

FEBRUARY | MARCH 2013

the BOSQUE BEAST

FACTS & FANCY FOR RIO GRANDE ANIMAL-LOVERS

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THE MAN ISSUE

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THE MAN ISSUE



PHOTO BY KERRY SHERCK

IN MID-DECEMBER, while interviewing men about macho attitudes towards animals (p. 12), I was unhinged to learn that 20 little kids had been shot to death at school. The link between these two types of violence — against animals and people — came immediately to mind.

The assault weapon used in Connecticut belonged to the gunman's mother, yet it is overwhelmingly men who use such weapons to kill people. Of the 62 mass shootings in the U.S. since 1982, all but one was by a man. Likewise, studies have found males responsible for about 98 percent of violent attacks on animals. Shelter workers will tell you that animal abuse and domestic violence generally occur together. Perhaps not surprisingly, mass shooters especially are reported to have a history of attacking animals.

Why are men more likely to be violent? News reports often point to a history of feeling humiliated, which probably resonates more profoundly for men. Unlike women, who are defined by their body parts (and their baby-making function), or other animals — also defined by their biology — men must continually prove their masculinity through action. And this privileged status can be revoked at any time.

Is it any wonder that men fear emotional vulnerability? Or that so few want to risk falling for some cute baby creature? Such widespread unease in half the population might be considered dangerous if it were not, in fact, the very stuff that sells products. Massive diesel trucks, pricey protein shakes, military assault weapons, and other macho paraphernalia are easily sold on the promise of invincibility their products will provide.

The effect doesn't last, of course. Consumerism drives the U.S. economy because enough is never enough. Your big truck tires aren't quite big enough, your arsenal not high-powered enough to vanquish the nagging fear of vulnerability. Sure, we all pay lip service to the idea that true strength (or beauty, in the case of females) comes "from within." In practice, we reach for the credit card to bolster our flagging sense of self-worth.

Gun advocates will tell you that guns don't kill people; people do. It follows that guns don't keep you safe; only your state of mind can do that. Consider the men I spoke with who rescue animals — all of them share a steady calm in their speech and demeanor, walking around without guns or armor, no trepidation about being seen as unmanly.

In fact, if it's part of the emotional formula for abusers, batterers, and killers to turn on animals, I like to think something quite the opposite happens to men who actually look after them. Call it paternal instinct, primal and definitively masculine: not strength by attacking the weak, but strength in the will to protect them.

Animals have a special ability to bring this out in us, because they are so utterly guileless. No matter who you are, they bring to every encounter their complete presence, without motivations, which is what makes winning their trust so sweet. It's not like any kind of love between humans, even the sweetest of which is tinged with motivation.

To open yourself up to loving an animal is to understand profoundly that each creature on Earth has a soul, and that you have one too. It's the very opposite of what the marketers want you to believe — that we are all image, and relationships can be "mastered" by wearing the right one.

Shed the costumes and accessories of masculine strength, and what remains? Not the size of your muscles, Mister. It's the size of your heart that makes you a man.

Ohnuma
Keiko Ohnuma | Editor & Publisher



ON THE COVER

Prince of Egypt is among the equestrian subjects by Patricia Ann Massengill, a Corrales artist known for her landscapes, florals, horse paintings, religious artwork, and commissioned portraits. Born into the Ford family, she was raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and returned to the U.S. in her teens. Artistic from childhood, she is largely self-taught and has worked in watercolor, graphite, pastel, and oil. She has owned two businesses and lived around the continent, as well as in Europe. Massengill cites the Old Masters among her greatest influences, and is inspired by her Southwest environment. She is devoted to her three sons and many friends, and has been represented by Nemat Galleries in Old Town and Galria de Corrales, among others. **FOR MORE INFORMATION: HIGHSPIRITSFINEART.COM**

the BOSQUE BEAST

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Bosque Beast aims to serve the whole animal-loving community. Send your letters to: Editor, P.O. Box 374, Corrales, NM 87048 or editor@bosquebeast.com. Please include contact information so that we can verify your identity. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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A WORSENING PREDICAMENT

Corrales Animal Control continues to be overrun with abandoned dogs, straining resources to care for them. The Village contracts to maintain three dog runs at Corrales Kennels, but these have been full since early December, creating a problem especially over the holidays when additional runs were not available to rent.

Currently in custody are a big brown Mastiff mix dubbed Mongo, found near Village Mercantile in January. On the north end of the Village, an Australian Shepherd cross puppy was found near Romero Road, now called Alvin, with striking blue eyes. Snuggles is an excitable pitbull mix that has been at the kennels since July. Two more puppies also were found recently that are now in foster care or permanent homes. (Photos of available dogs can be viewed at www.joycefay.com/corrales/. To arrange a meeting, contact Animal Control at 898-0401.)

Already strapped for money, the Village faces additional strain as increasing numbers of dogs and cats are left in New Mexico's only "no-kill" community. The Village Council voted last year to reimburse rescue groups \$75 each for animals they agree to shelter for the Village. That money is paid from a special fund out of the Police Department budget. It is not clear where additional funding would be found to warehouse additional animals.



Mongo is a wonderful Mastiff mix waiting for his forever home.

Bill Woldman, president of FOCAS (Friends of Corrales Animal Shelter), said the group has been stymied in its mission to build a donor-financed Village-run shelter by having no site for the facility. Its hope for a donation of land or other arrangement has not panned out.

Meanwhile, the rescue group CARMA, which Woldman runs with his wife Barbara Bayer, took in five animals from Corrales Animal Control in January alone. Corrales Kennels currently has three or four rescue groups warehousing more than a dozen dogs that need homes.

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Joe Schelling, left, and Steve Valasek count birds on a wing as part of a team headed by Rebecca Gracey, opposite, during the Christmas Bird Census.

TWO TURTLE DOVES, AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

CORRALES BIRDERS MARK YEAR'S END WITH A KINDER, MORE PRACTICAL HUNT

Among the holiday traditions that are not mourned in modern times is the Christmas Side Hunt, a 19th-century killing spree in which teams of hunters competed to see who could bring in the biggest pile of lifeless fur and feathers.

Hunters (and birds) are no longer so profligate as back then, and what has been handed down to the present era is an alternative tradition begun by the Audubon Society in 1900: the Christmas Bird Census, whereby teams of bird-watchers set out to count birds instead of kill them.

And so it is on a cold and cloudy day in mid-December. About 40 bird-watchers gather before dawn where holiday dinners are now hunted — Sprouts Market — clutching binoculars, clipboards, and coffee. They are among the 2,000 groups, or “circles,” across the continent that take part in this annual bird-watching ritual. Corrales happens to be at the center of one 15-mile-diameter “circle” stretching from the South Valley to Rio Rancho, which means one group is already out on the river in canoes before dawn.

Our hosts this morning are Rebecca Gracey, a veteran birder who has been doing the Corrales count since 1994, her birdwatching partner Joe Schelling, and newcomer Steve Valasek, who got interested in birds when he moved to Rio Rancho from Pittsburgh a year ago. Gracey’s is one of three Corrales teams that set out each year to count every wild bird visible in the Village.

This is not really feasible, of course — birds don’t stay still, after all — and no one pretends to do a complete survey. Instead, this longest-running wildlife census in history serves to provide precious data about the status of wild birds and habitats across the continent, especially over time. It is one of the oldest examples of “citizen science,” putting birdwatchers’ expertise to use in a way that really helps the birds.

“It’s a ritual for birders,” says Gracey. “You know your help is needed.” And while it’s tedious to spend a whole day counting hundreds of pigeons and starlings, certain numbers do inspire debate. For example, Gracey’s team counted one robin in 2001; the next year, they saw 364. The following year, it was five.

Gracey speculates that this discrepancy is related to the fruit production on imported Russian olive trees. But so far this year, the team has counted a half dozen robins in the first hour, despite a very dry summer.

“It’s a raptor!” Valasek alerts as the group begins driving residential streets in its territory. Everyone jumps out of the car, clutching binoculars, and Gracey pulls from the trunk a high-powered scope. After some discussion and consulting of field guides, the group decides that the bird — already gone — was a Sharpshinned Hawk, a “sharpie.” Clearly, it helps to have several sets of eyes, ears, and minds to “describe the elephant” once it has left the room.

“Now we’re in the birding mode,” Gracey says with satisfaction, getting back in the car. “We’re hot.”

The car crawls down quiet streets as the passengers call out sightings. Later, when the sun comes out, they will take to the ditch banks and bosque on foot.

“Looks like about a dozen Collared Doves.”

“A house finch — no, two.”

“Rock pigs.” (Rock pigeons — no one’s favorite sighting.)

Gracey makes notes on her clipboard, expertly running her finger down a list compiled from what she’s seen in previous years. “Of course, some are not that exciting,” she concedes. Counting is not what birders do — though she and Schelling spent all of yesterday doing it in San Antonio, near the Bosque del Apache bird refuge. But the trends, over time, are compelling.

Lewis’ Woodpecker, for example, with a beautiful emerald-green back and red breast, used to be seen often in Corrales; now, never. Gracey can only speculate why — possibly loss of habitat, which happens around Albuquerque after surges in housing development. On the flipside, new species appear that were never seen here before, like the Cactus Wren. White-Wing Doves are another southern denizen that has become plentiful in Corrales, based on the dozen or so sighted in the first hour.



PHOTO BY DAVID PARSONS

The overall number of bird species hasn’t varied much, Gracey says, at around 40 to 45 for her group, and 120 for the Albuquerque region. And while it’s tempting to assume that Corrales must harbor far more avian diversity than downtown Albuquerque, that simply isn’t the case.

One of the group’s favorite sightings is a Western Screech Owl that has been seen in a tree trunk near the Seventh Day Adventist church for the last two years — but he is missing this year. Recently, says Gracey, an expert birder reported an American Woodcock in Corrales, the sort of rare sighting that gives a weary bird counter hope.

Come dusk, the Albuquerque groups meet at O’Niell’s Pub downtown to compare notes and vie for the day’s best spotting. The real satisfaction, though, is in reconnecting with the feathered ’hood. Birds of a feather really do flock together, and for bird-lovers, there’s joy enough in the harmless annual hunt.

FOR INFORMATION: WWW.BIRDS.AUDUBON.ORG. AMATEURS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET INVOLVED. YOU CAN ALSO HELP GATHER VALUABLE DATA FOR A NEWER CENSUS, THE 16TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, HELD FEB. 15-18 THIS YEAR. VISIT WWW.BIRDCOUNT.ORG.

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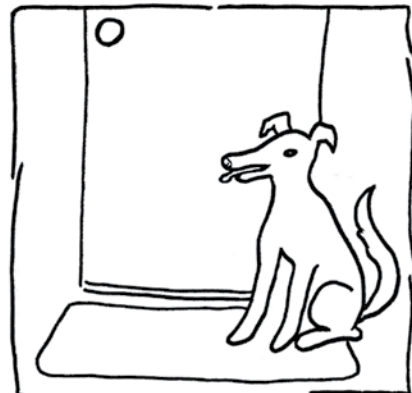
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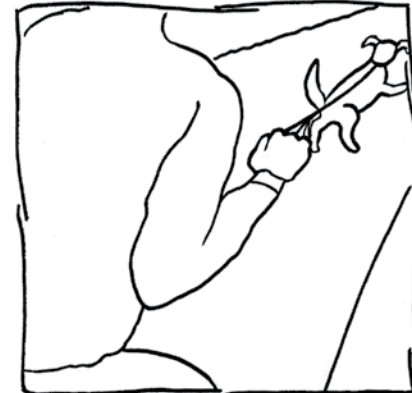
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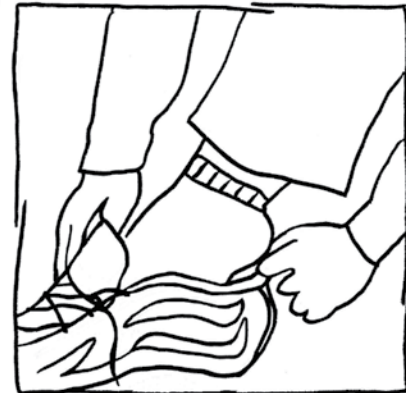
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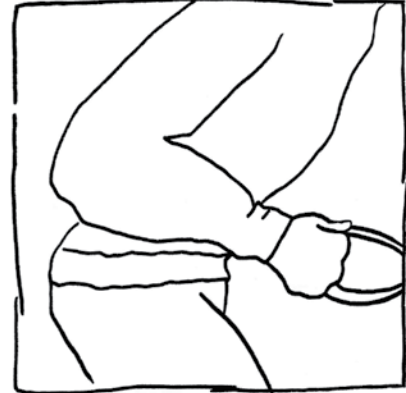
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NEIGHBOR'S CHAINED DOG BARKS CONSTANTLY

DEAR LAWYER,

I RECENTLY MOVED INTO MY HOME AND HAVE BEEN ALARMED TO SEE THAT MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR CHAINS HIS DOG IN A SMALL BARE BACKYARD MOST OF THE DAY AND SOMETIMES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THE CHAIN IS HEAVY AND ABOUT 10 FEET LONG AND THE DOG HAS NOTHING TO DO, SO IT BARKS CONSTANTLY. I FEEL SORRY FOR THE DOG, BUT THE BARKING IS STARTING TO DRIVE ME NUTS. WHAT CAN I DO? *Sleepless in Corrales*

Dear Sleepless,

Thankfully, cities and towns throughout the U.S. are slowly recognizing the cruelty of tethering dogs, and making it illegal. In Albuquerque, it is against the law to chain a dog for more than one hour in a 24-hour period, and Las Cruces has a maximum of six hours out of 24 hours. Bernalillo County recently banned all outdoor tethering of dogs (including cable trolleys, where the tether is connected to an elevated line). Unfortunately, most municipalities in New Mexico still have no laws against chaining, including Corrales.

The animal cruelty ordinances of Corrales and Rio Rancho, among others, do not appear to forbid dog chaining, but only physical abuse and intentional neglect. Hopefully, laws will change throughout the state to criminalize all tethering of dogs, as it is inherently cruel and can result in strangulation, dehydration, infection, hypothermia, and sunstroke. All dogs deserve better. You could try a nicely worded letter to your neighbor suggesting he unchain his dog, but I would bet this will not be met with cooperation or enthusiasm.

Another route you can take would be to contact New Mexico Dogs Deserve Better, a wonderful group working hard to unchain dogs and introduce them to much happier lives (nmddb.org). On some occasions, this group has been able to purchase chained dogs from their owners.

Your neighbor's dog is likely barking because it is bored, frustrated, anxious, in pain, and/or depressed. Every dog needs mental stimulation, companionship, exercise, and protection from cold, heat, wind, and rain. You may be able indirectly to get this poor dog unchained by calling an animal control officer and filing a complaint with the Village of Corrales about the barking problem. Corrales, like most other municipalities, has a nuisance ordinance that punishes owners of dogs whose barking disturbs other residents' "rest and peace." The fine for violation is up to \$500, or up to 90 days imprisonment, or both. Because the wording is vague and subjective, enforcement is sporadic at best. Be persistent, and the Village may eventually be compelled to respond.

Many municipalities have more specific ordinances pertaining to barking that perhaps could be adopted in New Mexico. In several U.S. cities, dogs are forbidden to bark from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Other cities punish owners whose dogs bark for five or more consecutive minutes between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. In Honolulu, ten minutes of continuous barking, or 30 minutes of intermittent barking, can result in a \$1,000 fine.

Hopefully one of the above routes will assist you in getting a full night's sleep. This situation underlines the urgent need for legislative reform in New Mexico regarding nuisance noise and animal protection, so animals can be treated more humanely and people can get their sleep.

ED GOODMAN WORKED FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES AS A TRIAL LAWYER IN MASSACHUSETTS. A PAINTER, SCREENWRITER, AND NOVELIST, HE LIVES IN CORRALES WITH HIS PARTNER, ENNIO GARCIA-MIERA, AND THEIR SIX DOGS, FOUR TURKEYS, FOUR CHICKENS, AND A PARROT.



PRESENTS

Exciting musical adventures!

Saturday, February 9th – 6 p.m.
An Unforgettable Evening with Ann Hampton Callaway

Singer/Pianist & Tony@ Nominee
Roger Melone, conductor
POPEJOY HALL

Sunday, February 10th – 2 p.m.
11-Year-Old Piano Prodigy Ishan Loomba Plays Beethoven

David Felberg, conductor
Mendelssohn: *Hebrides Overture*
Beethoven: *Piano Concerto No.1*
Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 1*
NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER

Sunday, March 3rd – 2 p.m.
Clarinetist James Shields Plays Mozart

Philip Mann, conductor
Rossini: *Overture to Il Barbiera de Seviglia*
Mozart: *Clarinet Concerto in A Major*
Schubert: *Symphony No. 9 in C Major*
NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER

Saturday, March 9th – 6 p.m.
Ukrainian Pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk Performs Rachmaninoff

Helene Bouchez, conductor
Rachmaninoff: *Piano Concerto No. 3*
Ravel: *Daphne and Chloe Suites 1 & 2*
POPEJOY HALL

Saturday, March 23rd – 6 p.m.
Gold-Medal Russian Violinist Ilya Kaler Performs Sibelius

Victor Yampolsky, conductor
Sibelius: "Alla Marcia" from *Karelia Suite*
Sibelius: *Violin Concerto*
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BACK TO BASICS

GOING BACK TO BASICS IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA, AND WHAT A GREAT TIME OF YEAR THIS IS TO REVISIT SOME OF THESE TECHNIQUES! BENDING AND STRETCHING YOUR HORSE'S NECK AND BODY ARE GREAT WAYS TO COMPLEMENT YOUR CONDITIONING PROGRAM.

Just as it is beneficial for humans to begin exercise by stretching, we can do the same for our horses. Interestingly enough, this not only benefits their bodies but their attitude as well. I will share with you a few exercises you can use to help your horse become more flexible and obedient. Do these only with a horse that you trust and that is comfortable being touched everywhere.

Starting dismounted, you can teach a horse to reach around to his shoulder with a treat. If you listen closely, you may hear his neck pop. Some horses may be so stiff it will take them time to reach all the way.

The other stretch I like is beneficial to the splenius muscles and the longissimus dorsi, which are some of their top-line muscles. Have your horse put his head between his front legs, with legs square in front. Put your arm between the front legs from behind and get his attention with the treat. As he becomes interested, drop the treat down and back behind his legs. As he becomes more flexible, you can move the treat back further. His feet must stay flat on the ground.

Another easy stretch for the shoulders can be done by facing your horse and lifting his front leg, holding it just above the knee. Then stretch it forward and up. This also pulls the skin out from under the girth/cinck to keep it from getting pinched.

When mounted, I like to use an English snaffle to do the following exercises. It's the best tool to give direct feeling to the mouth. If you care to have a little more control, you can add a running martingale.

The first exercise is turning in a simple circle. But sometimes drawing a circle with a horse is not so simple! The horse will certainly turn, but you want him to bend his body and follow his head. Using the inside rein and inside leg, get him to begin giving to the curve of the circle. If he is cutting across the circle and not following his head, you may need to use more leg or a little tap with a whip to send him forward into the bend. Switch directions often, and make the circle smaller as your horse begins to understand. You will soon find him becoming centered in body as well as mind.

My favorite saying is "give them a job." If my horse is a little excited when I get on, I will immediately give him something to think about by engaging mind and body, gently turning and switching directions. It is amazing how well this works. As you move to the trot, your circles will grow larger. This is a very simple exercise, but not easy.

Another exercise I use is to gently pull his head toward his shoulder, as with the treat earlier. From a standstill, start to pull his head around to the shoulder. It is important to keep your hand at waist level or lower. When you feel resistance, stop and hold. Soon you will be able to draw his head over to the shoulder with little resistance. You can even practice letting go and having your horse leave his head there until you invite him to straighten it again.

I think you will enjoy helping your horse become a more flexible athlete. Developing him physically and mentally will have great rewards for both of you!

KATHY G. O'NEAL RUNS LIVERY TRAINING STABLES IN CORRALES, WHERE SHE TEACHES BOTH ENGLISH AND WESTERN RIDING TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN, TRAINS RIDERS FOR COMPETITION, AND BOARDS HORSES. VISIT HER WEBSITE AT WWW.LIVERYTRAINING.COM.



Western entertainers take the stage after the Chuckwagon Suppers offered every Saturday in summer at Wildlife West Nature Park.



Don't try this at home: Roger Alink pets his purring pussy cat, a lifelong friend and resident at the park.

TO DREAM SOMETHING WILD TEACHING RESPECT FOR NATURE IN AN UNUSUAL CLASSROOM PARK

IT'S A ZOO THAT ISN'T QUITE A ZOO. It's more like a wildlife refuge, except the animals aren't running around wild. Technically it's a sanctuary, since the animals are all rescues that cannot be released — but "zoo" is the unfortunate category remaining to describe the fact that the residents all live within exhibits. Wildlife West Nature Park is in a class by itself, a hybrid entertainment complex that is part sanctuary, part educational facility — and wholly the realization of one man's tailor-made dream.

Roger Alink is an unusual man, and his is not the typical dream. At one time he may have thought about making some money, because he got into commercial real estate after about ten years of teaching industrial arts (shop) at Valley High School in Albuquerque. But then his life fell to pieces — as he puts it — and the suddenly single dad came up with a quite different plan for the 122 acres he had bought with a partner off I-40 in Edgewood.

"It's all the things I like to do — construction, animals, youth — and that I find valuable," Alink says of the resulting scheme, smiling from the depths of a voluminous parka on this first icy day of winter. "I wanted to do something I find meaningful. The original business plan (from 1992) is very much like this," he says, indicating the artificially natural realm he oversees from his tower office.

Alink has never made a dime off of Wildlife West; 20 years later, he's still a volunteer. Over the decades, the park has added all manner of commercial undertakings to pay the bills: Chuckwagon Suppers every Saturday in summer, a three-day music festival in June, a blacksmithing competition, mud races, and tractor drives among them. All the money raised goes to support the 40-some resident animals, nearly all of them on permanent loan from the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.

Visitors guide themselves through the 24 stations of the park, a hidden gem of hand-painted signs, reclaimed buildings, and hand-built habitats, all of it constructed by a crew of teens, many from the Youth Conservation Corps, under Alink's tutelage — along with the occasional offender working off community service time.

"The youth portion (of the plan) has grown because of the YCC," he explains. "We've gotten grants to have about 25 kids each summer. That's added value to what we're doing." He estimates the park has employed about 500 youths, half of them paid by the New Mexico YCC.

Growing up on a Minnesota farm, Alink saw the value of teaching young people to work with their hands, and to learn solid rural values like sustainability, responsibility, and a connection to nature. He guides his youthful crew in adding an exhibit or two each summer, including such priceless oddities as the Pinto Bean Museum — a collection of memorabilia, antiques, and a homemade diorama that pay tribute to the region's history as the Pinto Bean Capital of America. Local history, Alink says, complements the natural history of New Mexico provided by the animals.

Indeed, where else can you see the local fauna up close? As common as they may be, few city folk ever come across a bobcat, gray wolf, mountain lion, or javelina. And since many of these animals were rescued precisely because they were too socialized with humans (as illegal pets, for example), they are far more responsive to visitors than their wild cousins. That makes for a less depressing experience than the typical zoo.

Alink makes it a point to see that his animals get all the mental stimulation, affection, quality feed, and veterinary care of a beloved family dog — except for the wolves, which are kept as close as possible to wild. The two females and three males don't even have names. "They're endangered," Alink says, implying that it's best they live free of any more human interference. Nonetheless, they run up to the fence full of curiosity and excitement at the prospect of visitors.

The black bear, Koshari, is a more typical resident. As a baby, he was a food-scavenging nuisance at Navajo Lake, and had to be removed. "He was an emaciated young bear when they got him," Alink chuckles, indicating the mountain of black fur nodding in its cage, unable to resist the climatic summons to hibernate. A whole fish lies untouched on the ground, and the bear can hardly rouse himself for two giant dog biscuits slathered with peanut butter.

Likewise Phantom, one of the two mountain lions, appears more fat house cat than man-eater. At 15, he has outlived any wild cougar, and probably couldn't outrun his dinner. Cared for at home by Alink as a sick cub, he purrs like mad when the zookeeper sneaks past the glass enclosure to rub the feline's neck — something no one else is allowed to try.

In fact, everything at Wildlife West is touched by the spell of Alink's sincerity, from the well-cared-for animals to the painstakingly constructed habitats, which mimic the naturalistic sculpture of zoo habitats. "They're old tires covered with stucco," Alink confides about the javelina enclosure. "Made by the kids."

There's the little Town of Venus, a reconstructed movie-set version of Edgewood, and a central amphitheater made from a garden center that was trucked and reassembled here over the course of three years, where the Chuckwagon Suppers are held.

The park can't really be called a rescue facility, because it turns away more animals than it accepts. "We are very careful to be sustainable," Alink says. "Our mission is education, so ten mountain lions is not better than two. We take representative animals who will advocate for the others."

"I get calls every week asking to take animals, because there are not many organizations like ours." Most wildlife rescues deal in rehabilitation and release — such as the Wildlife Center in Espanola, and its founder Dr. Kathleen Ramsey, the source for two resident elk orphaned by the 2011 Las Conchas fire.

The park's financial operations reflect a similar thoughtful creativity. "When I formed the nonprofit 20 years ago," Alink says, "I got a zoo license,

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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water rights, and put together with a lawyer the concept to not pay for any of it, but to do it grassroots.”

He syndicated the land — a mechanism whereby ownership was sold to 35 partners who cannot individually sell. The money raised helped pay for development of the park. Thirty acres of the original holding were sold to the county as open space, zoned commercial, which paid off what was owed on the land. “The nonprofit has a perpetual lease from the partnership for the land,” Alink explains. “It’s a symbiotic relationship.” The park pays for itself through admission, events, and rentals.

The arrangement leaves Alink free to focus on his mission, which is ensuring that the animals are healthy, visitors have an informative and entertaining experience, and the 40 or 50 volunteers feel appreciated — like Art, who is spending four hours here staffing the visitor center on a day when no one is likely to brave the chill. “Of the donations, probably 99 percent of it goes back to upkeep of the park,” Art says proudly.

The only thing missing from the plan is a salary for the founder, the park’s only full-time volunteer. “I got remarried to an angel,” Alink explains. “She pays the bills.” His main concern right now is making sure his Eden survives him. “Because I’m the glue, I need an exit plan,” he worries. “I need the public to feel the value of what we’re doing.”

The park has already met Alink’s criteria for success, accomplishing its mission of education, caring for wildlife, and helping kids. “It’s a labor of love,” he says. And love is clearly the currency that rewards the volunteers, nourishes the ark, and fulfills its founder’s dream.

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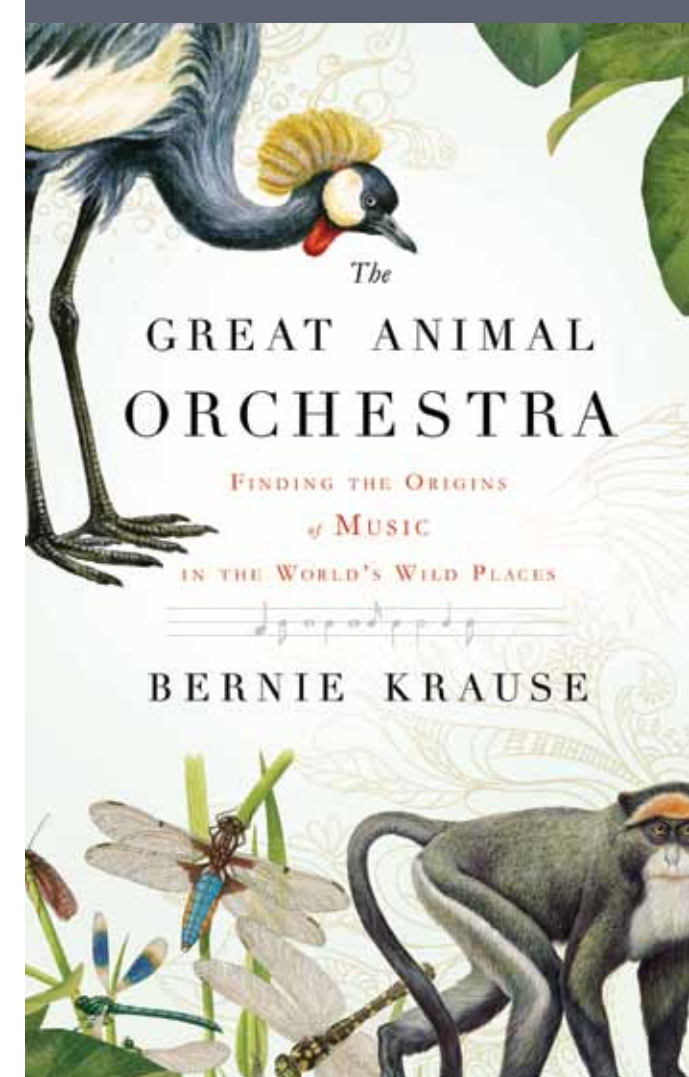


PHOTO BY TIM CHAPMAN

MUSICIAN BERNIE KRAUSE, A FORMER GUITARIST FOR THE WEAVERS, HAS BEEN RECORDING AND ARCHIVING NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS SINCE THE 1970S. OF MORE THAN 15,000 SPECIES AND 4,000 HOURS OF WILD SOUNDSCAPES HE HAS TAPED, MORE THAN HALF NO LONGER EXIST IN NATURE. KRAUSE DESCRIBES SOME OF HIS FINDINGS IN THIS PROFESSIONAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY. FROM THE BOOK *THE GREAT ANIMAL ORCHESTRA* BY BERNIE KRAUSE.

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WHEN I WAS TRYING TO FIND A SINGLE, easy term that would define animal sounds coming from wild places, every expression seemed academic and obscure. In the human realm of noise, the terms were even more obtuse, with phrases such as anthropogenic noise. Nothing quite fit. Then, by accident, I hit on a Greek prefix and suffix that struck just the right chord: *bio*, which means “life,” and *phon*, which means “sound.” Biophony: the sounds of living organisms.

In addition to the sonic cues embedded within soundscapes, the biophony as a whole can give us valuable information about the health of a habitat. In an undisturbed natural environment, the richness and content of soundscapes vary from season to season, over time of day, and under different weather conditions. The organic and nonbiological elements that are unique to a location work in a delicate balance, acoustically defining each habitat, much in the way each one of us has his own voice, accent, and manner of speaking.

More than twenty years ago, I asked a biologist working for a large lumber company if I might have permission to record at a “forest management area” in the Sierra Nevada mountains, where his corporation had obtained a lease permit to begin selective logging on public forest land. The site: Lincoln Meadow at Yuba Pass, about three and a half hours east of San Francisco. Bisected by a stream and a bit over two-thirds of a mile long and about a quarter mile wide, the meadow was surrounded by ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, red fir, white fir, and Douglas fir, as well as a few sequoias. Multiple species of frogs could be heard there throughout the spring. It was a lovely, resonant place. At local meetings held throughout the area, the biologist and his associates assured the community that his company’s new selective-logging methods would have no adverse impact on the habitat. I asked for access to the site to record both before and after the operation. With the company’s blessing, during the summer solstice of 1988 I set up my system in the meadow and recorded an exquisite dawn soundscape expressed by a wide variety of creature sounds. Present in the first recording were Williamson’s sapsuckers (a type of woodpecker), mountain quail, chipping sparrows, white-crowned sparrows, Lincoln’s sparrows, ruby-crowned kinglets, and numerous insects.

A year later, after the logging operation was complete, I returned to Lincoln Meadow on the same date, at the same time, and under the same weather

conditions to record again. When I arrived I was delighted to see that little seemed to have changed. However, from the moment I pushed the “record” button it was obvious that the once-sonorous voice of the meadow had vanished. Gone was the thriving density and diversity of birds. Gone, too, was the overall richness that had been present the year before. The only prominent sounds were the stream and the hammering of a Williamson’s sapsucker. I walked a few hundred feet back into the forest from the meadow’s edge, and it became quite apparent that the lumber company had wrought incredible devastation just beyond the meadow’s sight line, where extensive patches of ground had been left exposed. While not exactly a clear-cut, many more trees were taken than had been promised. Over the past two decades, I have returned more than a dozen times to the same spot at the same time of year, but the bioacoustic vitality I captured before logging has not yet returned.

To the easily deceived human eye — or through the lens of a still or video camera — the site even now appears wild and unchanged from the narrow perspective of the meadow. With a photo, we can frame a shot in almost any setting and, depending on what we want to catch in that fraction of a second, evoke responses from awe to horror.

But even a short, unedited sound recording captured in a calibrated and comprehensive way does not lie. Wild soundscapes are full of finely detailed information, and while a picture may indeed be worth a thousand words, a natural soundscape is worth a thousand pictures. Photos represent two-dimensional fractions of time — events limited to available light, shadow, and range of the lens. Soundscape recordings, if done right, are three-dimensional, with an impression of space and depth, and over time can reveal the smallest feature along with multilayered ongoing stories that visual media alone can never hope to capture. A well-tuned ear and attention to minutiae within the larger picture will always uncover any deception.

Whole-habitat recordings of the kind I’ve described illustrate the state of biomes that have been rendered ecologically transformed through human intervention, such as logging or mining; climate change; or natural phenomena, and we can make efficient comparisons — assuming we have well-collected data

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

MAN THE PROTECTOR

A FEW BRAVE MEN WHO RESCUE ANIMALS TALK ABOUT MACHO DOMINANCE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN.



Gabriel Garcia

IT'S NO SECRET THAT WOMEN GREATLY OUTNUMBER MEN AS ANIMAL RESCUERS, AND EVEN A CHILD CAN TELL YOU WHY. WOMEN ARE NATURALLY NURTURING, CARING, COMPASSIONATE, AS REQUIRED FOR MOTHERHOOD, WHEREAS MEN ARE HARD-WIRED TO BE AGGRESSIVE, COMPETITIVE, AND DETACHED, SO THEY CAN BE GOOD HUNTERS AND FIGHTERS.

A century or more has gone by, however, since masculine aggression was more useful for feeding the family than causing a heart attack, and in recent decades both men and women have been shedding traditional gender roles. Today, more men than ever are nursing cute furry creatures back to health — risking ridicule and some really hurtful names.

No matter what their age or background, the men we found who are devoted to animals connect with their masculinity through responsibility, stewardship, and man's role as provider and protector, rather than as king of the boys. Good judgment, a generous heart, and the courage to think for yourself: As one of our guys put it, that's what makes a man.



BILL STUBBLEFIELD

64, ALBUQUERQUE
FABULOUS FELINES
VICE-PRESIDENT
AND TREASURER

BILL STUBBLEFIELD'S family were ranchers in Moriarty; his father settled in the South Valley after the Navy so he could keep animals. Bill went on to study English at Stanford University in the 1970s, then got his graduate degree in computer science to pursue an interest in artificial intelligence. That's where he met his wife, Merry, also a computer scientist.

Merry was into cats, and eventually became an animal-rights attorney. When her cat collection got unmanageable, she started Fabulous Felines no-kill cat rescue in 2006. Observing their five house cats, Bill naturally got to pondering how animals think, and "I got disillusioned by rationalist models of thinking. That got me on quite a long journey."

After retiring from Sandia Labs in 2011, where he was a computer scientist, Stubblefield turned his energies to writing (novels and poetry, as well as his blog, wmstubblefield.com), playing jazz guitar, and restoring their Foothills home. He continues to study human and animal relationships, and has concluded that animals have a different, not necessarily inferior, type of intelligence.

ON THE RANCHING ETHIC: It does seem a little paradoxical, coming from ranching folk, but I am a vegetarian and a little bit of a pacifist. I don't like killing. My dad was a hunter, yes, he ate meat, but he also taught me to care for animals and to build things. I still have the ethos that animals come first. I remember I would come home from school tired, and my dad would say, 'Feed the animals first, then you can rest.' Or in the morning, thaw the water and then eat breakfast. I see the deeper ethos of responsibility — this is a ranching ethos — that you sleep, you eat, only when the animals have been cared for.

ON HOW TO CHANGE MACHO ATTITUDES TOWARD ANIMALS: I think it is changing. We do have this image of men (as fighters), but why can't it be an image of men as creators? My heroes have always been the poets, the architects, the musicians — people who looked at the world and, rather than use weapons to subjugate, say, 'I'm going to build something.' We do it by living our lives. I don't think persuasion works that well; example is more important. Try to build an image of man as creator, builder, protector. That's a man.



BILL VELASQUEZ

47, ALBUQUERQUE
HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY OF
NEW MEXICO PRESIDENT

BILL VELASQUEZ grew up in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado in a family with roots in ranching. He recalls that they butchered their own cows and grew their food. When he met his wife, he opposed having her rabbits in the house because he thought of them as livestock.

All that changed when the rabbits — who did end up in the house — grew ill and needed constant care. "Like with any being, you get attached to them," he says. An electrical engineer for a construction contractor, Velasquez works in a "heavy hunting environment" where he hears killing stories daily, and has been roundly mocked for rescuing rabbits. Still, he says it doesn't bother him that others hunt. "It's someone else's way of life, I'm not going to judge them for it." His ranching background, he says, taught him tolerance for diversity.

"Everything I learned about love, I learned from the first bonded pair of rabbits," he adds of the fragile process of rabbit courtship. "If you could just learn to love one person the way a bonded pair love each other, the world would be a better place."

ON WHY MEN ARE MORE PRONE TO ABUSE ANIMALS: A lot of men think they own their animals and their wives. At one of the Albuquerque (City Council) meetings, a man came in and said, 'I beat my wife and I beat my animals, and I'm not going to stop,' and walked out. I don't think he was kidding.

ON CHANGING MACHO ATTITUDES TOWARD ANIMALS: I think education is a powerful tool. When you see animals interact to where you see they feel pain or sorrow, it's a lot harder to go out and kill them. I know people don't agree with me. But when I'm doing the bonding (process), I'm watching the rabbits for hours, and they're not unlike people. You can draw a lot of parallels. Rather than master animals, we're responsible for them as stewards. Wild rabbits didn't ask to be tamed — we bear responsibility for them.



ERIC JACKSON

44, ALBUQUERQUE
GREY2K USA VICE PRESIDENT;
GREYHOUND COMPANIONS
OF NEW MEXICO
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

ERIC JACKSON was born in England and grew up in the Chicago suburbs. Twelve years ago he and his wife moved to Albuquerque, where he teaches cognitive psychology at the University of New Mexico. A lifelong animal-lover, he got involved with greyhound rescue after adopting a retired racing dog in 2005. The more he learned about how greyhounds are raised and disposed of, the more he was driven to act. His work with the advocacy group GREY2K USA has made him a target of the dog-racing industry. "One guy made a comment about all the 'middle-aged women' involved. I said, 'Look, these folks are much more than little old women you can push aside.'"

ON WHY SO FEW MEN WORK IN ANIMAL RESCUE: I think it's maybe a cultural thing, where men still aren't supposed to show emotion — 'for dogs,' as I keep hearing from the industry. But then they claim the owners *love* their dogs. What they love is the ego extension of having a dog that can run fast. It's like Pee Wee Baseball. I tell my classes that NASCAR grew out of bootlegging: The bootleggers would strip cars to race their product past the cops. Anytime you have two guys together, there's going to be a race. Part of it is culture, but part of it is probably that's how men's brains are made. As humans, we're badly adapted to

survive, so we had to find ways to be faster. But we don't have the need any more (to hunt), and our society, I think, is progressing.

ON CHANGING MACHO ATTITUDES TOWARD ANIMALS: I think we've seen it happen with dogfighting and cockfighting. A lot more of the public is saying that's not acceptable. It's happening now with horse racing — more people are seeing the truth behind the scenes. The more we understand, the more we see we're not as special (as a species) as we thought. And we're moving away from that idea of having dominion over everything.



JIM TREVER

67, ALBUQUERQUE
PRAIRIE DOG PALS REPRESENTATIVE
AND OUTREACH PRESENTER

JIM TREVER traces his interest in animals to a gift his father brought him at age 3, a stuffed squirrel from the airport. "I was just nuts about squirrels ever since," he says seriously. He flew for the Navy during the Vietnam War, then settled in North Carolina, where he was a computer systems engineer. In 1978, Trever started rescuing orphaned and injured squirrels; 14 years ago he became a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Working as a civilian for the Navy for much of his career, Trever hardly fits the image of a squirrel saver, and he has taken his share of mocking from superiors and veterans. He attributes his humanitarian leanings to his father, a Methodist minister who pioneered research on the Dead Sea Scrolls. In 2010, Trever moved to Albuquerque to be near his brother, having lost his wife in a 2000 car crash. He naturally switched his allegiance to the more common, more threatened prairie dog, several of which he cares for in his Albuquerque home.

"Prairie dogs are currently at less than 2 percent of their original numbers," he notes. "People don't realize they have tight social bonds, so when you shoot one, you disrupt the whole community. And they don't mate like rabbits. The female is in estrus for only five hours, once a year."

ON WHY MEN SHOOT PRAIRIE DOGS: Man tends to think, if something's in the way, kill it. I've had a lot of comments. A guy on an off-ramp rolled down his window (when Trever was rescuing dogs off a highway median) and said, 'Too bad we can't shoot 'em!' I said, 'Why?' He was just dumbfounded. Finally he said, 'Animal control,' and I said, 'That's what we're doing!'

ON CHANGING MACHO ATTITUDES TOWARD ANIMALS: If you get people into my classes, that will have an impact. I did the whole freshman class at Sandia (High School) in five back-to-back sessions. Afterward I had one kid tell me, 'I've shot prairie dogs with 22s, and now I'm sorry.' It's sad, because now you can sign up for shoots online — they had one where 27,000 prairie dogs were killed in one weekend! It really worries me that these people are so callous, so desensitized. But I've felt this way since I was 13. At some level, all life is connected, and life should be respected.



BILL WOLDMAN

67, CORRALES
FRIENDS OF CORRALES ANIMAL
SHELTER (FOCAS) PRESIDENT;
CARMA (ANIMAL RESCUE)
VOLUNTEER

BILL WOLDMAN comes from New Jersey, but has lived nearly two decades around Albuquerque with his wife, Barbara Bayer, who founded CARMA in 1999. He rescued cats before there was a name for it; he grew up without pets. On their

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

first date, Woldman's future wife made it quite clear that, next to her four cats, he would always be No. 5.

A former bagel shop owner who is now Albuquerque field representative for Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Woldman is the political force behind the successful 2011 drive to make Corrales the first no-kill community in New Mexico. He also helped spearhead the ongoing effort to develop a municipal animal sanctuary in Corrales. "Initially I just tagged along," he says of the couple's work for animals, "but her passion rubbed off on me. There's so little (in this world) we can have an impact on."

ON WHY MEN ARE MORE PRONE TO ABUSE ANIMALS: Maybe it's a substitute for abusing women — or a step toward it. But it's not just about animals. Men in this country are insecure. In the '70s, things were moving along, and then came the '80s. ...I equate it a lot with our military strength and isolationism. Maybe it's subliminally political: 'You can't let your guard down,' etc.

ON CHANGING MACHO ATTITUDES TOWARD ANIMALS: What may change it is returning soldiers, and the bond they can make with dogs — at least on the dog side. Whether it's with prisoners, or the disabled, or soldiers, it is a stepping stone.



GABE GARCIA

31, ALBUQUERQUE
WATERMELON MOUNTAIN RANCH
STAFF; NEW MEXICO DOGS DESERVE
BETTER VOLUNTEER

GABRIEL GARCIA was born and raised in the South Valley. As a kid he had a soft spot for animals, and paid the price by having to witness a lot of animal abuse — as well as take his own share of thrashings. "My dogs were always there," he recalls. "I could deal with dogs better than people." Dogs would follow him home; he was the type to "find" animals in trouble. He even found a puppy in the bathroom at Zia Elementary, and convinced his father to let him keep it.

Recently Garcia spent five years on staff at Watermelon Mountain Ranch animal rescue, and now contributes what is needed at New Mexico Dogs Deserve Better, from fence-building to dog walking. He says NMDDDB's outreach missions — where women offer blankets, toys, and support for chained dogs — have restored his faith in humanity. "Even the toughest guy, it opens them up, because you're giving them stuff. Sometimes they even start helping to clean the yard."

ON WITNESSING ANIMAL ABUSE: My older brother and his friends did have dogfights in semi trailers. I saw one, and it turned me completely the opposite. When I was younger I'd get into it (with them), but now I just call the authorities. I have gotten my brother and his friends completely turned around, after giving them a hard time for years, telling them not to be such bastards.

They do enjoy it. That's what their parents did, that's what they knew. It's different with working dogs (on a ranch) — they need them. Here in the city, they're just lawn ornaments.

Sometimes when you get a puppy, they're really cute, but they never train them, and then that's the only place they can go (chained in the yard). It's a mindset, a lifestyle. They're shady people and they need someone to protect them.

I never felt I needed a dog to protect me — I protect dogs.

ON HOW TO GET PEOPLE TO STOP ABUSING DOGS: To see what Angela (Stell, of NMDDDB) and her group do, to see some of the dogs rehabilitated — that might help, to see them be good dogs. Because any dog can be a good dog. It's all in how you treat them.

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sets — with audio snapshots as short as ten seconds in length. Like the rings on a tree, these recordings serve as multilevel biohistorical markers. When natural cycles, disasters, or destructive acts of human intercession occur, the events are quickly and powerfully articulated through changes in the biophony. The living collective of sonic organisms responds appropriately. Nonhuman animals will try to recalibrate their voices to accommodate the altered circumstances. The resulting spectrograms either will show far less density and diversity or will appear more chaotic—that is, filled with unrelated or competing information with very little distinction between voices, assuming any remain at all.

We are discovering that the governing features of a biome's biodiversity are delicately balanced to the extreme. The biophonies of healthy habitats generally fall within a certain expected scope, meaning that given the range of the region's seasonal climate and the relative stability of the landscape, organisms that typically thrive there should reflect expected numbers of species and total population. What we have noticed is this: Whenever a biophony is coherent, or what some biologists consider "within a range of dynamic equilibrium," the acoustic spectrograms generated from recordings illustrate remarkable discrimination between all of the contributing voices. On the other hand, when a biome is compromised, spectrograms will lose both density and diversity, along with the clear bandwidth discrimination among voices that is otherwise visible in nonstressed-habitat graphic displays. Biophonies from stressed, endangered, or altered biomes tend to show little organizational structure.

When habitat alteration occurs, vocal critters have to readjust. I've noticed that some may disappear, leaving gaps in the acoustic fabric. Those that remain have to modify their voices to accommodate changes in the acoustic properties of the landscape, which may have been altered by logging, fire, floods, insect infestation, or other shifts in the nonbiotic components of the habitat. All of these variations mean that the natural communication system evolved within a soundscape breaks down and becomes chaotic until each creature's voice once again finds a place in the chorus. This could take weeks, months, or, in some cases, even years. At Lincoln Meadow the biophony at the last visit (2009) remains relatively quiet, with very light density and notably altered diversity, even after almost a quarter of a century of supposed recovery.

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It doesn't matter how long you're in for — in prison it's too long. And while there are worse places to do time than the New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility, with its motivational hallway banners and cheerful murals, prison is still a trap tighter than whatever dilemma helped land you here.

Only one thing lightens this dismal daily reality, and that's the complete and utter joy of your canine roommate, who couldn't be happier than to be locked up with you 24 hours a day. No matter what this creature suffered before being abandoned to the Grants Animal Control Shelter, your constant love and companionship seems to be all it could ever want. And how good does that make you feel, in your baggy prison garb?

"We heal them, and they heal us too," says Marcia Lee, who started her 7-year term in 2008. She was one of the first inmates to be selected for Heeling Hearts, a program that pairs shelter dogs with inmates for training until the dogs are adopted. The program is unique in that adopters come to the prison itself for the meet-and-greet. Currently 16 inmates train dogs, but the waiting list is more than 50 names long.

Nine of those trainers live in "A" pod, a medium-security unit housing 25 inmates. Here in a two-story cement room ringed by cells, with a common area in the center, the dogs live with their handlers 24/7. Every morning they do an hour of formal training, followed by some recreational time. Five times a day they go out for potty break to a small gravel interior yard. Every few months, dogs and handlers are rotated so no one gets too attached.

"Letting go is the hardest part," admits Lee, who like many of the prisoners shows none of the laughing affability of most American women. When your sole source of comfort is taken away, or gets adopted, the pain can be devastating — as well as instructive.

"I broke down," says Ellen Snyder, stroking Jana, a mixed-breed terrier who was her first dog in prison. "I had a hard time even going to the potty yard, because I knew I'd see her." Snyder, who has done 17 months of a five-year sentence, now lives with her second dog.

Meanwhile, long-timer Nandis Axelsen can barely remember the names of the 26 or more dogs she's trained since she started the program in 2008. Now 65, Axelsen has been in prison for more than 12 years.

"Dogs give us normalcy," explains Snyder, "especially for those who had dogs outside. Having them changes you."

"I'd be lonely without them," adds Dana Eicher, incarcerated since 2003, with two more years to go. "It's pretty lonely in here."

The lucky few who get to be in Heeling Hearts must earn the privilege through good conduct. Only low- and medium-security prisoners can participate, since the higher-security pods don't have the freedom to work the dogs outside.

Yet, many inmates at the prison who don't qualify still crave contact with dogs, and are allowed to request visits when going through a tough period emotionally.

"Personally, I think the inmates can identify with the dogs," says Assistant Warden James Lopez. "In prison it's hard to give a person the opportunity to care for another being. If you give them that, it will only do good."

Good results probably account for the steady growth in prison dog-training programs nationwide, but Heeling Hearts — a program of Albuquerque's PB&J Family Services, a parenting agency that includes prison-related support for families — is the only one currently operating in New Mexico. Lopez, who was previously warden of the Penitentiary of New Mexico, south of Santa Fe, introduced dogs to his maximum-security facility after seeing the impact at the Women's Correctional Facility.

Winning support for such programs can be tougher than it might appear. Lopez began by bringing a couple of dogs from the Santa Fe Animal Shelter to his prison for a few hours, then a few more dogs for overnight visits. That sparked what many people fear — rough play with the dogs — which Lopez nipped in the bud by asking the prisoners how they'd feel, thrust into such a rowdy environment. "They really bought into that," he says with satisfaction.

For dog owners, the positive, calming influence of pets might seem like a no-brainer. But resistance can be strong to offering therapeutic benefits in prison.

Arlene Hickson, warden at the Women's Correctional Facility, says she was one who opposed dog training when it was proposed at her previous post, at a Colorado prison. "It's a thought process that inmates are bad people, and the last thing we want to do is introduce animals, with all the liability. I said absolutely not."

It took seeing the benefits elsewhere to shift her thinking. When she transferred to the privately run women's prison in June 2008, Heeling Hearts was already in place. Now Hickson is such a huge fan, "when PB&J lost funding for the program, I was ready to pay for it myself (out of our budget)," she says. "It's a win-win all around." The prison now covers expenses to feed the animals. In five years the program has adopted out 275 dogs, with no incidents of animal abuse.

In fact, units with dogs have fewer problems, Hickson notes. Prison dog-training programs elsewhere have been found to reduce recidivism. And Heeling Hearts has the added benefit of running on a shoestring: The inmates teach each other how to train and groom the dogs, and the two women from Heeling Hearts who launched the program are now donating all their time.

"These are women, and by nature women take care," Donna Howard, assistant public information officer at the prison, says of the inmates. "And some who haven't done that because they were using drugs are doing it now, and that will help them with re-entering society."

As the only women's prison in New Mexico, the Grants facility houses more than 600 inmates from around the state, including all populations and types of offenses. Outsiders don't often pause to consider, in thinking about such a place, that prisoners lose more than their freedom, individuality, privacy, and opportunity. They also lose the chance to make a positive contribution to society.

But when it comes to the dogs, Lopez notes, these women are actually saving lives.

"Some of the dogs come in abused," says Hickson, "with challenges" — including the dog she herself adopted, who you'd never guess was a victim of abuse. The canine residents of A pod seem better behaved than most family dogs. Each one must pass the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test before being offered for adoption.

To show off, Jana, the terrier mix, stands on her toes and twirls, executes ground rolls, and runs through a battery of tricks at the wave of a hand. Jana's main obstacle now is that she doesn't want to leave, and keeps flunking her meet-and-greets by showing none of her usual charisma.

And why shouldn't the dogs be happy? When the prison suffers a lockdown, and inmates are confined to their cells until the whole facility has been searched — a process that can take days — "the dogs handle it better than we do," says Snyder. A guard takes the dogs out on potty breaks, but otherwise they are on lockdown too. Having a companion makes it a lot easier for the humans to cope, adds Snyder. Dogs endure worse living in shelters or on the end of a chain. Their easy joy shows the women that life is worth living not to make yourself happy, but to bring happiness to someone else.

"We learn responsibility, respect, love," says Lee, who believes dog therapy could help prevent incidents like the Sandy Hook massacre. In prison, or after a life of abandonment, women and dogs learn that love can set you free.



DONATE TODAY

Helping Them Heal

To adopt a prison-trained dog, visit heelingheartsnm.org. Donations are desperately needed to continue Heeling Hearts, a program of PB&J Family Services (pbjfamilyservices.org). Therapist Susan Neal and dog trainer Lyn Martin launched the program in August 2007, while Neal was on staff at PB&J. Since November 2012, when she was laid off for lack of funding, both she and Martin — who was paid only with a startup grant — have been making the daylong visit to Grants once a week on their own time. "We couldn't let the dog program go, because we worked so hard to get it started," says Neal, "and it means so much to the women and to the dogs. It was heartbreaking to let it end." The two women continue to work with the animal shelter, facilitate spay/neuter, support the inmates with dog training and care, and handle adoptions. Visit pbjfamilyservices.org and designate Heeling Hearts for your donation.

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Each issue, rescue groups in our community present some of the dogs and cats that have been abandoned or surrendered and need forever homes. In some cases, animals could use a foster home where they can wait for adoption so they don't have to continue living in a kennel. Contact each individual rescue group for more information.

Most offer practical and financial support for animals and foster adopters.



BETSY

Bro & Tracy Animal Welfare

This gorgeous young border collie is probably less than a year old. Betsy is smart, playful, and ready for loving and training. She loves to run fast! Don't be too tempted by her beauty unless you have the time, energy, and expertise to give her what she needs.

Contact Joyce Fay at 463-4553 or joycefay@broandtracy.org.



LOVIE

Greyhound Companions of New Mexico

Lovie is a happy 5-year-old male Greyhound. He's very affectionate and gets along great with other dogs. He'd make an excellent therapy dog.

Contact Greyhound Companions of New Mexico at info@gcnm.org if you can give this deserving dog his forever home.



TAYLOR

New Mexico Dogs Deserve Better

Taylor is an Akita cross, about 3 years old, and was a chained dog in a trailer park. We were able to secure an owner surrender, and today Taylor is a healthy, happy dog, but he is in boarding and needs a foster home. Taylor loves to go for long walks and would enjoy an active lifestyle or a large family. He rides well in the car and is learning his manners on a leash. Taylor is a grateful dog who is ready to learn and eager to please. He would do well with another good-natured dog that loves to play.

To apply to adopt or foster, email adopt@nmddb.org, or visit newmexicodogsdeservebetter.org.



FRODO

Second Chance Animal Rescue

Frodo is a Lab/Pit mix, about 8 years old. He's a great snuggler who also loves walks. Since he is so athletic, he needs a 6-foot fence. Frodo is house-trained, neutered, and vaccinated. He does best with females — both canine and human! Frodo is in boarding and really needs a foster or forever home.

Contact secondchancenm@yahoo.com.



KATRINA

Boston Terrier Rescue

This 4-year-old Boston Terrier from the city shelter may have had a rough start in life, but she has not let it hamper her sweet, loving nature. She can play for hours, or just enjoy hanging out with her human. This special dog is deaf, but it doesn't seem to bother her. She responds to hand signals and is well-behaved. Since she is afraid of other dogs, she needs to be an only. Katina and her adopter will be offered free training so they can start off understanding each other.

Contact Mitzi Hobson at 463-8453 or mdhobson@aol.com.



KINSEY

CARMA

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HAPPY TAILS

JOYCE FAY



ERIC "ED" CAMRON

FEB 1937 — JAN 2013

We came from different worlds and in many ways continued to live different lives during our 30 years together. The place where our lives joined was with the animals. When our relationship was not going smoothly, somehow the animals always held us together.

June 1985. Ed and I had been married several months, gotten our place in Corrales and two horses. He came home one day and asked (!) if he could get a dog. He said a guy at work had one like he always wanted, and there were others in the litter. He said he would name him Bro because he had always wanted a bro.

The next morning I picked up the dog so that he wouldn't have to stay in the heat all day. By the time Ed got home, Bro was my dog. Two weeks later Bro's littermate Tracy joined us. Bro and Tracy set the path for our lives. We had only to follow where they led.

Ed enjoyed the photos I made of the dogs and our travels. At that time, most of my photos were slides, and he was an appreciative audience for the slideshows I made of old favorites as well as each new batch. Later he supported my desire to make a book of them. I'll always remember our excitement that cold snowy day in February, his 55th birthday, as the four of us headed to San Francisco to meet our publishers.

Back then the sand hills to the west of Corrales were open, and we rode often, always accompanied by the two dogs. Climbing the hills, loping in the arroyos, enjoying the sight of the dear burrowing owls, coyotes... we were so fortunate to have that opportunity. Then the yellow machines came and terraced the hills and filled them with houses. After that, Ed didn't ride as often, but he enjoyed having horses and continued to build and repair our fences, corrals, stalls, and all the stuff involved in keeping horses and dogs safe.

Ed had a special ability to pick the right animals. I appreciate that he brought into my life Bro and Tracy, our buckskin Tádidiín, and even the newest dog, Dixie, although I wasn't so sure about her at first. And I appreciate that he always supported all the activities the animals led me to, including the many fosters who shared our home. How many times did I tell him that I was getting a new dog, and he would say, "Don't you have enough dogs? You have too many now." When they arrived, he usually fell in love and wanted to keep them. I managed to move most of them along to new homes, but I gave in on Dixie.

Ed loved and respected all animals. We always enjoyed watching the quail, especially in summer when they had their babies. People frequently asked him if he liked to hunt. His answer was, "I've never been that hungry."

Many years ago Ed came to a Parelli clinic to watch me work with Tádidiín. Afterward he said, "I don't know if you got the right husband, but I know you got the right horse." When I was a child, I used to dream of horses and dogs and the West. Ed may not have been a "perfect" husband, but considering the animals that he brought into my life, he must have been the right one.

PHOTOGRAPHER JOYCE FAY FOUNDED BRO & TRACY ANIMAL WELFARE IN 2000, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO HELPING INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS FIND THE RIGHT HOMES. THE INTENTION OF THIS COLUMN IS TO SHARE SOME OF THOSE STORIES.



NUTRITION, UNWANTED HORSES AMONG RECENT CONCERNS

Happy New Year from the Corrales Horse and Mule People! We had a busy schedule of events at the end of 2012, with the annual Corrales Christmas de Caballos Parade on Nov. 18 to benefit the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. The 2.5-mile parade route down Corrales Road started across from the Wagner Corn Maze and ended at the Top Form Arena. This equine-only event draws participants from across the state, and this year from Colorado as well. We counted more than 220 riders and 40 wagons/carts.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER DR. MATT PAXTON OF ZIA EQUINE, TALKING ABOUT EQUINE NUTRITION. MATT PROVIDED AN ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL Q&A SESSION. SOME KEY POINTS:

- Overfeeding is a common problem among horse owners, and leads to founder, laminitis, metabolic syndrome, and many other health issues. To effectively manage nutrition, you need to weigh your feed. Horses' digestive systems are designed to be fed small amounts frequently. Pasture or frequent feeding are best, otherwise for many owners a slow feeder can be a good alternative.
- Different hays differ greatly in nutritional content, so supplementing with minerals is a good idea.
- Grain, and other carbohydrates that turn to sugar, are not desired in horses any more than in people. Complete feeds that are balanced nutritionally and that include vitamins and minerals can be a good supplement.
- The trend toward rotational worming, or worming when your horse is shod, is considered outdated, especially in our dry climate. The best option is to have a fecal count done to determine if worming is required.

Our January meeting looked at the emotionally charged problem of unwanted horses, with Dr. Dave Fly, New Mexico Livestock Board state veterinarian; Dr. Sonia Swing of the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine; and Rusty Cook, president of the New Mexico Horse Council. Hearing some of the statistics about the problem in New Mexico was staggering.

- New Mexico (including tribal lands) is home to tens of thousands of feral and unwanted horses.
- The state has nine certified horse-rescue operations with a total capacity of 257 head. They are currently holding 266 horses.
- Unwanted horses are routinely turned loose on open space.
- As a border state, New Mexico receives unwanted horses from across the nation.

You can find horse-rescue organizations listed on the New Mexico Livestock Board website: www.nmlbonline.com/index.php?id=23. For more insight on the topic, you may want to read the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report "Horse Welfare, Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences from Cessation of Domestic Slaughter," at www.gao.gov/new.items/d11228.pdf. The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau have also produced the article "Equine Welfare: What IS Humane?" available at www.nmhorsecouncil.org/EquineWelfare_June2012.pdf.

Our February meeting will be Wednesday the 27th. It will be a potluck dinner to introduce new officers and hear their backgrounds and objectives for the upcoming year. We will discuss topics for future 2013 meetings.

The March meeting will feature a veterinarian on the topic of preparing your horse for spring.

Be sure to include the annual CHAMP Recreation Ride on your calendar, May 4, from the Top Form Arena, beginning at 9 a.m. Other events are listed on the CHAMP website, www.champnm.com, along with a membership application.

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KAT'S KORNER



KAT BROWN

MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL

Recently someone asked if I thought cats really saw themselves in mirrors. Well, being curious, I did some research and discovered the answer is yes and no. Some do, some do not. It seems that, like humans, cats have varying degrees of imagination and/or playfulness in their makeup.

In my house I have three different attitudes concerning mirrors. My hunter Oliver thinks there is something behind the mirror hanging in my bedroom, and periodically pushes it to the side to make sure it can't get out. Other than his occasional reconnaissance, he shows no interest in his reflection or the other mirrors.

Yoshi, on the other hand, was in love with his reflection in the bathroom mirror as soon as he was big enough to get on the counter. He would pose and admire himself as often as he could. And he still enjoys looking at himself when he sees his reflection. Kuma Chan (Teddy Bear), the baby, never showed any interest, even as a playful kitten. He wants attention from his human, and he wants toys he can grab and chew. He thinks he is the only cat in the universe. Luckily, his cousins remind him constantly he is not, and he is learning to share and to play nice with them.

The boys' cousins in Houston have not shown any interest at all in mirrors, except for one. Chibi, when she was younger, saw another grey cat in the mirror on the door and constantly searched for her. Once Mini-Me (her doppelganger) came to live in the house, she concluded that the other cat had decided to come out, and has stopped looking altogether. She has more important things to do — like keep her housemates in line. It is not easy being the Queen.

Others report having had cats that showed varying degrees of interest, interaction, or boredom with their reflection. As the articles I read suggested, cats are as different as humans in their observation and willingness to believe in the unknown. My brother's late cat Tiggy was a very pragmatic cat. She did not interact with mirrors, or red dots, or anything but real cat toys offered by her humans. This made her a very intelligent cat, in her human's eyes. We all tend to be a bit myopic when it comes to our own children. But she was special, without a doubt.

In my study of this question, I decided to try one of the apps that iPad offers to see if the boys might be interested in them. It is a variation of a mirror, but with animation replacing the reflection. I got the same inconclusive results.

Oliver, the pragmatist, just watched to make sure none of the critters escaped. Yoshi was very interested, and tried to eat the mouse, frog, or spider in the glass. But Kuma the baby took to it like a teenager with a new video game. He used his paws with a vengeance to get at those critters, and seemed to know the object of the game. He scored the highest points for attacks and kills — and very nearly purchased an expensive app. Needless to say, all of the boys are supervised now when they play on the iPad.



Cats driven mad by the iPad

Cats may be thought of as mysterious and aloof to some, but to me they are unique little puzzles waiting for us to accept them as they are. If we can do this, we are blessed with their love and loyalty. If we cannot, it is probably best to get a dog.

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ASK A VET

DANIEL LEVENSON, DVM

GOOD TIME TO THINK ABOUT TEETH

In February, we have to start preparing for Valentine's Day (well, at least some of us do); college basketball season is in full swing as teams jockey for position for March Madness; and sometimes it's a leap year (though not this year). In case you didn't know, February is also Children's Dental Health Month.

More to the point, February also has been named Pet Dental Health Month — a time when we veterinarians try to raise awareness about oral health and dental care for animals. Of course, we try to have this important discussion all year, but this month is a good reminder to focus everyone's attention.

As veterinary medicine has evolved and become more sophisticated, so has our focus on preventive care. I have to admit that we veterinarians sadly ignored dental disease for many years, probably figuring that plaque and tartar were part of a normal aging process and that teeth probably would fall out. We would never put up with that in our own mouths, though, so why didn't we address this in our pets? Horse owners have known for years about the importance of healthy teeth — and now we know better for cats and dogs too. In fact, we now have an American College of Veterinary Dentistry, with board-certified veterinary dentists who specialize in dental care and oral surgery.

"Doggie breath" is not just a fact of life. Bad breath says we have neglected to pay attention to what's inside: tartar buildup (the brown or black stuff on teeth, especially near the gum line), plaque (the sticky stuff you can't always see), broken teeth or damaged enamel, gingivitis, and many other things.

It's no different than what your dentist tells you about your own teeth. Food, saliva, and bacteria in the mouth, and to some degree genetics, all play a role in dental disease. If left unchecked, poor oral health can lead to problems all over the body. We can't go into all the diseases here that can result from bad teeth, but consider the pain from loose or infected teeth, and problems eating. Or bacteria in the mouth that leads to diseased gums, then gets into the bloodstream and settles in the heart, kidneys, liver — wherever blood flows.

At some point, when problems get bad enough, your pet may need a full oral exam and dental cleaning. This can be done only under anesthesia, as animals will not hold still with their mouths open while we poke and prod around. While they are "under," we do a complete oral exam, clean the teeth and gums, and then decide if we need to work on any diseased teeth or periodontal problems, or in some cases pull a bad tooth. This can only be done by veterinary staff who are qualified to administer anesthesia and address oral health issues at the same time.

Naturally, we prefer to prevent problems before they arise. Talk with your veterinarian about brushing your pets' teeth, proper treats and chew toys, possible dietary adjustments, and any topical gels or oral rinses that might be used. There are lots of good products out there, but many more worthless ones that have never been shown to prevent or treat oral disease.

We cannot prevent dental disease in every pet, but we can try to keep all pets' mouths as healthy as possible. Learn to recognize and address problems sooner, and then aggressively treat oral disease before it becomes life-threatening or causes suffering. Make an appointment with your vet during the month of February to address "doggie" breath (or killer cat breath) and start working toward a healthy mouth.

DANIEL LEVENSON OPERATES THE SOUTHWEST VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER AT THE SOUTH END OF CORRALES ROAD. VISIT HIS WEBSITE AT MYSOUTHWESTVET.COM.



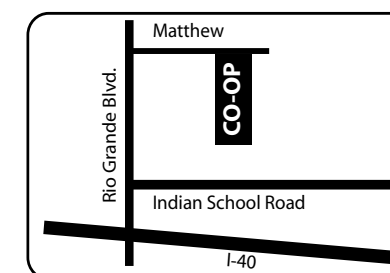
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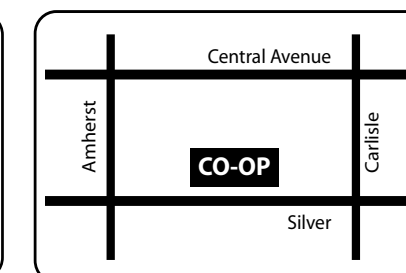
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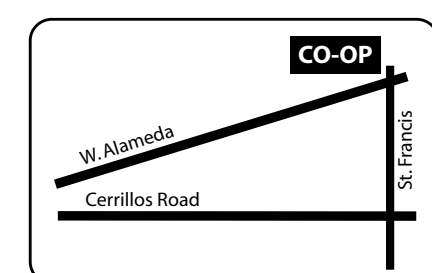
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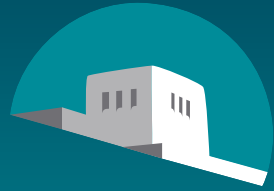
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\$10 per photo donation benefits Justice Great Dane Rescue and Great Dane Rescue of El Paso.

Boofy's Best for Pets
8201 Golf Course RD NW, #C2
Albuquerque, NM 87120
Tel: 505-890-0757
www.boofysbest.com
Hours: Mon-Thur: 10am-8pm
Fri-Sat: 10am-6pm Sun: 11am-5pm

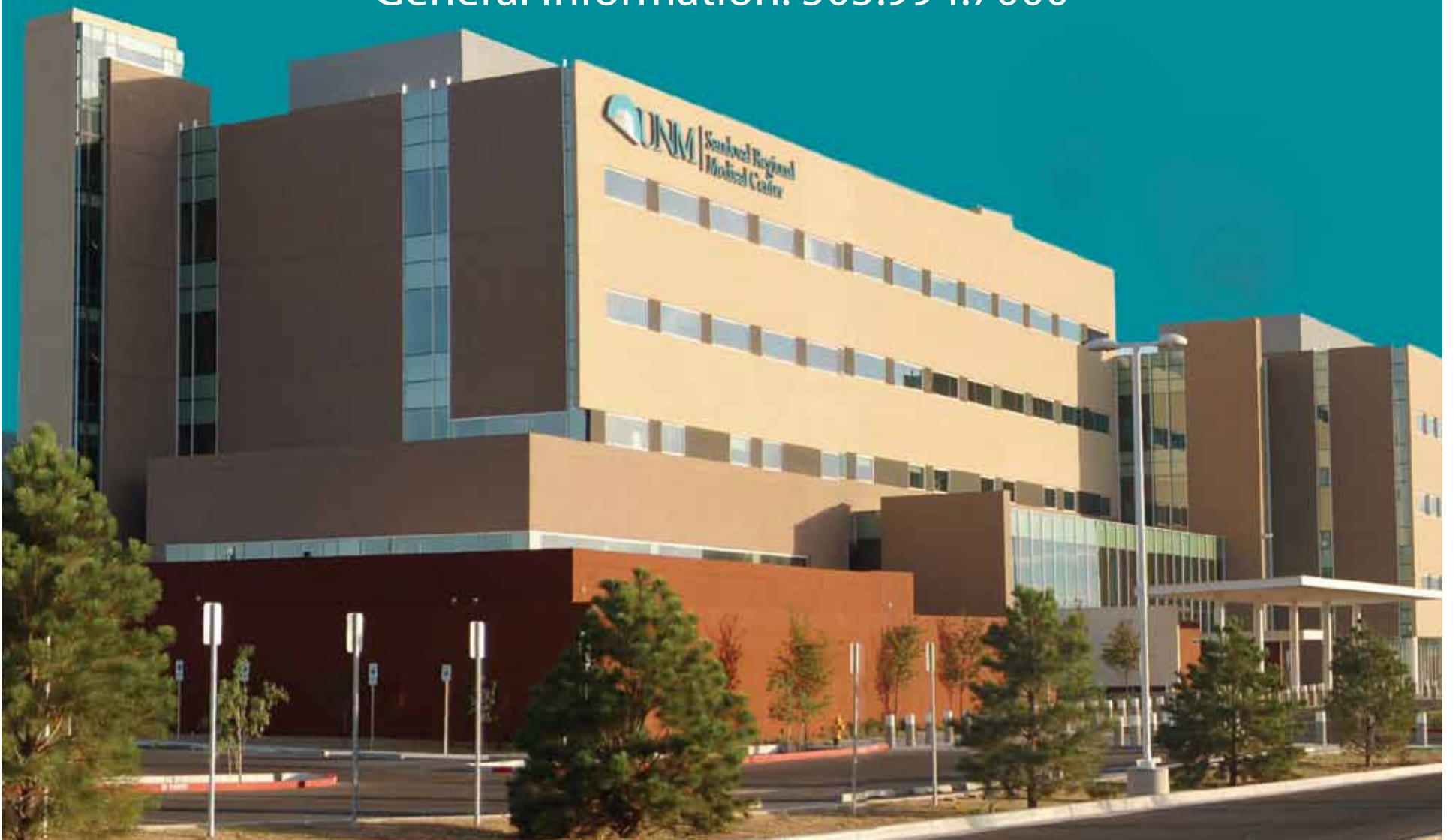


UNM

Sandoval Regional Medical Center, Inc.

The Expertise of the University of New Mexico
in Sandoval County

General Information: 505.994.7000



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For more information please visit us at **UNMSRMC.ORG**

