

CHANGING LAWS TO CHANGE ANIMALS' LIVES IN NEW MEXICO



An unrelenting drought, a pandemic, and poverty have left New Mexico family horses, donkeys, and mules vulnerable.

Some end up relinquished, abandoned, abused, or starving. Ten state equine shelters work miracles with limited resources to save hundreds every year, but more help is needed.

This year, six state legislators answered the call for help by securing recurring annual state funding for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund—then a stroke of the Governor's pen made the hope for a steadier, safer path for equines a reality.

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Photo: Deposit Photos



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ANIMAL PROTECTION VOTERS' MISSION

- actively promote and support animal-friendly legislation at the local, state, and federal levels;
- build an effective political voice for animal advocacy in New Mexico; and
- hold accountable New Mexico's elected and appointed officials on animal issues.

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From the Executive Director

Dear Animal Protection Voter,

The 2022 legislative session and follow-up special session are now behind us, and while together they comprised only 31 days, those days mattered greatly to New Mexico's animals.

At the top of Animal Protection Voters' 2022 legislative agenda was an effort to secure recurring funding for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (HSRF), established in 2013 with leadership from APV and support from the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB), the agency that administers the HSRF. The HSRF was conceived as a fund whose monies would be distributed to licensed horse rescues who provide crucial shelter for New Mexico's homeless equines, including those who are seized and who otherwise come into the custody of the NMLB. The NMLB regulates the licensed rescues to enforce minimum shelter standards for the equines in their care.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that \$350,000 in recurring funding for the HSRF was approved through a "junior budget" appropriations bill revived in the special session, and signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on April 8.

There are two primary reasons why this recurring funding is so monumental.

First, this \$350,000 appropriation is the first meaningful recurring funding that the HSRF has ever received. This represents an acknowledgment on the part of decision-makers that the lives of equines matter, and since the state benefits from the services provided by nonprofit equine rescues, it should financially support those organizations.

Second, a huge majority of New Mexicans—like people everywhere in the United States—do not support horse slaughter for meat production. By shoring up the equine safety net in our state, horses and other equines have a better chance of staying in caring homes, rather than being shipped out of the country to be slaughtered. To reflect New Mexicans' humane values, it is absolutely appropriate that our state's infrastructure protects the lives of equines, just as it strives to do so for the lives of homeless dogs and cats. This protection needs to be enduring.

In the coming years, APV and its non-legislative arm, Animal Protection New Mexico, will continue to pursue even more ways to establish strong and sustainable state infrastructure (systems, processes, brick-and-mortar projects, etc.) that values animals and the many ways they enrich New Mexicans' lives. Thank you for being on this long-term and rewarding journey with our team!

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Jennings
Executive Director

STATE LAWMAKERS AND GOVERNOR REINFORCE LIFELINE FOR NEW MEXICO'S HOMELESS HORSES



Photo: Deposit Photos

The Importance of Equine Shelters in New Mexico

When equines are found starving, abused, neglected, or homeless, New Mexico's equine shelters are their lifeline.

There are ten state-registered nonprofit shelters caring for hundreds of equines (horses, donkeys, and mules) in any given year. These shelters are responsible for taking in, housing, feeding, providing veterinary care, training, and adopting out homeless equines. Most of these equines are either "estrays" (abandoned or found running at-large) who are captured and transferred from the New Mexico Livestock Board or surrendered by people who can no longer provide care. Others are seized as part of animal cruelty and other law enforcement cases.

Usually, when equines find themselves in a shelter, it's because their human family has fallen on extremely hard times in one way or another.

Some equines remain in shelters for years before finding a new home, and for a few with special needs, lifelong sanctuary is the best option, compounding the cost of humane care. Adding to the challenges, horse shelters can face unique and significant problems, such as the rising cost of feed due to drought (e.g., the lack of available water decreases crop yields, which creates feed scarcity that drives up prices).

Although equine shelters provide services that benefit the entire state, including government agencies and local communities, these shelters operate almost solely on donations and volunteer help. They receive no regular financial support from government sources. This is in stark contrast to most dog/cat shelters, which provide similar services but whose costs are largely paid for from government budgets.

Equine shelter staff and volunteers have been able to work miracles with scarce resources despite the hardships, but more help is urgently needed.

Animal Protection Voters is so honored to advocate for the life-saving work of our state's licensed equine shelters who will be eligible to receive support from the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund. This work—to overhaul and strengthen the systems on which animals rely to be safe and protected in New Mexico—is made possible by our many APV supporters. Thank you for fueling our efforts now and into the future!

Funding Secured for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund

During the 2022 state legislative session, Animal Protection Voters focused on the dire need for increased and sustained state support for equine shelters.

We were thrilled to work with a bipartisan group of lawmakers who allocated \$350,000 in recurring annual funding for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund—which is administered by the New Mexico Livestock Board—in a 2022 special appropriations bill, Senate Bill 48 (SB 48).

When funds are recurring, that means they would be automatically included in future regular state budget bills. Of course, no future budget would be final until it has been debated, passed by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor—but having an appropriation for the HSRF in future budget drafts from the start is a strong signal that legislators understand the need for recurring funding for New Mexico's equine shelters.

While SB 48 was vetoed after the Governor cited some issues with portions of the legislation unrelated to the horse shelter funding, a revised version of the bill was brought back in an April 5, 2022, special session. During that special session, Senate Bill 1 was passed with the same \$350,000 annual appropriation for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund, and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham quickly signed it into law on April 8.

This recurring Horse Shelter Rescue Fund appropriation is the first-ever reliable and meaningful source of state funding for New Mexico's equine shelters that directly serve government agencies and communities by caring for homeless horses, donkeys, and mules.

THE LIFE-SAVING WORK OF EQUINE SHELTERS



Abandoned, blind, and starving in the desert, this mare was rescued by **Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary** in Las Cruces. With a special feeding plan, medical care, and blind-friendly pen to keep her safe, she began to thrive. Her name is *Gita*, which means “sacred song,” and she will live out her life in sanctuary.



Esme, an emaciated 30+ year old mare, wandering sick with pneumonia, was taken in by **Perfect Harmony Rescue & Sanctuary** in Chaparral. With a slow feeding program and round-the-clock care, Esme gradually healed. She has few teeth remaining and ongoing health issues, but a delightful “sassy, opinionated” personality. Esme will live in sanctuary the rest of her life.



Belle was a yearling donkey surrendered to **Four Corners Equine Rescue** in Aztec. She was found dangerously thin and infested with worms and lice, even needing assistance to stand after lying down. She soon grew to be engaging and energetic, and was recently adopted!



Sky's the Limit weighed only 700 pounds when he arrived at **Walkin N Circles Ranch** in Stanley. Severely emaciated and needing 24-hour medical care, his body was literally shutting down. Thanks to support from the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund, they were able to provide Sky with the care he needed. He slowly regained weight. His strength and personality returned. After his stunning transformation, this gentle boy is looking for his forever home!



Polly had a broken jaw and was severely malnourished when she was found wandering a county road in northeastern New Mexico. Fortunately, Polly was rescued by **The Horse Shelter** in Cerrillos where she received nutritious food, medical care, and lots of love. Now healed, Polly is saddle trained and ready for adoption!

DEEP GRATITUDE TO THESE STATE LAWMAKERS FOR TAKING A STAND FOR NEW MEXICO'S EQUINE COMMUNITY

Thank you, legislators, for dedicating crucial recurring state funding for the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund.



Senator Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
(D-Ranchos De Taos)



Senator Carrie Hamblen
(D-Las Cruces)



Senator Brenda G. McKenna
(D-Corralles)



Senator Steven P. Neville
(R-Aztec)



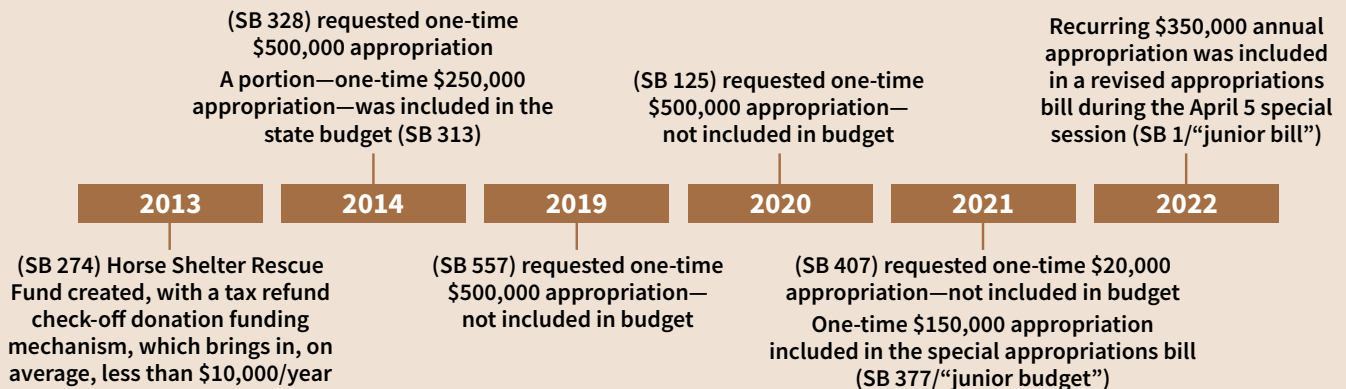
Representative Kristina Ortez
(D-Taos)



Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
(D-Cerrillos)

A Timeline of Help for NEW MEXICO EQUINE SHELTERS

A Summary of APV's Work to Establish and Support the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund



2022 STATE LEGISLATION

Pro-Animal Bills

House Bill 56 (Temporary Veterinary Permits) **Passed!**

Sponsors: Rep. Javier Martínez (D-Albuquerque), Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto (D-Albuquerque), Rep. Kelly Fajardo (R-Los Lunas) & Rep. Phelps Anderson (DTS-Roswell)

This bill extended the length (from sixty days to six months) of temporary veterinary medicine permits for out-of-state veterinarians contracted by state or local government to provide services at a nationally accredited zoo or aquarium. There are two nationally accredited facilities in New Mexico: The ABQ BioPark in Albuquerque, and the Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park in Carlsbad. HB 56 passed the House (63-0) and the Senate (35-0) and was signed into law by Governor Lujan Grisham.

House Memorial 24 (Develop a Plan to Save Adoptable Dogs and Cats) **Passed!**

Sponsor: Rep. Eliseo Alcon (D-Milan)

This memorial directed New Mexico county managers, in collaboration with animal shelters and welfare organizations, to establish a taskforce to develop a comprehensive plan with the goal of saving the lives of all healthy, adoptable shelter dogs and cats by 2025. HM 24 passed the House (65-0). Memorials do not require the Governor's signature, but copies of the memorial will be transmitted to the managers of New Mexico's thirty-three counties and all animal shelter offices in New Mexico.

Senate Joint Memorial 2 (National Biodiversity Strategy)

Sponsor: Senate President Pro Tem Mimi Stewart (D-Albuquerque)

This joint memorial called on the Federal government to establish a national biodiversity strategy for the protection of wildlife and the environment. SJM 2 passed the Senate Rules Committee (7-0) and the Senate Conservation Committee (7-2) but died awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.

Anti-Animal Bills

House Memorial 49 (Livestock Protection from Wolves)

Sponsors: Rep. Rebecca Dow (R-Truth or Consequences), Rep. Gail Armstrong (R-Magdalena)

Overstating the incidence of livestock depredation by wolves, this memorial called on the NM Department of Game & Fish to deviate from its core mission and "study how to create greater protections for livestock and address economic losses [by ranchers] caused by the reintroduction of the Mexican wolf," the most gravely endangered subspecies of wolf in North America. HM 49 died when it was never scheduled for a hearing in the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee.



Photo: Shutterstock

HOW TO READ AND USE THIS SCORECARD

Methodology

- For each chamber (the Senate or the House of Representatives), New Mexico state legislators are listed in alphabetical order by their last name.
- Next to each legislator’s name is their **2022 Score** based on their voting record during the 2022 legislative session, as well as their **Lifetime Score** that represents the percentage of time they voted to protect animals when given the opportunity during their tenure in the state legislature.
- An **“Excused”** mark means they were formally excused by the legislature during the vote and does not count as part of the score.
- An **“Absent”** mark counts as half a vote “against the animals.”
- **However**, if Animal Protection Voters deem the outcome for the bill was unaffected by the legislator’s absence or excusal during a floor vote—and that legislator cast a good pro-animal vote on the bill at a previous stage in the legislative process that year—then only the pro-animal vote on record will count toward the score.
- Unless stated otherwise, if a legislator votes multiple times on a bill at different stages and changes his or her position, the later vote will count.

LEGISLATION KEY

HB 56	Temporary Veterinary Permits
HM 24	Develop Plan to Save Adoptable Dogs and Cats
SJM 2	National Biodiversity Strategy

SCORE KEY

- ✓ Vote for the animals
- ✗ Vote against the animals
- E** Excused from the vote
- A** Absent for the vote
- [blank] Did not have an opportunity to vote (example: legislator did not sit on the committee that voted)
- ✓* Credit for a vote for the animals despite an absence or excusal at the final vote

All Scorecards can be downloaded online:

www.apvnm.org/scorecards

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE



Find your two legislators on the scorecard—you have one in the House and one in the Senate. Visit apvnm.org/lookup if you aren’t sure who your legislators are.



Depending on your legislators’ scores, contact them right away to either thank them for their positive votes or to politely express disappointment in any anti-animal votes, and ask for a meeting to discuss their concerns. **REMEMBER:** Lawmakers need to know you are paying attention to their voting record. Never take our champions’ support for granted, and never write anyone off for bad votes. Animal protection measures come in many forms, usually enjoy bipartisan support, and have immense public support—so use that to your advantage.



Share this scorecard with everyone you know! New Mexicans can only hold lawmakers accountable if they have the information about how those lawmakers voted.

SENATE SCORES			Pro-Animal Bills	
LEGISLATOR	2022 Score	Lifetime Score	HB 56	SJM 2
Baca , Gregory A. (R-29)	100%	32%	✓	E
Brandt , Craig W. (R-40)	50%	34%	A	
Burt , William F. (R-33)	100%	66%	✓	
Campos , Pete (D-8)	100%	87%	✓	
Candelaria , Jacob R. (D-26)	50%	81%	A	
Cervantes , Joseph (D-31)	75%	91%	A	✓
Diamond , Crystal R. (R-35)	100%	50%	✓	
Duhigg , Katy M. (D-10)	75%	88%	A	✓
Gallegos , David M. (R-41)	50%	34%	✓	✗
Gonzales , Roberto "Bobby" J. (D-6)	100%	87%	✓	
Griggs , Ron (R-34)	100%	67%	✓	
Hamblen , Carrie (D-38)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Hemphill , Siah Correa (D-28)	50%	75%	A	
Hickey , Martin (D-20)	100%	88%	✓	
Ingle , Stuart (R-27)	100%	49%	✓	E
Ivey-Soto , Daniel A. (D-15)	100%	99%	✓	✓
Jaramillo , Leo (D-5)	100%	88%	✓	✓
Kernan , Gay G. (R-42)	50%	75%	A	
Lopez , Linda M. (D-11)	100%	89%	✓	✓
McKenna , Brenda G. (D-9)	100%	100%	✓	
Moores , Mark (R-21)	100%	61%	✓	E
Muñoz , George K. (D-4)	100%	80%	✓	
Neville , Steven P. (R-2)	100%	80%	✓	✓
O'Neill , Bill B. (D-13)	100%	95%	✓	
Ortiz y Pino , Gerald (D-12)	100%	99%	✓	✓
Padilla , Michael (D-14)	100%	100%	✓	
Pinto , Shannon D. (D-3)	100%	100%	✓	
Pirtle , Cliff R. (R-32)	100%	40%	✓	E
Pope , Harold (D-23)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Rodriguez , Nancy (D-24)	100%	96%	✓	
Sanchez , Joshua A. (R-30)	100%	75%	✓	
Schmedes , Gregg (R-19)	25%	63%	A	✗
Sedillo Lopez , Antoinette (D-16)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Sharer , William E. (R-1)	100%	52%	✓	
Shendo , Benny, Jr. (D-22)	100%	85%	✓	
Soules , William P. (D-37)	100%	97%	✓	✓
Stefanics , Elizabeth "Liz" (D-39)	100%	95%	✓	✓
Steinborn , Jeff (D-36)	100%	99%	✓	
Stewart , Mimi (D-17)	100%	97%	✓	✓
Tallman , Bill (D-18)	100%	99%	✓	
Wirth , Peter (D-25)	100%	103%	✓	✓
Woods , Pat (R-7)	100%	51%	✓	
Lt. Gov. Howie Morales	N/A	N/A		

HOUSE SCORES			Pro-Animal Bills	
LEGISLATOR	2022 Score	Lifetime Score	HB 56	HM 24
Alcon, Eliseo Lee (D-6)	100%	86%	✓	✓
Allison, Anthony (D-4)	100%	64%	✓	✓
Anderson, Phelps (DTS-66)	100%	46%	✓	✓
Armstrong, Deborah A. (D-17)	100%	98%	E	✓
Armstrong, Gail (R-49)	100%	53%	✓	✓
Baca, Brian G. (R-8)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Bash, Karen C. (D-68)	100%	95%	✓	✓
Black, Rachel A. (R-51)	75%	30%	A	✓
Bounkeua, Kay (D-19)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Brown, Cathrynn N. (R-55)	100%	53%	✓	✓
Cadena, Micaela Lara (D-33)	100%	94%	✓	✓
Castellano, Ambrose (D-70)	100%	67%	✓	✓
Chandler, Christine (D-43)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Chasey, Gail (D-18)	100%	96%	✓	✓
Chatfield, Jack (R-67)	100%	36%	✓	✓
Cook, Zachary J. (R-56)	100%	58%	✓	✓
Crowder, Randal S. (R-64)	75%	24%	✓	A
De La Cruz, Art (D-12)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Dixon, Meredith A. (D-20)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Dow, Rebecca (R-38)	100%	46%	✓	✓
Egolf, Brian (D-47)	100%	98%	✓	✓
Ely, Daymon (D-23)	100%	96%	✓	✓
Ezell, Candy Spence (R-58)	75%	42%	A	✓
Fajardo, Kelly K. (R-7)	100%	71%	✓	✓
Ferrary, Joanne J. (D-37)	100%	98%	✓	✓
Figuroa, Natalie (D-30)	100%	94%	✓	✓
Gallegos, Doreen Y. (D-52)	100%	87%	✓	✓
Garcia, Harry (D-69)	100%	85%	✓	✓
Garcia, Miguel P. (D-14)	75%	95%	A	✓
Garratt, Joy (D-29)	100%	95%	✓	✓
Harper, Jason C. (R-57)	100%	75%	✓	✓
Hernandez, Joshua (R-60)	100%	50%	✓	✓
Herndon, Pamela Y. (D-28)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Herrera, Susan K. (D-41)	75%	86%	A	✓
Hochman-Vigil, Dayan (D-15)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Johnson, D. Wonda (D-5)	100%	89%	✓	✓
Lane, T. Ryan (R-3)	100%	50%	✓	✓
Lara, Raymundo (D-34)	100%	62%	✓	✓
Lente, Derrick J. (D-65)	100%	80%	✓	✓
Lord, Stefani (R-22)	100%	50%	✓	✓
Louis, Georgene (D-26)	100%	98%	✓	✓
Lujan, Tara L. (D-48)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Lundstrom, Patricia A. (D-9)	100%	91%	✓	✓
Madrid, Willie D. (D-53)	75%	44%	✓	A

HOUSE SCORES			Pro-Animal Bills	
LEGISLATOR	2022 Score	Lifetime Score	HB 56	HM 24
Maestas, Antonio (D-16)	100%	91%	✓	✓
Martinez, Javier (D-11)	100%	90%	✓	✓
Mathews, Marian (D-27)	75%	92%	✓	A
McQueen, Matthew (D-50)	100%	99%	✓	✓
Montoya, Rod (R-1)	100%	35%	✓	✓
Montoya, Roger E. (D-40)	100%	50%	✓	✓
Nibert, Greg (R-59)	100%	28%	✓	✓
Ortez, Kristina (D-42)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Pettigrew, Randall T. (R-61)	100%	50%	✓	✓
Powdrell-Culbert, Jane E. (R-44)	100%	58%	✓	✓
Rehm, William "Bill" R. (R-31)	75%	61%	✓	A
Romero, Andrea (D-46)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Romero, G. Andrés (D-10)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Roybal Caballero, Patricia (D-13)	100%	98%	✓	✓
Rubio, Angelica (D-35)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Sariñana, Debra M. (D-21)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Scott, Larry R. (R-62)	100%	36%	✓	✓
Serrato, Linda (D-45)	100%	88%	E	✓
Small, Nathan P. (D-36)	100%	99%	✓	✓
Strickler, James R.J. (R-2)	100%	47%	✓	✓
Sweetser, Candie G. (D-32)	100%	84%	✓	✓
Terrazas, Luis M. (R-39)	100%	50%	✓	✓
Thomson, Elizabeth "Liz" (D-24)	100%	100%	✓	✓
Townsend, James G. (R-54)	100%	35%	✓	✓
Trujillo, Christine (D-25)	100%	96%	✓	✓
Zamora, Martin R. (R-63)	75%	48%	✓*	A

SCORE KEY

- ✓ Vote for the animals
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- ✓* Credit for a vote for the animals despite an absence or excusal at the final vote

LEGISLATION KEY

HB 56	Temporary Veterinary Permits
HM 24	Develop Plan to Save Adoptable Dogs and Cats
SJM 2	National Biodiversity Strategy

Visit apvnm.org to learn more and get involved.

UPDATES ON RECENT LAWS PASSED

\$1 Million in Spay/Neuter Funds Improperly Stuck at the NM Department of Agriculture

Senate Bill 57, often referred to as the affordable spay/neuter bill, was legislation passed by the New Mexico State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on March 6, 2020. This new law established a new statewide spay/neuter funding mechanism identified as the best option in a State Senate-requested study—a pet food manufacturer fee upon product registration—proven to reduce shelter animal euthanasia in other states.

However, in December 2020, the Pet Food Institute and other plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the State, seeking to invalidate SB 57. That lawsuit is still pending in federal court—the judge has yet to rule on the State’s motion to dismiss the suit. In the meantime, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA), the agency which regulates pet food in New Mexico and is charged with collecting the fees for the spay/neuter funds, has voluntarily held the funds until the litigation resolves.

After learning that there is no law or court order that requires the funds be held, both Animal Protection Voters and Animal Protection New Mexico believe **NMDA has no legal basis for retaining the funds, and in fact is required to comply with the state law and transfer the funds to the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine to be distributed pursuant to the law and associated regulations.**

APV has recently learned there is approximately \$1.4 million that is needlessly sitting in a bank account, rather than being used for spay/neuter services in New Mexico communities to reduce dog and cat overpopulation and euthanasia. APV has received support in our request for the spay/neuter funds to be released from policymakers, including State Auditor Brian Colón and Speaker of the House Brian Egolf, and we are exploring legal options. Please watch apvnm.org for any breaking news on this important matter.

The Countdown to Roxy’s Law

Traps, snares, and poisons injure and kill countless animals, both wild and domestic. One such victim was a beloved senior dog named Roxy who was out exploring the Santa Cruz Lake recreation area with her human family over Thanksgiving weekend in 2018 when she was caught in a neck snare trap. Roxy’s family was unable to loosen the snare before Roxy strangled to death in the trap.

Roxy’s story helped open the eyes of caring New Mexicans to the cruel and indiscriminate nature of traps and poisons and the danger they pose to everyone who enjoys our public lands. Last year, this public outcry helped to pass the Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act (Senate Bill 32 (2021), codified as 17-11-1 NMSA 1978), nicknamed “Roxy’s Law” in her honor.

Roxy’s Law prohibits the use of traps, snares, or poisons for the purposes of capturing, injuring, or killing an animal on public lands, unless the use meets one of the law’s exceptions. **The law’s effective date is April 1, 2022, but national trapping industry organizations have been openly planning and fundraising for a lawsuit against the State to challenge the law.** It is unclear at this time whether or when a lawsuit will be filed. Please visit apvnm.org and apnm.org for updates on this issue.



Photo of Roxy courtesy of her family.

FEDERAL FOCUS

CHIMP SANCTUARY ACT INTRODUCED



Sen. Martin Heinrich

Last year, Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM, the 501(c)(3) non-legislative arm of Animal Protection Voters) filed a lawsuit against the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for refusing to transfer the surviving chimpanzees held on Holloman Air Force Base to Chimp Haven sanctuary, in violation of the federal CHIMP Act, passed in 2000. As the lawsuit plays out, we continue to use several other strategies in our relentless fight to secure sanctuary for these chimpanzees who have suffered for decades. We've been working closely with the offices of New Mexico's US Senator Martin Heinrich and US Senator Ben Ray Luján, and we're thrilled to report that new federal legislation has been introduced in the US Senate to further protect chimpanzees.



Sen. Ben Ray Luján

In February 2022, Senator Heinrich joined a bipartisan group of Senators to introduce the **Chimp Sanctuary Act (S. 3613)**. The bill prohibits the housing of chimpanzees at US Air Force installations and requires those chimpanzees be sent to the federal sanctuary. The Chimp Sanctuary Act is based on an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, cosponsored by Senator Luján, who also submitted strong pro-chimp language to be included in the NIH's funding bill.

The US Air Force has enabled the NIH's ability to deny sanctuary to the surviving chimps in Alamogordo, NM by allowing the agency to warehouse chimps at Holloman Air Force Base. But New Mexicans can help the chimps by asking your friends and family across the country to contact their US Senators and ask them to support the Chimp Sanctuary Act. Visit and share **ForgottenChimps.org**.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

VALENCIA COUNTY UNCHAINS DOGS

On March 2, 2022, before a standing-room-only crowd, the Valencia County Board of Commissioners passed proposed changes to the county's animal control ordinance that will greatly improve the daily lives of the community's animals. Animal Protection Voters was honored to play a role in developing and supporting the proposed ordinance.

Many others played a crucial role in generating support for passage of this important local legislation. APV especially recognizes the tireless efforts of Jess Weston, Valencia County Animal Control Director, for ensuring Valencia County's animals are valued and protected by local laws.

The ordinance changes include:

- A ban on chaining/tethering of unattended animals
- Stronger, safer, more humane requirements for shelter for animals kept outdoors
- Suitable bedding for animals required below 45 degrees
- Mandatory microchipping requirement for animals
- Increased fees for adoption and licensing of intact animals, and a sterilization requirement for stray animals upon a third intake



Photo courtesy of NMDOG.

Key individuals who contributed to the passage of the ordinance changes (left to right): Sheena Ross Zemke, Valencia County grassroots leader; Andi Taylor, Retired Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Captain; Angela Stell, NMDOG Founder & Director; Jess Weston, Valencia County Animal Control Director; Alan Edmonds, Challenging Animal Cruelty Program Director for Animal Protection Voters & APNM; Derrick Saiz, Valencia County Animal Control Field Supervisor.

TIPS FOR GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AT THE STATE LEVEL

Lasting change for animals is only possible with strong laws.

Enacting pro-animal legislation requires engagement from determined advocates willing to be the voice for animals in our government. Through advocacy, we let elected officials know that New Mexicans care about animals and want leaders who share our humane values. APV is committed to building an effective political voice for animal advocacy in New Mexico and it all starts with you.

Throughout the year, APV works to organize and amplify the voices of local animal advocates via phonebanks, letter writing campaigns, public testimony, petitions, and more. The more citizens engaged in grassroots advocacy, the more rapid and effective the change.

Anyone can be an advocate! Advocacy can be as easy as sending an email or as involved as providing testimony at a committee meeting. No matter your time constraints or skill set, you can play a powerful role for New Mexico's animals.

The first step to becoming an effective advocate at the New Mexico State Capitol is to know who to contact, when to act, and how to craft your pro-animal message.

Get Prepared

Know the Issues and When to Act

By signing up for APV eAlerts, liking and sharing our social media posts, and following our blog, you will have a front row seat to legislation impacting animals. At critical points, we will invite you to sign petitions, take targeted actions, and participate in phone banks to engage other animal advocates around the state.

Whom to Target

Advocates are most influential with their own representatives. You can find your state legislators and their contact information at apvnm.org/lookup.

Take Action

Generally, state legislators are accessible to their constituents and are pleased that citizens take an interest in issues. Whatever way you engage your lawmakers, remember to always be informed, concise, and courteous.

Personal Meetings

The best way to influence a lawmaker is to meet with them personally. Simply call or write to them and ask them to meet with you.

Phone Calls

When legislators receive a large number of calls, they know the issue is important to their constituents. When the legislature is not in session, you may call your legislator at the non-Capitol phone number listed on nmlegis.gov. During legislative sessions, calls should be made to their Capitol phone number, and usually staff members will take and relay your message.

Letters & Email

A well-crafted letter or email can be very influential. Be brief and explain how the issue affects you, your district, or the state. Consider attaching or linking to relevant information or sources.

Committee Meetings

Committee hearings are open to the public. Most allow public comment, in which case you may indicate your position in an audience poll or you may be given brief time to give verbal testimony.

Say Thanks!

Effective advocacy doesn't end once a bill is passed. Thanking elected officials when they act on behalf of animals is an important step towards building a long-term relationship.

Mobilize Others

Letters to the Editor

A well-written letter to the editor or a longer op-ed in a local publication is a great way to reach a wider audience with your pro-animal message. Check the paper's website or editorial page for information about how to properly submit your opinion.

Phone Banks

Join an APV phone bank to help engage our pro-animal community!

Many of these tips apply not just to state legislators, but local and federal lawmakers as well. However you chose to advocate for animals, never underestimate the power of your engagement!

FUTURE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The next New Mexico legislative session will begin January 17, 2023. During this 60-day long session, any bill, memorial, or resolution can be considered by lawmakers. This creates a big opportunity to enhance and protect the lives of animals in New Mexico. Here are many of the legislative priorities that Animal Protection Voters expects to tackle in 2023.

Transition to a Cage-Free Minimum Standard for Hens

Why does New Mexico need a cage-free minimum standard? Because 2 million hens deserve better.

New Mexico is not home to major egg production. Compared to other sectors of animal agriculture, there is a nominal number of egg-laying hens in our state, kept primarily in backyard or small free-range farm settings, and their eggs are sold directly to consumers or in farmer's markets and co-ops. But practically all the eggs sold on grocery store shelves are imported from out of state—laid by approximately 2 million hens who are suffering in enormous factory farms, where they are housed in cramped, barren cages for their entire lives.

Cage-free legislation will establish a timeline and standards for New Mexico's transition to selling and producing eggs—whether produced in- or out-of-state—only from hens not kept in cruel battery cages (where they have no room to walk, perch, or flap their wings).



Photo: Deposit Photos

Humanely Manage Wild and Free-Roaming Horses

Wild horses are iconic symbols of the American West, and their presence in New Mexico is treasured by many who live and visit here. But years of habitat loss, drought, and community conflict, coupled with a broken state law and chaotic consequences from related litigation, have put the horses in terrible danger. Without serious reforms, wild horses across our state face a bleak future.

New Mexico needs more resources and collaboration to protect and compassionately manage wild horse populations. Evidence shows that effective population management relies first and foremost on humane fertility control and deprioritizes the cruel and ineffective cycle of roundups and removals. State law also needs to protect wild horses from harm, harassment, or sale to slaughter.

Wild free-roaming horses deserve to live safely on natural range, preserves, or in appropriate sanctuary, while also ensuring wild habitats are conserved for all wildlife, especially during these times of drought and climate change.



Photo: Deposit Photos

Make Animal Sexual Abuse (Bestiality) Illegal

When Animal Protection Voters was alerted to an Albuquerque Craigslist ad soliciting for sexual contact with a horse, it was a disturbing reminder that New Mexico is one of only two states where sexual abuse of animals is not a crime. This is unacceptable.

Because prosecution of animal cruelty laws often relies on demonstrable injury or neglect, and since many instances of bestiality may leave no apparent signs of physical injury or only internal injuries, these cases do not lead to cruelty charges being filed. Bestiality is not only cruel to animals, but it is also strongly linked to child sexual abuse, child pornography, human sex trafficking, and other violent and exploitative crimes. (See studies: Edwards, 2019; Holoyda, 2020.)

Protect Companion Animals Threatened by Domestic Violence

The statistics are bone-chilling: 76% of animal abusers also abuse another family member. Studies also show up to 65% of domestic violence survivors delay leaving abusive relationships because they fear possible harm to their animals if they are left behind.

As New Mexico continues to work on addressing the state's significant domestic violence problem, some important changes must be made. State law must empower abuse victims to secure a protection order when the abuser threatens or carries out harm to the survivor's animal, and the law should also empower judges to include animals in protective orders. These measures will protect both domestic violence victims and their beloved animals by facilitating their swift and safe escape from abuse.



Photo: Shutterstock

Modernize the State Agency that Manages Wildlife

Since its inception a century ago, the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish and the State Game Commission that oversees the department have been focused primarily on serving the interests of hunters and trappers.

It is long past the time that our state government changes to reflect our society's updated understanding of wildlife, the environment, and conservation values. An important step forward in updating and refining wildlife policy includes updating the Department's mission and authority to include all wildlife within its scope for the preservation of species, habitats, and ecosystems.



Photo: Deposit Photos



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Albuquerque, NM 87192



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