



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

Barks and Mews

October 2014 Newsletter

Preparing our Pets for Emergencies

Every September is National Preparedness Month—raising our awareness of how to prepare ourselves, our family including our pets, and our community for a possible emergency, be it an unexpected extended loss of electricity or natural gas, or a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, wildfire, tornado, hurricane, or flood.

If you had to leave your home in a hurry, would you be ready? Would you know what to take for yourself and for those other members of your family—your pets? Being prepared could save their lives. Few of us have been personally touched by disaster, but we've all read the stories of pet owners forced to leave their pets behind or those who refused rescue because they wouldn't desert their pets and the rescued pets that could not be reunited with their owners. Remember, if you are forced to evacuate your home, ***do not leave your pets behind; if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets!***

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, with the participation of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Humane Society, the American Kennel Club, and the American Veterinary Medical Association, has developed steps to help keep our pets safe if disaster strikes.

1) Arrange for a safe haven for your pets and large animals in the event of an emergency, for both a short-term temporary absence from your home and for an extended absence.

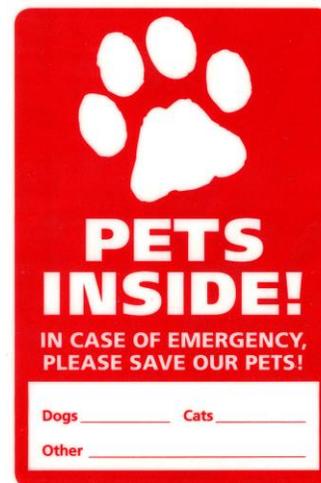
First, find a temporary caregiver, if possible a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor who is home during the day while you're at work and to whom you can give the keys to your home. This may be a person who also has pets and with whom you've swapped care of pets in the past.

Second, select permanent caregivers, friends or relatives outside the affected area who would be willing to take in your pets and larger animals, like horses, for an extended period of time or permanently if something should happen to you.

Third, make a list of preferred boarding kennels and motels that accept pets. Include 24-hour telephone numbers.

Fourth, locate where your county is likely to set up emergency shelters. Remember that no Red Cross disaster shelters accept pets.

2) Post a rescue alert sticker in a window visible to rescue workers when they come to your house. It should list the number and types of pets in your home and the name and telephone number of your veterinarian. If you leave with your pets, write "EVACUATED" across the rescue alert sticker.



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

For more information on how you can help,
please visit hsi.org/takeaction.

Emergency Preparedness (continued)

3) Have your pets identified with durable collars and up-to-date identification and rabies tags, and, if possible, microchip your dogs and cats. A microchip is a permanent form of identification implanted in the animal's shoulder area that can be read by a scanner at most animal shelters. If your dog is not microchipped, you can write contact information on his/her belly in black marker, if you don't expect it will get too wet.

4) At the first sign of severe weather, bring your pets indoors. When disaster strikes pets may become frightened and disoriented. If you are forced to shelter in your home, choose your home's basement or an interior room without windows and with access to fresh water. In the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home.

5) Assemble emergency and essential supplies and travel kits for your pets.

- Have sturdy crates, carriers and/or leashes for all your pets. One of the most common reasons pets are left behind is the lack of a kennel or carrier.
- Have photocopies of your pets' medical records and a 2-week's supply of medication in a waterproof container.
- Have current photographs of your pets. A photograph of you and your pet together will help you document ownership. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.
- Have 3 to 7-day's supply of food and a can opener, 7-day's worth of drinkable water, bowls, cat litter and litter pan.
- Blanket for scooping up a small fearful pet.
- Information about each pet: feeding schedule, medical conditions, behavior problems, etc.
- Pet beds, toys, and treats if easily transportable.
- First-aid kit appropriate for your pet. Consult your veterinarian. Most kits include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, and latex gloves.
- Sanitation supplies like paper towels, newspapers, plastic trash bags, and household chlorine bleach.
- Flashlight.

Socorro County's Office of Emergency Management at 198 Neel Avenue is our local agency responsible for disaster preparedness—to save lives, reduce injuries, and preserve property—be it a man-made situation or natural emergency. Socorro County can shelter as many as 700 people with cots, blankets, pillows, and shelter ProPac hygiene kits for the personal needs of evacuees. From its Emergency Operations Center on Neel Avenue, emergency services personnel can send a mobile response team and one of two trailers equipped for 200 people anywhere in the county. Within the city, the Socorro Youth Center east of Sedillo Park has been used previously for emergencies.

Socorro County also has an Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for animals. To this end the county has a third trailer exclusively for animal evacuation. This trailer can be transported and moved as needed to establish a shelter for large and small animals. The trailer contains 65 collapsible cages, 50 large cages and 15 medium-size cages. A second flat bed trailer can carry enough portable panels to set up 10 pens for horses or other livestock. Other disaster response supplies in the enclosed trailer include stainless steel food and water bowls, dog and cat collars, cat litter and litter pans, scanners for microchips, a dog catchpole and

Emergency Preparedness (continued)

bite proof gloves, a generator, power washer, tables, chairs, plastic sheeting, flashlights, clipboards for an individual pet's records, as well as two iPads and a printer for record keeping.

The Office of Emergency Management would like to train Socorro resident volunteers to be shelter leaders capable of opening a mobile animal shelter anywhere in the county (or in the state).



Magdalena has two trained leaders. ***To become part of Socorro's emergency management team, contact Fred Hollis or Jessica Smith (contact information below).***

Heart-wrenching real-world stories of pets made homeless by natural disasters are more common than we'd like to admit: hurricane Katrina (August 2005), the Joplin, Missouri tornado in May 2011, flooding from hurricane Sandy (October 2012), and most recently the King fire east of Sacramento, California, this past September. In every disaster some pet owners are unprepared and forced to leave beloved pets behind, or they refuse to evacuate because

they won't desert their pets. Disaster awareness and preparedness is everyone's job and, like the three-legged stool, is supported by ***planning*** for emergency, ***training*** for emergency, and ***practicing*** those plans and that training.

This information and more is available online at:

www.ready.gov/caring-animals or call 1-800-BE-READY
www.aspc.org/print/pet-care/disaster-preparedness
www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/pets

Local contacts:

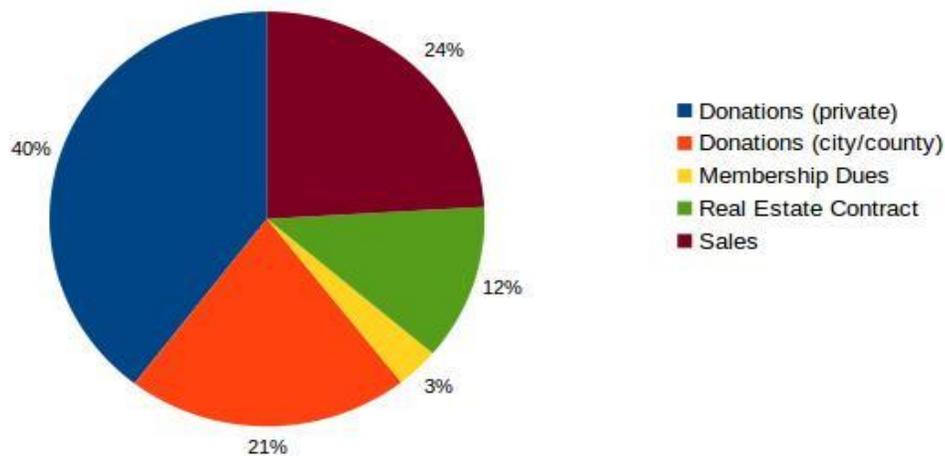
- Fred Hollis, Emergency Service Administrator, Socorro County Office of Emergency Management, 575-835-2029
- Jessica Smith, Socorro County Extension Agent, 575-835-0610

Local veterinarian Dean Wilkinson has offered a slide presentation and lecture on biosecurity and disaster preparedness to any interested group.

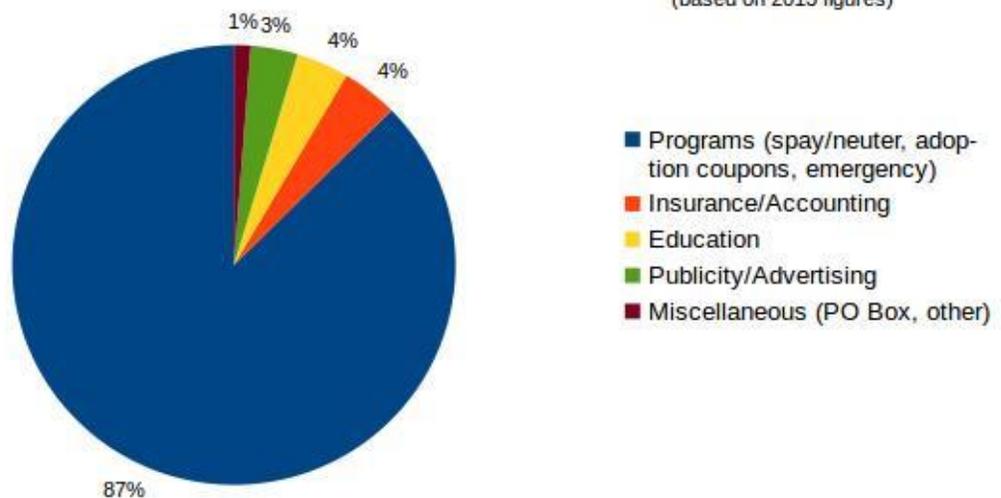
APAS Uses your Donations Wisely

We are so pleased that 43% of our income comes from our devoted members and 21% from our city and county governments. That's 64% of our revenue coming directly from our community and shows tremendous support for our work. Another 24% comes from the hard work of our group through the annual yard sale and dog biscuit sales, and the remainder from a generous donor who bequeathed APAS a piece of real estate. And we use your donations wisely. APAS is an all-volunteer organization, and 87% of our funds go to programs that help support Socorro pets and reduce the overpopulation of unwanted animals. We do this through our spay/neuter program, our support of shelter adoptions, and emergency medical assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

APAS Revenues
(based on 2013 figures)



APAS Expenditures
(based on 2013 figures)



Festival of the Cranes

November 21-23, 2014

APAS will have a booth at the Festival of the Cranes this year. We will be at Bosque del Apache on Friday, Nov. 21 from 12 – 4 pm, Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 am – 4 pm, and Sunday, Nov. 23 from 9 am – 2 pm. As well as educating the public about our services and mission, we will be selling dog biscuits to raise money for our organization. If you would like to volunteer, we could use help manning the booth during these days, and helping make dog biscuits to sell.

There are a lot of interesting activities that take place at the Festival each year. You can check out their schedule at <http://www.festivalofthecranes.com/>. Maybe you can work in an hour to come help us at the APAS booth in between other activities, or take the opportunity to drop off some home-made biscuits before heading out on the refuge.

If you're interested in helping out at the booth, please email us at apassocorro@gmail.com. If you'd like to make some biscuits, please drop them off at our booth during the hours listed above. Below is a recipe for dog biscuits if you need one. If you do choose to make biscuits, package a few each in plastic bags to make them easy to sell.

Basic Dog Biscuits

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups regular or whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp. salt (or less)
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. beef or chicken bouillon granules (can substitute beef or chicken broth/stock)
- ½ cup hot water

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Dissolve bouillon in hot water
3. Add remaining ingredients
4. Knead dough until it forms a ball (approximately 3 minutes)
5. Roll dough until ½ inch thick
6. Cut into slices or bone shapes (you can purchase a bone shaped cookie cutter to make shapes)
7. Place dough pieces on lightly greased cookie sheet
8. Bake for 30 minutes



Animal Protective Association of Socorro

PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801

Thank You!



For your contribution to APAS enabling us to publish this newsletter. On behalf of APAS members and the animals we work to protect, thanks for your commitment to the Socorro community.

Membership/Donation Form

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by email. Yes No

Individual Membership \$5.00 (one vote) \$ _____

Organization Membership \$5.00 (one vote per organization) \$ _____

All memberships are \$5 and each membership type is entitled to vote and receive one newsletter per address/email. Should you wish your donation to be anonymous, please mark so clearly on this form. ***Please mail this form and donation to: APAS, PO Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801.***

Donation:

____ \$50 Silver ____ \$100 Gold ____ \$150 Platinum ____ \$250 Platinum Business

____ Other (Any amount is greatly appreciated!)

Membership and Donation Total: _____

New Membership Year is January 1 to December 31, 2014.