed and fallen in love with two days a week. So our foster program is now overloaded with homeless kitties. This means that we're unable to take in many of the needy cats from the community for lack of space in the foster network. This vicious circle exacts a high price: each life we can save is precious.

And there's more... Because so many in our troubled economy are unsure of their future, people are not adopting pets as readily as they have in the past. Since the adoption rate is lower, it adds another crunch to the program.

How can you help? In these hard times, each of us is called upon to take some action to help -- If there is any room in your home for a cat or a kitten, won't you please consider taking one in as a foster pet or as an addition to your pet family? Working together, we can turn hard times into a happy new future for our homeless feline friends.

~Jeri Ramrath



Izik  
lost his home and  
his best friend Dilly

## Hard Times Hit NMAF Cat Program



Heidi  
lost her foster home



Dilly

### In Memory of DILLY

We want to extend a huge, heart-felt THANK YOU to all who gave support to our precious foster cat Dilly, who purred through his life until the very end. In October, Dilly lost his battle against what was finally diagnosed as lymphoma. Our special thanks go to Susanne Walkford, Dilly's longtime foster mom; to Dr. John Heidrich of VCA Town & Country, Dr. Sandra Whaley of Manzano Animal Clinic, and Dr. Christine Wilson of All Creatures Healing Arts, for their excellent care and generosity; and to Elizabeth Thompson for her kind memorial donation for Dilly in memory of her beloved Thomas à Buckett. Dilly, your genteel and trusting spirit will remain an inspiration to us all.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Do you have an extra room in your home?** Keep a kitty out of the kennel! Even a bathroom with a window will do. You can foster a cat or kitten for a while – providing just a week of vacation relief can make a big difference.

**Spread the word and donate your surplus food:**

The Store House

106 Broadway, SE - Broadway & Central, phone: 842-6491

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Animal Humane Association

AHA's Thrift Shop will distribute surplus donated pet food on a first-come, first-served basis. Hours: Mon.- Thursday 9 am to 5 pm.

Volunteer in NMAF's upcoming Pets & People Food Drive.

Call 881-PAWS or e-mail [nmafinc@aol.com](mailto:nmafinc@aol.com) for details.

### NMAF MISSION:

- To 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 & feral cats through spay/neuter services.

### Robbie's Chica 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 co-pay.

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

### Street Cat Companions

*Need a feral cat spayed/neutered?*

*Perhaps a colony? We are here to help you!*

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! **Street Cat Companions** clinic is held the second Sunday of each month at Animal Humane of New Mexico, 615 Virginia St. SE. Cost is \$15 per cat, a donation to cover supplies. For specific info on this program or to volunteer at the clinic, call 881-PAWS (7297) or email [NMAFInc@aol.com](mailto:NMAFInc@aol.com).

Yes, I would like to become a member in the following category (checks only please and make checks payable to NMAF):

- Lifetime Member (\$500 or more)   
  Hero (\$300/yr.= \$25/mo.)   
  Friend (\$200/yr.= \$17/mo.)  
 Corporate Membership (\$100)   
  Sponsor or Family (\$45)   
  Individual (\$30)  
 Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$15)   
  Other (\$10)

NMAF has a PayPal account if you would rather visit our website www.NMAF.org to use a credit/debit card for your donation!

You can also donate through United Way right out of your paycheck! Go to their website www.uwcnm.org for more info.

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

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.**

**Thank you, Enchantment Pet Resort!**

On Sept. 11, Enchantment Pet Resort sponsored Bark in the Park again. There were vendors, non-profits, demonstrations, doggie contests and more! NMAF was invited to be part of their event! We brought adoptable dogs and had a great time! Looking forward to next year too!

"Women and cats will do as they please and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea."

~Robert A. Heinlein

**Thanks DXS Dance Xperience!**

A GREAT BIG thank you to DXS! Voted "Best Dance Troupe" in the Alibi 2008 & 2009. They generously donated some of the proceeds from their last performance directly to NMAF and have done so for the past 2 years!

**A special Thank You.....**

to the **Enchanted Cat Club** for sponsoring the recent T.I.C.A. cat show! Four of our adoptable kitties (Lolo, Nigel, Kitty-Kitty, and Cinnamon) were entered in the "Household Pet Category" and won several "Best" awards. Nobody ran away or attacked a judge either! We're in this to help our cats get adopted and get used to being handled, but you can bet we'll be hanging those ribbons on their cages at adoption clinics! A BIG thank you to all the donors of food, toys, treats, and monetary donations from the very wonderful vendors and The Enchanted Cat Club! We're very excited about next year!

Throughout the year we hold yard sales when enough donated items are collected. We had several this year and want to thank everyone! Thank you to the yard sale hosts, all volunteers and donors! There are so many and we appreciate you all GREATLY! Without all of you it couldn't happen! Please consider donating and possibly opening your home to host a yard sale next year! We will also be looking for donations and volunteers for the coming year's yard sales! Check our website for details!

**CAR WASH THANKS!**

Our car washes are a LOT of work but are successful! We all have fun and make money for the animals of NMAF. A GREAT BIG Thank you Golden Corral and to the students at Cibola High School who volunteered!



**ADOPTION CLINIC HOURS**

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

**CATS:**

Saturdays 11am-4pm  
Sundays 1-4pm

**DOGS:**

Saturdays 11am-2pm

**A Huge Thank You to all our generous Donors,**

**Sponsors and Volunteers:**

We want you to know how very much we appreciate your donations and time! Every one of you has made a great difference in the lives of New Mexico's animals!

**Board Members:**

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- Kiff LaBarr-Shelton**  
Vice President
- Patty Bolnick**  
Treasurer
- Cindy Patulski**  
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### Pets & People Food Drive

Throughout Dec. NMAF is accepting people and pet food donations and supplies. New clothing, blankets, and toiletries also. The donations will be used to support pets and their family members who are homeless, low-income or elderly as well as feral cat caregivers. Call us for drop-off locations!



Everyone at NMAF thanks you for your support and sends you meowy grateful wishes for the holiday season!

The FurBowl is coming in spring!  
 Get your teams together!  
 Keep checking our website  
 for the date!

### ***WISH LIST:***

- **Foster homes**
- **Volunteers for adoption clinics and special events**
- Flip video camera
- Donations to help with medical expenses
- Gift Cards
- Cat & dog Beds
- Towels
- Cat & dog treats
- Cat & dog food - wet and dry
- Litter
- All sizes leashes, collars & harnesses cat & dog
- Life Stages collapsible cages for cats 24" x 18" x 21" (for adoption clinics)
- Compressed rawhide bones
- Jerky treats- duck, chicken
- Large dog house (Igloo)

### ***Jan's Coats for Christmas!***

These coats & harnesses are custom made to fit YOUR dog. They are made by Jan, one of our dedicated volunteers, with no two being exactly alike. There are coats and walk-in soft harnesses. Visit our website for the measurements needed & see some samples of the wonderful coats and harnesses Jan has made!

See the picture to the left!  
**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO NMAF.**  
[www.nmaf.org/coats-by-jan](http://www.nmaf.org/coats-by-jan)



### **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting this year will feature a guest speaker & board elections. It will be held at Adelante Development Center, 3900 Osuna NE, Sun. 2/17, 2-4pm. Come hear about our organization and all the great things we have accomplished this past year!



### **SANTA CLAWS is Coming to Town!**

Customers and their pets are invited to pose for a holiday photo with Santa Claws. NMAF will benefit from the sales on **Sat. & Sun. Dec. 11 & 12, and Sun. Dec. 19, 11am-4pm at our PetSmart store, 8070 Academy Rd. NE.** (at the corner of Academy and Wyoming). For \$9.95, pet parents will receive one 4x6 digital photograph in a holiday collector frame. Stop by and help us raise money for NMAF! We need volunteers also: Santa, photographers, and Santa's helpers. Call or email to help! 881-PAWS.