

Paw Prints

Fall 2015

Animals, Guardians Both Helped by League's Efforts

It was springtime and Don Robbins was worried. He could count nineteen cats living behind his Farmington shop and he knew the number was bound to grow. Then, fortunately, he learned about the League's program known as Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR.

"They told me how they could come in and trap the cats for me," Don says. Noting that nine of the cats were females, he adds with a sigh of relief, "We'd have had a mess—a zillion cats running around everywhere."

Now that all of his cats are fixed Don says he really enjoys the way they wait for him every morning to be fed because he doesn't have to worry about more babies or seeing the cats' beat-up appearance from roaming and fighting. "Now they're fat and sassy and healthy."

At Dave and Jackie Lott's home across town the gang of seven cats that had been occasional visitors returned one day, and stayed. They hadn't traveled far—from just next door, in fact.

"People leave, they abandon their cats and they have nowhere to go. What do I do?" Jackie exclaims.

The couple liked the cats though and made them warm places to sleep under their shed. But they dreaded the inevitability of kittens. Then, before they'd tackled the problem of getting seven cats fixed, the first litter arrived.

"Then this friendly guy walking down the street noticed our cats," Jackie remembers. A passerby on his lunch break, the guy was also an SJAL board member and he offered his help.

Soon, a TNR volunteer visited the

couple and together they formed a plan. The Lott's neighbors' two cats across the street were already on the TNR to-do list, so scheduling to trap all nine adult cats at one time made sense.

These stories demonstrate the League at work. Although our focus is helping animals, in the process we help people, too. Through the education and support we provide, these people gain insight about our mission and often are inspired to assist others in turn.

Don Robbins later referred another business owner with a feral colony to the TNR team and those cats were trapped and neutered.

The Lotts caught their new litter when it was weaned and they fostered it indoors, readying the kittens for sterilization and adoption through the League. Now, Jackie is advising a colleague at work about how to care for kittens born on her property, as she and Dave did with their litter.

Working together, as in these examples, a few people's efforts can set in motion a ripple effect that benefits many. Consequently, one can see evidence of the League's impact throughout our community.

What you can do:

- 🐾 Be aware of animal activity in your neighborhood. Report observations of feral colonies to the League—consider that our ability to intervene early, when a population is still small, saves lives, money and volunteer time.
- 🐾 Talk with your neighbors; learn who has pets that need to be fixed and advise owners about their options.
- 🐾 Visit our website regularly to keep



A "tuxedo" cat pauses to receive his microchip injection. Thanks to SJAL, pets and their people have a better chance of finding each other if separated. Over 600 pets have been chipped at our clinics.

Photo by Lucinda Whiffin

up on news about all our programs and refer others to the site. Share this newsletter with those unfamiliar with our work.

🐾 Support our requests for help through donations and volunteering.

In these various ways, you really can make a significant difference in the lives of animals and the people who care for them. --Lucinda Whiffin

Our Mission

Improve companion animal health, reduce overpopulation and end euthanasia of healthy, adoptable pets by decreasing unwanted births and increasing successful adoptions.

From the President

Every year the San Juan Animal League is on the front lines "speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves" by offering low-cost vaccination and spay/neuter clinics. Until recently we also offered financial assistance with medical treatment through our Emergency Fund, and temporary foster care through the O'Hearn fund and One Homeless Cat At A Time. These programs have made all the difference at critical moments in the lives of hundreds of pets.

However, due to a drop in donations this year the League has had to suspend these three programs.

But you can change that. With your help, we can reopen these programs and reach out to our furry friends in need. We've made it easy for you. Now you can donate on line on our new website. Take a moment to look around:

www.sanjuanimalleague.org.

While you're there you can see some other ways to support the League. We always need a hand at our "Rabies" clinics. Or, you may have specific skills in bookkeeping, fundraising or grant writing. Perhaps you'd like a light workout—then cleaning cages, loading vans or driving during spay/neuter events may be for you. You'll see many options for finding the right fit. Volunteer on our website or call the Hotline.

Several board positions are also open, including Vice President and Treasurer. As a working board, these members take a hands-on interest in the animals at the heart of our mission, at the same time broadening their knowledge in animal welfare issues.

Finally, do you have ideas for ways to raise funds in the new year? Do you know someone, near or far, who would make a substantial contribution to an organization like ours? Would your company help us? Sharing your ideas is another way you can get involved.

Thanks again to all of you, members and volunteers, for everything you do!

Melissa

League Notes

San Juan Animal League received much needed financial support this year from ConocoPhillips in a 2015 Community Investment Grant of \$1,300. The State of New Mexico Animal Sheltering Board awarded a grant of \$6,195.

It's New!

Visit our website

www.sanjuanimalleague.org

Donate

Register and pay for surgeries

Volunteer

Foods Not Good For Fido

Alcohol Caffeine Chocolate

Grapes Currants Raisins

Stone Fruits (plums, peaches)

Avocados Onions Garlic

Walnuts Macadamias

Mushrooms Dough (yeasted)

Dairy Products Raw Eggs

Raw Meat / Fish Bones

Fatty Foods

Sugary and Salty Foods

Baking Soda / Powder

OTC Pain Medications

Xylitol (found in gum, candy)

Chemist's Recipe Really Does Get the Skunk Out

Beth J. Harpaz of The Associated Press has researched chemist Paul Krebaum's solution for "de-skunking" your hapless pet. She's also used it on her dog and swears by it.

Combine:

1 quart 3 percent hydrogen peroxide

1/4 cup baking soda

1-2 tsp liquid soap

Apply to pet's fur for immediate results, taking care to dab on face with washcloth to avoid contact with eyes. Make fresh batch only when needed as solution does not keep. Peroxide may bleach animal's coat.

Our 2015 Vaccination Clinic Sponsors

Your help makes it possible.



Photo by Lucinda Whiffin

Brown's Shoe Fit Company
Canine Castle Doggie Daycare
Citizens Bank
The Coin Shop
7-2-11 Food Stores
State Farm - *Kent Wilson*
Zebadiah's Restaurant
Ziems Ford Corners

San Juan Animal League Board of Directors

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Questioning the Cost of Spay and Neuter Surgeries?

We at SJAL are often asked how we're able to provide spay and neuter surgeries for less than \$100 when every veterinary clinic in the county charges significantly more than that. In some ways the answer to that question is simple; in other ways it's extremely complicated.

In the simplest sense, programs like ours can charge a much lower price because they don't have the overhead that a typical retail veterinary office has. Low-cost spay/neuter clinics focus on sterilization surgery. Although many will also provide a handful of basic supplementary services, they are minor ones and the animals have to be surgical clients to receive those services.

By focusing only on spay/neuter, these programs don't need x-ray machines or the numerous other diagnostic equipment most veterinarians have. They also don't need to keep a stocked pharmacy, dental and advanced surgical equipment or the hundreds of other supplies needed in full-service veterinary practices. And many low-cost programs are run out of mobile surgical suites or inside a donated facility, so they don't incur the costs associated with various infrastructure.

Also, by only focusing on one procedure the spay/neuter team can streamline their process. This allows them to work faster, thus lowering the cost per surgery. Most groups operate with a very basic staff—one vet, one tech and one assistant, with volunteers sometimes helping with monitoring during recovery.

It should be noted, too, that some veterinary clinics require vaccinations, blood work or other procedures prior to surgery. This is uncommon in most low-cost clinics, although blood work is often recommended or required if an animal is over a certain age.

Given all this, the two kinds of surgical routines have to be different, right? Actually, no, not really. At a typical veterinary office clients are asked to check their pets in for surgery in the morning; the animals are prepped one-by-one; the surgery occurs and then when the animals



Wrapped like little burritos to stay warm, these kittens recover from sterilization surgery. A trend to fix cats and dogs when they've reached two pounds has proven tremendously successful. Photo by Regina Brixner

wake, they are watched in the recovery area. The same thing happens at a low-cost clinic.

Different low-cost clinics provide different medications and protocols just like different retail veterinary clinics do. Some will require that all animals leave with an E-collar (a protective cone that prevents the animal from licking the incision) while others will provide pain medicine for the days following surgery, or other post-surgical care.

In the more complicated sense, a major difference in the two approaches is the number of surgeries performed in a given time. Low-cost spay/neuter teams are often trained in High Quality/High Volume (HQ/HV) spay/neuter. So, for example, while most retail veterinarians may do five sterilizations per week, an HQ/HV team will often do 30 or more in one day.

Another important difference is that many HQ/HV teams are specially

Did you know?

A female cat can get pregnant at age four months and have three litters a year. She can also become pregnant again before her litter is weaned.



trained in early-age altering. Pets have been altered as young as eight weeks old, if they weigh the required two pounds, for over a decade with tremendous success. Early-age spay/neuter is a big reason why pet overpopulation doesn't exist now in much of the country.

No matter which format you choose, getting your pet altered is the right thing to do. In San Juan County we still have far more pets than available homes. The accidental litter—that litter born just before your cat or dog gets altered—has been found to be the number one contributor to the problem of unwanted pets. So please, help us help them—get your pet fixed today! --Marcy Eckhardt

"I'm sometimes asked, Why do you spend so much of your time and money talking about kindness to animals when there is so much cruelty to men? I answer: I am working at the roots." George T. Angell, reformer (1823-1909)

**San Juan
ANIMAL
League**



speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

PO BOX 142 Farmington NM 87499

Non-Profit Organization
Postage Paid
Permit #77
Farmington NM 87401

Membership Categories

\$10 Individual

\$35 Family

\$50 Business/ Professional

\$100 Corporate

\$ _____ Friend of SJAL

Please look for your Membership Renewal letter in the mail next week

Canister Sponsors

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State Farm - Kent Wilson

TJ's Downtown Diner

Whiteway Inc The Wrench

You Lucky Dog Pet Grooming

***Thank you to these merchants
and their customers.
So far this year you've brought
us over \$1,300 in change!***

Lost or Found a Pet?

Remember to check the
City of Farmington website
for postings and photos

Click on ***Services > Animal Services***



**Thank you, Woods Insurance,
for sponsoring this newsletter!**

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Kopy-Rite Printing & Graphics

OHCAAT GARAGE SALE

Saturday - Sunday

November 14 & 15

8:30 to 3

on Schofield St in Farmington

between E. Main & 20th

Turn into lot by Keitha's Kut & Kurl

Upcoming Events

Annual Membership Meeting

January 16, 2016

Saturday 1-3 p.m.

Farmington Civic Center

Speaker to be Announced

Election of New Officers

Members - Bring a guest!

Your attendance matters!

Vaccination Clinic

March 6 - Farmington Rec Center

Spay/Neuter Clinic

Check our website or call the Hotline

Keep 'em Warm This Winter in Easy-to-Make Shelters

Go to these websites to find easy, kid-friendly instructions for building shelters:

For outdoor cats: <http://www.daneferals.org/info/file?file=12761.pdf>

For indoor cats: <http://www.instructables.com/id/diy-cat-tent/>

Don't have Internet? Call Lucinda 505 947-4530 to receive copies by mail.



Photo by Mary Winkley

Wish List

Canned & dry food Cat litter
Polar fleece blankets or yardage
Cat carriers Puppy pads
Garage sale items for OHCAAT

Questions? 505 947-4530