

NMAF

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WINTER
2015 - 2016

NMAF NEWS

Winter Membership Renewal Issue

Hi-Yo SILVER, AWAY!

By Alan Duhon

Silver was brought from Clovis to NMAF. Our newest foster parent (then), Marcella, met the transport team and took Silver home. He is a large Schnauzer cross with wild fur and wild eyes. Little did Marcella know how traumatized our little Silver was. He was terrified of being in the house, of meeting her big dog Frodo, and of the very hyper Sterling. While never snappish, Silver refused to be near Marcella for weeks. Slowly she was able to earn his trust. Over a period of weeks he would stick first one foot and then the other in the back door. Eventually he got to the bedroom, and at last he would sleep indoors with Frodo.

NMAF takes in a lot of dogs with undocumented histories. Rarely, thank goodness, are they as traumatized as Silver. But each has been uprooted in some manner, be it from a responsible adopter who is suffering severe medical issues, to the case of Silver where there may have been some abuse and horrible neglect. Each has to be handled gingerly and patiently as they settle into the routine of their new foster home, and then into a

permanent placement. For some dogs, it is overnight. For Silver, it was months of patient care.

Gradually Marcella won him over. NMAF tried to help with his socialization process. Our volunteers visited Marcella's home to play with him, took him on walks and spent time with him at adoption clinics to expose him to strange noises, commotion, and new folks. He learned the joys of camping, mountain climbing and observing cattle with Marcella. She bathed him in a mountain stream when he gleefully rolled in the cow pies.

At a Saturday adoption clinic, a family from Los Alamos came to meet Silver. They stayed almost two hours, and Silver progressed to the point where he allowed the young daughter to pet him without shrinking away from her. They were smitten. Marcella arranged a hike and a home visit for the weekend. Silver passed each test with flying colors!

It has been a couple of months, with a couple of hiccups along the road. But Silver has settled in with his new family and they adore him! He rides in the car, goes for walks and enjoys life



without constant panic.

NMAF cannot help every dog. But the rewards of helping even one makes it worthwhile. NMAF pools all its resources to help its animals who have special needs. Animals like Silver cannot be helped in municipal shelters. He would surely have been put down within hours. Not everyone can adopt or foster this type of animal. While Silver was one of the most difficult intakes, NMAF has helped other difficult cases this year. In all, many at-risk dogs and cats were rehabilitated and found happy homes with NMAF's help this year!

So NMAF bids him a fond "Hi-Yo, Silver, Away!" And NMAF bids a hearty "Thanks!" to our volunteers, fosters and supporters that make it all possible!

THE TALE OF A FOSTER PARENT

By Vicki Williams



Lefty and Pedro came to us from the City's Shelter when they were about three months old, two tiny love bugs, with huge gold eyes and soft shimmering silver fur. They came to stay with me in my foster room, which was designed especially for growing kittens, with high cat trees for climbing and stretching, and a multitude of toys to stimulate their senses. I fell in love, and wanted to adopt them. I thought, "They deserve a good home, and I can give them that."

They were perfect little gentlemen with calm demeanors. What a joy it was to spend time with them. They would greet me

with serious mews at feeding time and wasted no time scarfing down their food, yet they were always willing to share with each other. After mealtime they would sit on my lap, my shoulder, my head, my arm, my leg, and politely request their belly massages and ear rubs as their soft purrs resonated throughout the room. I fell deeper in love, and wanted to adopt them. I thought, "They deserve a good home, and I can give them that."

Then one day, I let them explore the whole house. They were leery of my three young cats, but it didn't take long before they were all playing and chasing each other around the house. Lefty and Pedro were fitting right in, sitting on my lap as I watched TV, giving me sweet kisses with their tiny rough tongues, climbing on my shoulders to gently play with my hair, and sitting patiently as I trimmed their claws and brushed their fur. I fell deeper in love, and wanted to adopt them. I thought, "They deserve a good home, and I can give them that."

I took them to our adoption clinics each week, and they were

the stars; everyone wanted to play with them, rub their bellies, kiss them, love on them and Ooh and Aah over them. Then one Saturday, I returned to the clinic to pick them up and Jeri said, "Guess who got adopted? Lefty and Pedro! They are going to live with a wonderful couple with two young boys." And I thought, "This couple fell in love and wants to adopt them. Lefty and Pedro deserve a good home, and this wonderful couple with two young boys can give them that."

Being a foster parent is a crucial and rewarding experience; it allows me to know positively, absolutely that I am making a magnificent difference in the lives of the animals in our organization.

Lefty and Pedro are living a marvelous life in a loving home. I think of them often and smile. As for me, I will move on to my next foster cat or kitten, fall in love and want to adopt them. I will think, "They deserve a good home, and I can give them that," knowing full well what the real outcome will be. And I'm good with that.

Adopting an Older Companion Animal

By Gloria Graeber

Adopting a new companion animal is filled with excitement! Should you adopt a dog or a cat, a puppy or a kitten? Adopting an older companion animal is usually considered only briefly and quickly forgotten when the sight or thought of a puppy or kitten enters the equation.

There is a lot of guesswork involved in puppies and kittens. How big will it get? Will I be able to train it? Will I still like it when it grows up? There is a reason nature makes puppies and kittens so darn cute! It's a trade-off. When your new puppy or kitten destroys your favorite shoes or the Persian rug you inherited from your Aunt Betty, it's so easy to forgive them... They're just so darn cute!

Adopting an older mature companion animal removes all the guesswork from the process. You know exactly what you're getting as size and temperament are well established by the time they reach adulthood, allowing you to skip over the training process and go right to the loving. This can be so rewarding for both of you. Bonding can start immediately when you adopt an older companion animal that comes with years of experience at being a companion.

With NMAF, your companion animal has been in a foster home, which gives you the advantage of learning all about them and what

to expect once you get them home. The foster parent can answer many of the questions you might have in an effort to eliminate unexpected surprises.

In the last few months we have found good homes for many senior companion animals, and we receive delightful updates on the absolute joy they've brought to their new families.

Marvin is one of our senior dogs available for adoption. Marvin has a unique personality, and he likes to just chill! He's not so much into the touchy-feely stuff, but he's sure to follow you around the house just in case you need his assistance. He's a friend who will sit with you through a long movie just so you know you're not alone. Why be alone for your next home movie? Come meet Marvin, he might just be what you need in your life!

Briggs is one special adult cat! A very handsome "gentleman" cat. Briggs possesses distinguishing features that make you think of a bobcat at first, but his gentle nature will make you realize that he is a happy six year old love bug! Briggs enjoys meeting new houseguests, but for larger parties he prefers having access to a cabinet or closet, that he can proudly open himself, for some peace and quiet. Please come to meet him so he can intrigue you enough to "love him, squeeze him.....take him to his forever home!"

Adoption Clinics - One More Time

By Pat Murphy

Why do NMAF volunteers come to clinic Saturday after Saturday? The short answer: clinics have a serious purpose and yet are highly entertaining. Many volunteers are also fosters who want to show off their dogs and cats and talk about them with potential adopters. Some are simply dedicated members who are willing to walk dogs, cuddle foster cats and dogs, or help set up and tear down crates. They welcome the opportunity to talk to members of the public about issues such as spay/neuter, or to teach children and

adults how to approach and act around unfamiliar animals.

Everyone agrees that interaction with clinic volunteers is very beneficial to our foster animals. One recent example: I had a foster dog who had been a breeding mom, kept outside in a kennel with minimal human contact. She came to me frightened of any new experience, leery of strangers. Her first time at clinic she was terrified. Volunteers treated her gently, talked to her softly, petted and massaged her, held her on their laps to let her know she was safe and loved. Her second clinic was more of the same and she began to relax. Each subsequent clinic she became more confident and comfortable. Today, her adopters report she is a social butterfly, trusting and happy to meet strangers. Another success for clinic volunteers!

Other benefits of attending our weekly adoption clinic include: the psychological lift of participating in a group that shares the same goal - to help animals that have been abused, neglected or are not wanted anymore, to change direction and find a new

So, who to adopt, a puppy or a kitten, or an older dog or cat?

The Top 10 "Wonders" of Adopting a Puppy or Kitten:

1. Wonder how to teach them when to sleep and when to be awake?
2. Wonder how to teach them when to bark or meow and when to remain silent?
3. Wonder how to teach them who to jump on and who to avoid?
4. Wonder how to teach them where to pee?
5. Wonder how to teach them where to poop?
6. Wonder how to teach them when, what and where to eat?
7. Wonder how to teach them where to sleep?
8. Wonder how to teach them the meaning of "yes"?
9. Wonder how to teach them the meaning of "no"?
10. Wonder how to teach them to walk on a leash and come when called?

Wonder where you'll find all the time and patience to do all 10?

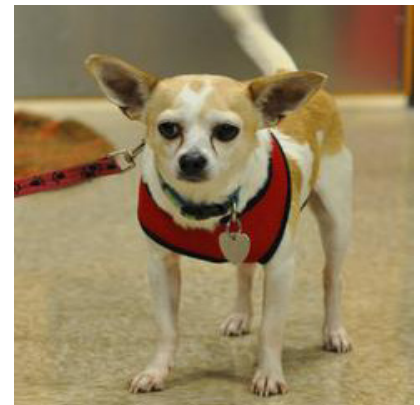
The ONE and Only Wonder of Adopting an Older Dog or Cat:

1. There is no wonder!! They already know it all!

Wonder when you can adopt an older companion animal and start loving them immediately? Come to see us at PetSmart on Saturdays, Wyoming and Academy, and we'll help you find out!



Photo of lovely Lana by Helmi Fitch

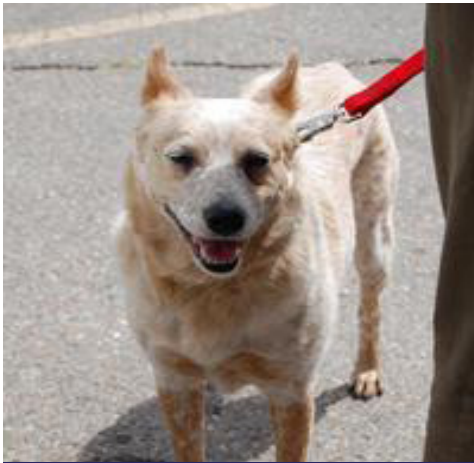


Sexy Skeeter

loving home; the practical experience of learning new training techniques; the fun of sharing stories about past and present foster parent's successes, and about our personal pets. There is always food, lots of it, to cement the bonds of our little band of brothers and sisters.

We always need new adoption clinic volunteers even if you can only give an hour or two one Saturday a month. If that is not possible, we invite you to come join us occasionally for a few minutes. If you are an adopter, bring your dog or cat. We delight in seeing our "alumni".

CANINE COMPANIONS



Carly

Carly is a pretty girl with a big heart. Her role in life is to be your utterly devoted, attached-at-the-hip companion. Carly is a serious girl with eyes only for her person, whom she loves without question. Hiking, going for car or horse rides would be a definite yes. This is a girl that is so eager to please and so naturally obedient that she can go off leash. Her special human wants to be with her as much as she will want to

be with them, because it breaks her heart if she is left behind. She will forgive them though, and waits patiently by the door for you to return. If this kind of adoration is what you've been looking for, then look no further. People who are familiar with the breed will recognize her personality as typical heeler.



Marvin

Hey guys, I'm Marvin. I'm a Lhasa Apso and am about eight years old. I am typical LA in that I like to be around people but not necessarily on them. I can take a treat most gently. I like the doggie door and have no problem going out even when the sprinklers are on or it is cold out. I'm not a big chewer unless it is a magazine: I love Reader's Digest! I like going out on the leash and riding in the car. I'm getting along well with my many foster brothers and sisters, but I like to be in charge. I like to sit next to my foster parent when he's working on the computer or watching TV. I don't mind a tickle under my chin, but watch out if you stand over me or try to cover my eyes: I don't like that.



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 other dogs. Shy initially with people, but quickly warms up and is very happy to sit on a lap to watch documentaries. He wants to be a good companion for a single person or house without kids. With his VS look, give him a call.



Pepper

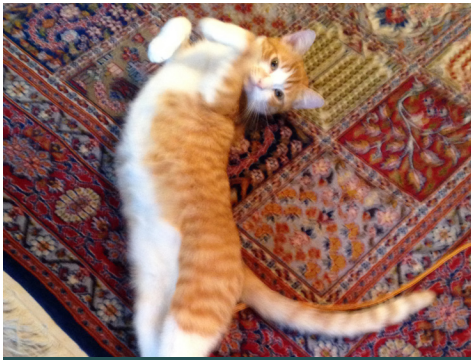
Pepper is a bright, extremely vivacious little beauty that will win your heart. This energetic little terrier/pointer spirit was probably born in 2009. She loves everyone and adores kids. She is seldom found without some sort of toy in her mouth and lives for chasing the ball or a toy. In the house she is quiet and well behaved. When you are home, she will curl up in a ball at your feet or snuggle with you in a chair or on the couch. But once outside, she is bursting to go, go, go. If you are someone who loves being active in the outdoors and wants a doggie companion at your side (on leash please), please come meet this adorable girl.

STATISTICS

Based on our current statistics, our intake of dogs and cats for 2015 is expected to be 125 animal intakes and 125 adoptions. Chica's Fund, NMAF's community spay and neuter program for Valencia County, provided funding for 78 dog and cat surgeries this year.

The Street Cat Companion Program provided funding and in-kind donations of food, litter and supplies, in an effort to help subsidize the transition from the Best Friends Community Cat Program to Animal Welfare's TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) Program.

FELINE FAVORITES



Decker Neutered Male
DOB 6/1/14
Domestic Shorthair Red Tabby with White

Soft and Gentle Sidekick

Can you rub my tummy and kiss my head at the same time? Here, I'll just lie down and stretch out, to make it easier for you...I'll pat your hand and rub my head just a little on your leg so you'll know I'm happy. My soft paws and gentle purr will steal your heart. I only need my claws for games



Bella Spayed Female
DOB 9/1/06
Domestic Longhair Blue Tabby

Please Indulge my "Catitude!"

I am kind of a diva. But I promise to yield my hissy, haughty ways to your caress: I will purr, chirp and knead, even lick your hand, when you give me some "massotherapy." (Lowers your blood pressure as well as mine.) I prefer to be the only cat in your life, but a nice, quiet doggie would be okay, as long as we keep things in perspective — I remain the Queen.

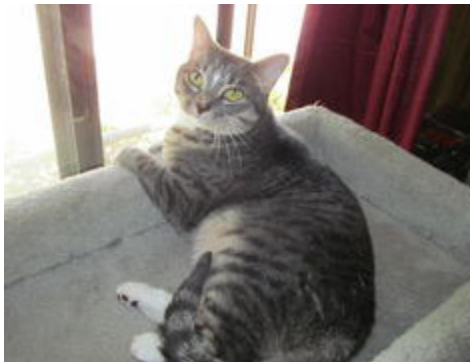
Note from my Foster Mom, Pat: Bella vocalizes to let her opinions be known, whether they be a frustrated yowl during a car ride, or a pitiful mew (please stroke my belly).



Briggs Neutered Male
DOB 10/24/09
Domestic Shorthair Brown Tabby

— to catch flying feathers or a little hide-and-seek under the blanket. (I like to stay busy.)

Note from Decker's foster mom, Jeri: Decker is beautiful, both inside and out. His coat is soft and silky and snuggling with him is a real treat! He's gentle, yet charmingly kittenish. He is a joy!



Sarah Spayed Female
DOB 4/14/09
Domestic Shorthair Blue Tabby with White

Forever Your Numero Uno

Having earned an A+ in lap-sitting and an award as Official Door-Greeter, I faithfully promise to be your Numero Uno if you will give me first place in your heart! Oh, but no other cats or dogs, please; I'm really all you need to be happy, anyway. I'm not only beautiful, but charming and a little sassy sometimes, talkative but not pesky about it. I can't wait to meet my new family. Could that be you?

Note from Sarah's friend, Barbara: She is easy to please both with her palate and her television tastes!

Gentleman and Diplomat

I am a master of diplomacy. I will politely greet almost any newcomer to your home, and show him or her around the domain, even welcoming children, if they are kind.

My role at home is that of peace-keeper, and in my current living conditions, I get plenty of practice. I successfully interact with an elderly feline queen and princesses, while keeping in good stead with my dear feline friend Stratton. So far I have managed to avoid any breaches of feline etiquette and quell any disputes that have arisen. Now that I have set the tone for my foster home, I would love to have a home of my own where I can practice being a simple and adored companion cat, lying at your feet, our hearts growing closer day by day...



Susan Spayed Female
DOB 5/15/2005
Domestic Shorthair Tortoiseshell

What a relief! To be inside a warm home, safe and sound. I was tossed out into the cold last year when my mom passed away. Now I'm eating, sleeping like a log, and purring my way to contentment. My new coat is soft and shiny, and I'm ready to settle into a nice, new adoptive family who will make me feel that I'm special again.

Susan's foster mom, Jeri: Little Susan may be tiny, but she vibrates with a mighty purr. She is eating a prescription dry food for her digestion, with a little OTC canned. Warning: she will "herd" you toward the food bowl to when she thinks it's time for her snack!

Winter Membership Renewal Issue



Please send me information on volunteering for NMAF _____

I would like to receive information on fostering a cat _____ a dog _____

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. You can also donate through United Way right out of your paycheck! Visit their website 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.

• I'd like to receive the monthly e-newsletter at my e-mail address: _____

Have you changed your mailing address or e-mail lately?

Please send an e-mail to info@nmaf.org or call the office at 881-7297 to let us know. We want to stay in touch with you!

A Message of Appreciation

“There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.”

– Idowu Koyenikan

This quote epitomizes the work and goals of New Mexico Animal Friends. There are many activities and responsibilities that are performed daily by a host of individuals which allows us to succeed in accomplishing our mission - “Helping Dogs, Cats, and the People Who Love Them.”

A COLOSSAL Thank-You goes out to each and every one who gives of themselves, their home, time, compassion, distinct expertise, and vital knowledge for NMAF. You are our foster parents, adoption clinic volunteers, program coordinators, media and marketing designers, office staff, fundraisers, and board members. You are New Mexico Animal Friends!

An ENORMOUS Thank-You goes out to NMAF’s dedicated and skilled veterinarians who provide critical and routine medical care for our animals.

A GIGANTIC Thank-You goes out to NMAF’s devoted sponsors, donors, and members. Your continued loyalty and support provides a solid foundation which allows us to continue to save the animals that come across our path.

**Lucky 66
Bowling Alley will host
the 9th Annual
FUR BOWL!
Sunday,
April 10th 2016**



Registration at 2:00 • Bowling starts at 3:00

Strike! Spare! King Pin! Hooray!

Looking for an exciting afternoon of family fun and laughter? Join us at our 9th Annual Fur Bowl! Teams or individual bowlers are welcome to show off their bowling skills and enjoy a delicious variety of refreshments as the balls are rolling and pins are falling. Our silent auction will include amazing treasures and gems including Southwest Airline tickets, art work, gift certificates, jewelry, animal treat baskets, and much more. Oh, door prizes, too!

Yard and Estate Sales



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

We are grateful to those of you who have donated items, large and small, for our yard and estate sales. We will be happy to receive your donated items all year long for our ongoing sales. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.



New Mexico Animal Friends
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NMAF is A Best Friends Animal Society Network Partner! What Does That Mean?

As a network partner, NMAF will be able to tap into the latest news and webinars on adoption and spay/neuter strategies, view on-line articles, and have access to tools for adoption events to help promote our animals. We will be listed on the Best Friends Network website that links visitors to our website. We can take advantage of professional advice from their team of specialists, and network with nation-wide rescue organizations.

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ADOPTION CLINIC HOURS

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

CATS:

Saturdays 11am-3:30pm

DOGS:

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

WISH LIST

- ✦ **Foster Homes for Dogs and Cats** ✦
- ✦ **Volunteers for Adoption Events** ✦
- ✦ **Volunteers for the Yard/Estate Sales** ✦
- ✦ **Sponsors for our Newsletter** ✦
- ✦ **Sponsors for our Fur Bowl** ✦
- ✦ **Donations for Medical Expenses** ✦
- ✦ **Pet supply Gift Cards** ✦
- ✦ **Sponsors for Ad in the Albuquerque Journal** ✦
- ✦ **Items for the Fur Bowl Silent Auction** ✦
- ✦ **Storage Space for our Yard/Estate Sales** ✦

Annual Member Appreciation and Board of Directors Election Meeting

**Sunday, February 28, 2016,
2 to 4 p.m.**

**Adelante Development Center
3900 Osuna Rd. NE**

It's our biggest social event of the year! Share your favorite animal stories, get caught up on the latest NMAF news, visit with old friends and meet new ones. Please 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 Guest Speaker, to be announced.

Two of NMAF's Board of Directors, Gloria Graeber and Elizabeth Miller, who now serve proudly on our Board, will be running for office again this year. Please join us and show your support for New Mexico Animal Friends and our dedicated Board of Directors!

Join us at the TICA Cat Show

hosted by

The Enchanted Cat Club of Albuquerque

May 14 – May 15, 2016

New Mexico Fair Grounds