



MAKING TRACKS™

A Quarterly Publication of Animal Protection of New Mexico Winter 2013

THRILL-KILLING CONTESTS: AN UGLY EMBARRASSMENT FOR NEW MEXICO

**"IT'S NOT OKAY TO TRIVIALIZE
LIFE TO THE POINT WHERE WE
AWARD A PRIZE FOR TAKING
A LIFE."**—Representative Jeff Steinborn

From the Executive Director



Dear Friend of the Animals,

I hadn't been in New Mexico more than a few months before I first heard about "killing contests" back in 1987. I was shocked and appalled when I learned that thrill killers would descend upon the high desert of southwestern Colorado to mow down prairie dogs with abandon in and around Nucla, Colorado.

I was raised in a family of hunters, and we had and still have a dedicated "gun closet" stocked with dozens of rifles, shotguns, ammunition, bows and arrows. So growing up I knew some people hunt to eat, that's what our family did. (Once out on my own, in 1984 I became a vegan and have never regretted following a plant-based diet for the last 29 years!) But what was unfamiliar and immediately repulsive about killing contests was the idea that people killed to see how many animals they could obliterate. This senseless, wasteful and wanton approach sickened me. When I checked in about these contests with the hunters in my family, they felt the same way.

So I wasn't surprised about the outcome when last year APNM asked members of the community to join us in our outrage over killing contests and to sign our petition to stop them in New Mexico. What we discovered is that at least 1/3 of the signers identified themselves as gun owners. At least 10% identified themselves as hunters. I'm confident that many more hunters are opposed to killing contests, but for some unexplained reason they are afraid to challenge those who participate in and promote mass killing for killing's sake. The hunters in my family wouldn't be afraid to speak up. They understand that these appalling killing sprees are a plague on our society, sending dangerous messages to children, destroying important communities of wild animals that benefit our landscapes, and even painting hunters and gun owners with a broad and ugly brush.

As APNM and its allies in this effort gather strength against this scourge in our midst, we know our state can do better than this and that our citizens will combine their voices to rid New Mexico of thrill-killing contests. Cockfighting, dog fighting, and horse tripping—once accepted practices in New Mexico—are now illegal and no longer have many supporters in our state. The same should be true for thrill-killing contests.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings

Elisabeth Jennings,
Executive Director

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THRILL-KILL CONTESTS: AN ABOMINATION

“We had been there for hours, trying to make enough noise and hoping to keep the prairie dogs in their homes. But our voices were hoarse and no longer effective. Through binoculars, I watched—helplessly—as one emerged. His soft brown fur exploded into a spray of red and just like that, he was gone forever.”

—A witness to the killing fields of a prairie dog contest

In August, this scene played out countless times during a competition for the killing of native prairie dogs statewide. The contest featured a prize for the participant who shot the most animals and, after the fact, contest sponsors claimed that 1,500 animals had been killed by those vying for that prize. In addition to prairie dogs, coyotes are frequently targeted as part of these competitions. In mid November, a coyote killing contest was organized by a pawn shop in Los Lunas. And as of press time, there is reportedly a killing contest targeting coyotes scheduled for December 7th and 8th, sponsored by the same gun store that organized the widely publicized and internationally criticized killing competitions of November 2012 and August 2013. These contests are open to participants 18 years of age or older and operate statewide.

“KILLING FOR KILLING’S SAKE IS WRONG.” Rep. Brian Egolf

Thrill-killing contests, the senseless and unregulated shooting of wild animals for material gain, take advantage of the

fact that there are few protections for certain animals in New Mexico. Yet it is widely recognized by scientists and professional resource managers that random, mass killing of wildlife is an ineffective approach to wildlife management. In addition, the practice has been condemned by many hunters who are often guided by principles of conservation and biodiversity. Others are concerned about our society’s emphasis on violence and the dangerous message conveyed to children to simply kill those that we perceive are causing an inconvenience for us.

Thrill-killing contests are unethical and offend our community’s sense of common decency. They demonstrate a disturbing lack of respect for life, and send the chilling message that in New Mexico life is cheap and senseless killing is acceptable and even a cause for celebration.

Caring and compassionate New Mexicans are fighting back against these repulsive events. Newspapers’ Letter to the Editor pages have been flooded with citizens appalled at the disrespect for life that these events engender within our culture and our children. Both the *Albuquerque Journal* and *Santa Fe New Mexican* have weighed in with strong editorials condemning the practice.

“THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE COYOTE. A LOT OF US WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS.” Rep. Miguel Garcia

In the 2013 state legislative session, the No Coyote-Killing Contests bill—the first-ever serious legislative challenge against the practice—was narrowly defeated in the House by a vote of 30-38. Nonetheless, with every new contest reported, and with the body count rising, New Mexicans increasingly understand that real reform at the state level is necessary to stop the bloodshed and discard the ugly reputation New Mexico has gained because of the proliferation of these senseless killing contests.

For more information on how you can help stop thrill-killing contests for good, please visit:

<http://apvnm.org/killingcontests/>

Shelter Animal Relocation: On the Road to Loving Homes

If you visit any animal shelter in New Mexico on any given day, chances are the kennels will all be full—full of highly adoptable dogs and cats of every age, shape, and size, many waiting in vain to share their love with someone. It's a sad fact that of the 135,000 dogs and cats entering New Mexico's shelters each year, nearly half are euthanized, the result of too many animals and too few homes. One life-saving solution is shelter animal relocation, the process of humanely and efficiently transporting adoptable animals from areas with overcrowded shelters to regions where space is available and few, if any, similar animals are available for adoption.

As 2013 comes to a close, APNM's Animal Shelter Assistance Program continues to expand, thanks once again to a generous grant from the ASPCA®. APNM's new Animal Relocation Initiative, led by Program Director Leslie King, focuses on shelter animal relocation activity and challenges in New Mexico. By design, it dovetails with the ASPCA's national Animal Relocation Initiative, which uses logistics and proven theories of supply and demand to help end the needless euthanasia of dogs and cats.

APNM's research shows that many of New Mexico's animal shelters and rescue organizations, often with the aid of a broad network of volunteers, relocate thousands of dogs and hundreds of cats each year to various destinations—both in and out of state—in an effort to increase the animals' chances of being adopted into good, loving homes. As a statewide animal advocacy organization, APNM is in a prime position to evaluate, support, and help further these life-saving efforts, especially when we can rely on the expert resources and support available from the ASPCA.

APNM's Animal Relocation Initiative consists of several elements, beginning with the compilation and analysis of a statewide survey of current relocation activity in New Mexico. At the same time, APNM will be providing new opportunities for collaboration through the assembly of a statewide relocation coalition, made up of all the shelter professionals, rescue partners, and volunteers currently engaged in animal relocation in our state.

APNM will also encourage all eligible participants in New Mexico to register on the ASPCA MAP (Moving Animals Places), a free tool with an innovative approach to relocation. The ASPCA MAP consists of a searchable database connected to a map, in which members can find and partner with other organizations to transfer animals from areas of oversupply to areas where demand is greater. To learn more, go to www.aspcapro.org/map.



By taking a comprehensive approach and putting our collective heads together, we can learn what's working and what's not, find solutions to common problems, help strengthen existing partnerships and encourage new ones.

APNM's goals include developing and supporting relocation systems and practices that will:

- ★ *have the greatest impact on quality placement of animals*
- ★ *ensure conditions that support optimal animal health and well-being*
- ★ *improve animal health at both source and destination shelters*
- ★ *ensure more streamlined and humane transportation methods*
- ★ *provide improved follow-up and reporting*

The year ahead will no doubt be filled with exciting opportunities and likely a few surprises as we embark on the road to greater relocation successes for New Mexico's animals in need.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED HORSE SLAUGHTER FACILITY

Navajo Nation Supports Humane Solutions

In early October, in a monumental step for compassionate horsemanship for our state and country, the Navajo Nation reversed its earlier endorsement for horse slaughter in New Mexico. **Navajo President Ben Shelly ordered a halt to roundups of free-roaming horses on the reservation and affirmed the nation's commitment to humane solutions.**

The announcement came as a result of a meeting between former Gov. Bill Richardson—representing his new Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife (Foundation) co-founded with legendary actor Robert Redford—and President Shelly. Credit for this reversal by the Navajo is also due to many tribal elders, traditional leaders and other activists who have marched and rallied to defend horses from cruelty.

In its short existence, the Foundation has worked with APNM to develop a vision and expand existing infrastructure for compassionate horse care in New Mexico and beyond. We are looking forward to working with the Navajo Nation and our national colleagues to implement comprehensive and effective safety net programs necessary for the dignity of domestic and free-roaming horses and which reflect the cultural values of the Diné people.



New Mexico Environment Department Hears From the Community

On October 22, APNM was in Roswell for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)'s wastewater discharge hearing for Valley Meat Company. The hearing, which explored factors surrounding water contamination by the company proposing to open a horse slaughterhouse in New Mexico, was prompted by a high volume of letters to the agency in opposition to granting the permit.

Technical testimony on water quality issues and the nature of equine slaughter was heard that day from both Valley Meat's defense as well as litigants in opposition, including Front Range Equine Rescue of Colorado, Equine Welfare Alliance, the state Attorney General's Office, and six Roswell residents. During the section for public testimony, APNM delivered strong opposition to granting the permit to Valley Meat, noting a long history of environmental violations by the company and the extreme risk that horse slaughter poses to water quality.

NMED stated it is unlikely to issue a final ruling on this permit until early 2014. We're hopeful that the agency will heed the strong evidence of the company's negligence as well as understand that the vast majority of New Mexicans are opposed to horse slaughter.

Animal Protection of New Mexico: Around the State

Taos

Animal Protection Voters joined our TrapFreeNM.org colleagues and WildEarth Guardians in honoring Rep. Roberto Gonzales of Taos. Gonzales was the sponsor of the NM Wildlife Protection and Public Safety Act, the first-ever legislative challenge to the cruel practice of trapping and poisons on public lands.



Clayton

Managers of Clayton Lake State Park collaborated with APNM's Cougar Smart to educate the public on safe and responsible conduct in cougar country. Through these efforts, the public will be less likely to want to see cougars killed because of groundless public safety fears.



Albuquerque

A government shutdown can't stop wolf advocates. Despite cancellation of an important U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service hearing on wolf management, APNM joined 350 supporters on October 4 for a great rally on behalf of Mexican wolves and their northern cousins.



Santa Fe

In September, APNM and equine advocates from around the state were invited to advise former Governor Bill Richardson on the challenges and opportunities for horse welfare in New Mexico, to help inform his work with the Foundation to Protect New Mexico's Wildlife.

Roswell

APNM gave testimony at an October hearing by the NM Environment Department for consideration of a wastewater discharge permit to Valley Meat, the would-be horse slaughterhouse. Reflecting the opinion of over 70% of New Mexicans, APNM asked NMED to decline.



Deming

The Equine Protection Fund (www.HelpOurHorses.org) helped place two abandoned purebred Peruvian Paso horses in forever homes via our Volunteer Network, compassionate individuals offering a variety of services for needy horses.



Las Cruces

Now in its third year, the Equine Protection Fund's Winter Horse Blanket Drive (apnm.org/warmhorses) is expanding. Through collaborative efforts with Las Cruces equine supply stores, the Blanket Drive will now better serve needy horses in southern New Mexico.

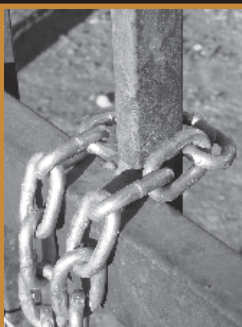


Dr. Vicki Averhoff, DVM: Hope for Animals in Need

A faint cry was heard late at night in the Town of Estancia, but the property owner couldn't tell where the sound was coming from. Responding on her day off, the town of Estancia's newly hired animal control officer, Alysha Lenderman, found a 4-month old kitten dangling upside down by her rear leg from a chain link fence. The weak and dehydrated kitten had been caught in a snare for at least 12 hours, and had been flailing around trying to free herself, not realizing that her movements only tightened the dangerous snare on her tiny leg. Officer Lenderman, formerly a veterinary assistant, freed the frightened and flea-covered kitten, who upon initial examination appeared not to have suffered a bad injury to her slightly swollen leg. The kitten, now named Gracie, could put weight on her leg, use a litter box, and was able to eat and drink. She did not appear not to be in pain.

But after 48 hours, Gracie took a dramatic turn for the worse. And because the Town of Estancia has no budget for veterinary expenses for animal control cases, the options for Gracie were limited. She was rushed to the Vista Larga Animal Hospital in Edgewood, where euthanasia was all but certain. However, clinic owner Dr. Vicki Averhoff, DVM offered to perform an amputation at no cost to the Town of Estancia and only requested Officer Lenderman help raise funds to replace those used from an 'indigent fund.'

Gracie is still recovering, but already enjoys sitting on laps, and is waiting to purr her way into someone's heart. In the meantime Officer Lenderman is raising money to replenish the clinic's 'indigent fund.' Once Gracie fully recovers she will be available for adoption through Estancia Animal Care & Control at 505-705-0041. Gracie's lifesaving surgery normally would have cost over \$1,000, but Dr. Averhoff gave Gracie new hope through her incredible generosity.



**Witness animal cruelty or neglect?
Call the APNM Animal Cruelty Hotline.**

1-877-5-HUMANE

We can help and refer the situation to the right agency in your area. Confidentially.



Amy* wanted to leave, but her abusive husband threatened to kill her dogs if she left him, and she knew he meant it. Terrified, trapped, and herself a victim of her husband's rage and physical violence, Amy felt she had nowhere to go. Finally, she contacted a nearby domestic violence shelter, which contacted APNM for help. APNM staff reached out to its CARE Network and found a place where Amy's two dogs could stay together in safe foster care while she herself got help. After two months of assistance from a domestic violence services provider, Amy was able to secure a job, interrupt her pattern of abusive relationships, and move to a new location away from her abusive husband. Soon after, she was reunited with her two dogs who in the meantime were kept safe from harm as well as spayed/neutered and given veterinary care.

*Amy's name has been changed to protect her and her animals.

CARE Network Saves Lives

Stories like Amy's are all too common in New Mexico, where over 21,000 victims of domestic violence (DV) were reported in 2011.** For both adult and child victims, their animals are among the few sources of trust and comfort in their lives, and abusers know that.

That's where APNM's Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) Network comes in. The CARE Network has helped DV victims and their animals since 1999 by providing temporary foster care while individuals leave a violent home. But our current list of safe havens simply isn't long enough to meet the critical need. Today, working in partnership with the DV prevention community and thanks to dedicated supporters, APNM is expanding the CARE Network and improving program effectiveness.

We Need Your Help. Sadly and ironically, the winter holidays typically are accompanied by a rise in domestic violence. If you or someone you know can provide a temporary safe haven for animal victims, please contact APNM right away (505-265-2322, ext. 23 or apnm.org/care). All participants are kept confidential and anonymous.

Thank you for CARE-ing about all victims of domestic violence in our community.

**New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, August 2012



"This program... quite literally saved my life and the lives of my dogs."

– CARE client

Want to Help Animals *and* the Environment? Join APNM and PLANET GREEN to Recycle Your Inkjet Cartridges and Small Electronics



APNM has partnered with Planet Green to launch a recycling program that not only keeps e-waste out of landfills, but also helps APNM continue our work for animals. You or your business can participate. Get started by going to the APNM page on the Planet Green website: planetgreenrecycle.com/apnm.

Three Easy Ways to Help:

1. Download a pre-paid shipping label. Collect inkjet cartridges, cell phones, any of the small electronics listed on the website, and mail to Planet Green. Depending on the type of items (20/box), APNM will receive a check for \$40 to \$75.
2. Purchase toner cartridges from the Planet Green website. 100% of their products are re-manufactured in the US. Prices are a fraction of retail and 15% of the price is donated to APNM.
3. Sign-up on planetgreenrecycle.com/apnm and Planet Green will automatically donate \$1 to APNM. No purchase necessary.

Animal Protection of New Mexico: Your Giving Matters

APNM Creates *Member Fundraising Corps* Through Ambassador Committees



This year APNM launched an exciting approach to program sustainability by engaging our dedicated members in promotion and fundraising for our lifesaving programs. This concept has now been applied to five of APNM's crucial areas:

Equine Protection Program

Humane Education Programs

Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) Network

Chimps to Sanctuary Program

APNM's Organizational Infrastructure

With leadership provided by a member of APNM's board of directors and at least one staff member, ambassador committees are made up largely of members who are deeply committed to and engaged in the committee's focus area. Committees are now meeting, defining their goals, articulating

ways of spreading the word about the value of each program, and bringing important funding and other resources to programs so they can become even more effective and sustainable.

If you have time, energy, and enthusiasm to give to one of the above Ambassador Committees and its goals, please contact us at lisa@apnm.org. Thank you in advance for becoming an APNM ambassador and making a bigger difference for animals.

Vegan Dining: A Meat-Free Meetup

Carrie Thompson lives in Tres Piedras, New Mexico, about 30 miles northwest of Taos. Carrie, a vegan, wanted to team up with other compassionate people in her area so that together they could help make the Taos area more vegan friendly and more conscious about animal issues. So in 2013, she formed the **Taos Vegan Meetup** group using Meetup.com (a website service where members can connect, share information, and schedule events related to their areas of interest). ***The growing team has developed three primary strategies to reach their goals:***



1. Veganizing Restaurants

Each member of the team selects a restaurant to “veganize” from a comprehensive list of Taos eateries. First, they meet with the restaurant owners and assess their readiness to make some changes to their menus. Then they consult with the willing owners to help them brainstorm some vegan options. Sometimes they have to start from the beginning and simply educate restaurant owners about what is vegan and why it is a healthy and humane diet. Good nutrition without the cost of animals’ lives is paramount to the group, but they also recognize restaurants will be more willing to participate if there is some benefit to the bottom line. If a restaurant agrees to offer vegan alternatives on their menu, the Taos Vegan Meetup group will provide a **Vegan Options Inside** window sticker, post the restaurant on the Happy Cow website (www.happycow.net), and add the restaurant to the list of locations where the group holds its meetings. Pizano, an Italian restaurant in Taos, recently agreed to participate. The last Taos Vegan Meetup meeting was held there and the group enjoyed a spectacular pizza with spelt crust, garlic oil, Daiya cheese, walnuts, green chili, and basil.

2. Vegan Policy

The group is also working with a local animal shelter to help them develop consistency between their compassion for animals and the food they serve at fundraisers and other events. Carrie met with the shelter director who was understanding of the “why love one and eat the other?” argument and was very receptive to the idea of adopting an animal friendly menu policy. The Director, who subsequently joined the Meetup group, plans to propose the idea to the shelter’s Board of Directors.

3. Food Sampling and Outreach

Taos Vegan Meetup recently set up an outreach table at Cids, one of the area’s natural food markets. They acquired funding from VegFund, an organization that specifically funds vegan outreach activities, to pay for vegan awareness literature, which they distributed at the market along with tasty free vegan food samples.

The Taos Vegan Meetup group welcomes new members. The group is open to vegans and those interested in a vegan lifestyle. Future activities planned include working with rodeos to provide activities for youth that are alternative to those that exploit animals for entertainment.

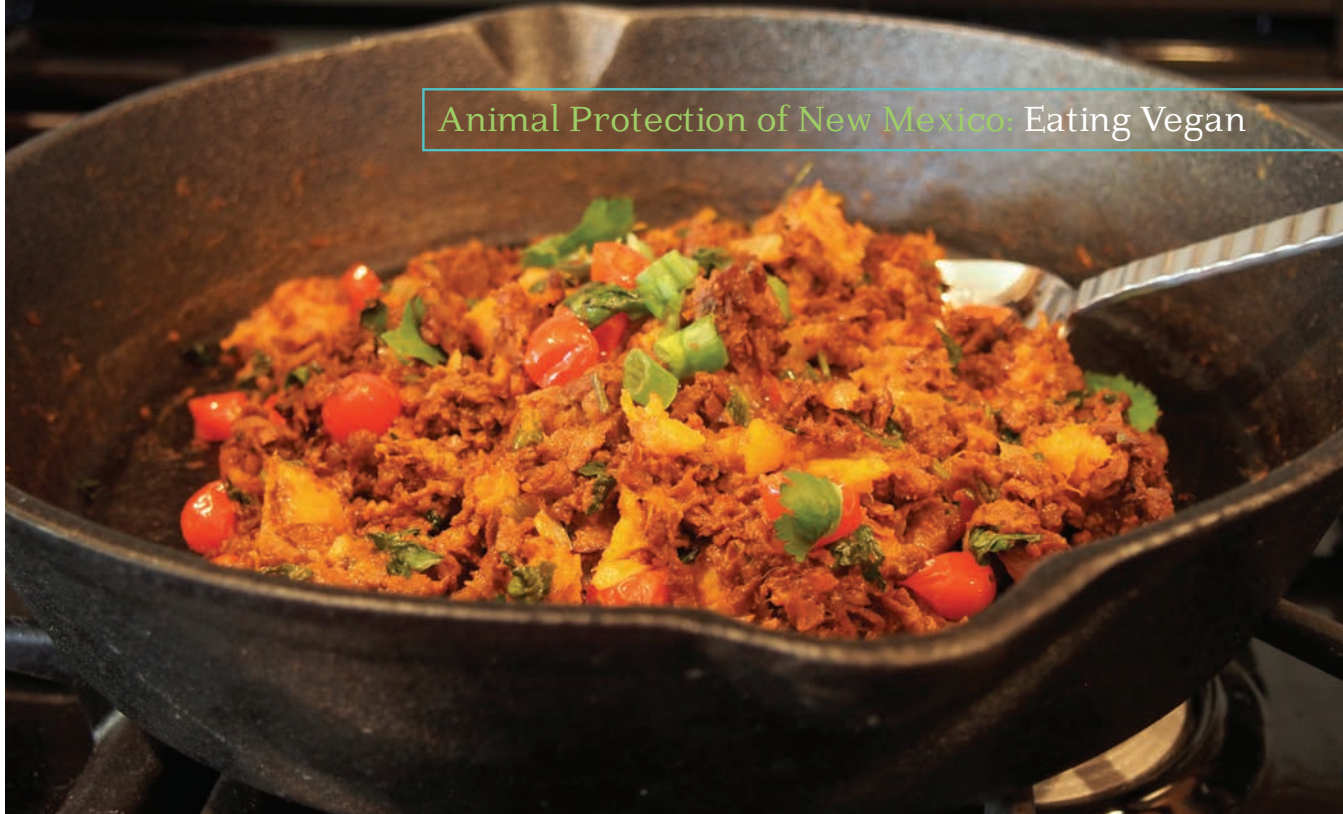
For more information contact Carrie Thompson at carriebugthompson@gmail.com. Also check out the APNM Vegan Dining Guide at: www.apnm.org/vegandining



“I’ve been vegan for 15 years and it turns out it makes a very big impact on the environment to eat fewer animal products, which cause more greenhouse gases than all of transportation combined.”

–Emily Deschanel, Actor

Photo: Jessi Princiotta



Red Chile Breakfast Hash

A hearty morning meal makes your whole day better. Take on the world—or maybe a hike with your favorite canine pal—after enjoying a bowl of this hash. Round this into a brunch by adding a side of local, organic sliced fruit sprinkled with cinnamon. Serves four.

- 1 TBS cooking oil
- 1/2 small red onion
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed and chopped
- 2 TBS dried ground Chimayo red chile, or to taste
- 1 TBS oregano
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1/2 – 1 cup soyrizo or other faux meat crumble (use less if this is your first time trying soyrizo, use more if you're hungry)
- 1 large sweet potato, steamed until tender (you can do this step well in advance), sliced into 1 inch pieces
- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 cups washed and chopped kale or spinach
- 2 green onions, sliced (keep aside a portion for garnish)
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped (keep aside a portion for garnish)
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1 lime

Heat a large cast iron pan on medium-high heat, drizzle 1/2 TBS oil into the pan, and once heated add in the soyrizo or other crumble, pressing it into the pan and watching until it browns. Cook for about 2 minutes, then use a spatula to flip the soyrizo.

After browning the “meat,” move the soyrizo to the side of the pan and drizzle in the remaining oil, then add the oregano and cumin.

When spices bubble, add in the onion, then potatoes. As the potatoes cook, slowly sprinkle in some red chile, turning potatoes until slightly browned.

Now add the tomatoes, garlic, green onion and fold everything in the pan together, sprinkling in the remaining red chile, turning the pan down to medium-low and mixing well.

Next add the cilantro and chopped greens, and lime juice to taste. Stir to mix the flavors. The greens will wilt and cook down, but remove the pan from heat before the greens lose their texture.

Plate and garnish with reserved green onions, cilantro, and avocado.

VEGAN Support: We're Watching Out for You!

If you've missed previous issues of Making Tracks, you can still access every vegan recipe and restaurant review we've published. Just visit APNM's website at www.apnm.org/vegandining. Don't wait to try our mouth-watering recipes, or give yourself a treat by dining out at one of the many wonderful restaurants that make it enjoyable and easy to eat vegan in New Mexico.

For even more vegan recipes, visit www.humanesociety.org/recipes.





PO Box 11395
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*Making sure animals matter in
every New Mexican community.*



Judy Chavez and her cat, Sasha
Photo courtesy of Judy Chavez

"As far back as I can remember I've been fortunate to have shared my life and home with different animals. When I heard about APNM from a co-worker active in feral cat spay/neuter programs I immediately checked it out and found a highly effective animal advocacy organization staffed with incredible people. But what sealed my commitment to supporting APNM was the cruelty-free (vegan) snacks at last year's open house—a testament to APNM's mission of working towards the humane treatment of all animals!"

– Judy Chavez, APNM Monthly Donor

Animal Protection of New Mexico: Faces of APNM

Elisabeth Jennings: A Most Special Tribute from the Community



Whether you are a longtime member of APNM or new to our organization, it is likely you know this edition's featured face of APNM. Elisabeth (Lisa) Jennings, APNM's Executive Director, has been a guiding light and inspiration to animal advocates for almost three decades. This year the New Mexico Community Foundation (NMCF) is awarding Lisa a *Luminaria Award*. The *Luminarias* honor outstanding individuals throughout the state who have made a profound difference in the community. *Luminaria* winners are selected because they "motivate, inspire, and support the dreams of others, promote diversity and equity, and build community strength through their leadership and vision while embodying the values of the Foundation." On December 6th, Lisa will be given the award at the Foundation's *30th Anniversary and Luminaria Gala*.

Award nominees and winners are selected through a committee process that involves Foundation staff, donors, community members and others trusted by the Foundation. The nomination list is long and the decisions are difficult. Terry Mulert, Director of Advancement and Donor Relations at NMCF commented, "the work that Lisa is doing to be a leader in animal protection is extraordinary, difficult, and often thankless." He also mentioned the national reach of Lisa's work, referring to a significant sponsorship made to the Foundation by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) in response to Lisa's selection as a *Luminaria* winner.

One of the many character traits that make Lisa a strong leader and an approachable person is her modesty. When people congratulate her on the award, she quickly turns the conversation away from herself and towards the accomplishments of APNM. She points out that although she deeply appreciates being recognized, what is truly notable is that the highly regarded New Mexico Community Foundation would choose to validate the years of collective effort of the APNM staff and volunteers, the policy makers that have taken leadership positions on animal issues and the donors and foundations that have supported the work. In her view, it is they who have placed animal protection issues on the center stage in philanthropy.

Please help us honor the accomplishments of Lisa and APNM at our third annual Winter Social for members and supporters. You're invited to join us at our corporate office, 301 Gold Ave. SW, Albuquerque, on December 5, from 5:30-7:30 PM. RSVP by Nov. 29 to Arlene, 505-265-2322, ext. 21 or arlene@apnm.org.