

## Current COVID-19 Policies at ASCMV Updated 10-28-2020

### The ASCMV had employees test positive for COVID-19

The purpose of this statement is to list the current ASCMV policies for:

- General Information
- Animal intake
- Euthanasia
- Rescue Program
- Foster to adopt program
- Foster program
- Volunteer Program
- Vaccinations
- Spay & Neuter Program
- Medical Treatments
- Adoptions
- Animal Redemption by owner (RTO)

#### **General Information** –

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the ASCMV had our first positive covid test for an employee. Since then, significant changes have taken place.

1. Adoptions and stray intake are limited to Dona Ana residence only.
2. Appointments of all types are limited to only 5 adoption appointments a day to reduce the number of people coming to the center. all access by citizens into the ASCMV must be done via an appointment. The only exception is if you have lost your pet and have identified it online via our website [www.ASCMV.org](http://www.ASCMV.org) . The hours of operation are Monday – Friday 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday, Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. To make an appointment, please call 575-382-0018 during work hours.
3. Some staff are required to wear advanced PPE equipment. (face shield, gown mask)
4. City and County Animal Control departments have been asked to only impound sick, injured and aggressive animals and NOT impound trapped feral cats until November 18, 2020.

Due to a small lobby, only citizens doing paperwork are allowed in the lobby. Masks and social distancing are required at the Center.





**Animal Intake** OF THE MESILLA VALLEY

1. City and County Animal Control departments have been asked to only impound sick, injured and aggressive animals and NOT impound trapped feral cats until November 18, 2020.

The ASCMV is currently not accepting healthy stray animals from the public. The public is encouraged to hold the animal if possible, post notices and go door to door to find the owner. The ASCMV strongly urges the public to LEAVE KITTENS WHERE FOUND. (see our resource page for more information.) The mother cat is often in the area, but not seen. The mortality rate of kittens in the shelter is very high. We do not recommend kittens be brought to the ASCMV. The ASCMV will accept animals from the public that are observed as aggressive, show clinical signs of any illness and ones that are injured. If the public has a found animal and they have exhausted all options, the ASCMV will accept the animal.

The ASCMV is not accepting the surrender of healthy, non-aggressive animals. (see our resource page for more information.)

#### **Euthanasia** –

The ASCMV continues to make life saving efforts in all aspects of our services. We are not euthanizing for space. We are not euthanizing any animals automatically. Euthanasia is carefully considered by all parties involved. We strive to treat for illness prior to euthanasia. We look for a prognosis before ruling euthanasia. There are cases where animals have been euthanized prior to a wait period or stray period elapsing. However, these are done per a licensed veterinarian's recommendation based on current condition, prognosis of recovery and quality of life. The ASCMV continues to offer emergency euthanasia services for sick, injured owned animals.

#### **Rescue Program** –

The ASCMV currently sends animals to rescue organizations throughout the state of New Mexico and otherwise. These rescue partners have been incredible to work with during these ever-changing pandemic health guidelines. We follow all quarantine guidelines when going out of state.

#### **Foster to adopt program** –

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of New Mexico suspended all veterinary elective surgeries. The New Mexico Board of Veterinarian Medicine defined a spay or neuter surgery as "elective". The ASCMV has continued moving animals out of the center by means of owner redemption, fostering, euthanasia and adoption. Because spay and neutering surgeries could not be completed, most animals in this time frame left the center as non-sterilized.



**ASCMV.org**

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A contract was signed by the adopting party to bring the animal back for sterilization once it was safe to do so. Currently, surgeries are suspended due to surgery staff needing to staff other medical areas.

To help with the overload of waiting sterilizations, the ASCMV has partnered with two local veterinarians. The ASCMV spay/neuter coordinator is contacting the pet owner. Once explained, the owner information is passed on to the veterinarian practice. The foster to adopt takes the animal to the vet appointment and picks the animal up. The vet practice will send the invoice to the center. The ASCMV is always looking for more local veterinarians to contract our spay/neuter services with.

### **Foster program** –

The ASCMV foster program is very active. Many concerned animal lovers of Dona Ana County came forward at the beginning of the pandemic to foster ASCMV animals. These fosters are providing a comfortable home for those pets. Many fosters are actively trying to get their foster animal sent to rescues so they can foster more ASCMV animals. However, most have found that rescues only want sterilized animals. **WE WILL GET TO THE POINT OF DOING MORE FOSTER SURGERIES.** Some contracted veterinarians have resumed their surgery schedules. We look forward to more surgery's happening soon.

To help with the overload of waiting sterilizations, the ASCMV has partnered with two local veterinarians. The ASCMV spay/neuter coordinator is contacting the pet owner. Once explained, the owner information is passed on to the veterinarian practice. The foster takes the animal to the vet appointment and picks the animal up. The vet practice will send the invoice to the center. The ASCMV is always looking for more local veterinarians to contract our spay/neuter services with.

### **Volunteer Program** –

The ASCMV volunteer program is currently suspended for three weeks, starting on November 17, 2020. Our Volunteer Coordinator is working remotely to reduce the person to person contact. She can be reached at [emuir@las-cruces.org](mailto:emuir@las-cruces.org)

### **Vaccinations** –

The ASCMV is currently administering vaccines to adopted animals, foster and foster to adopt animals by appointment only on a VERY limited basis. Per state law, a licensed veterinarian must be on site for a rabies vaccine to be given. The adopter is expected to make an appointment for a rabies vaccine. An appointment can be made by calling the Center at 575-382-0018.

### **Spay and Neuter Program** –

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of New Mexico suspended all veterinary elective surgeries.





The New Mexico Board of Veterinarian Medicine defined a spay or neuter surgery as “elective”. That health guideline was lifted several weeks ago.

To help with the overload of waiting sterilizations, the ASCMV has partnered with two local veterinarians. The ASCMV spay/neuter coordinator is contacting the pet owner. Once explained, the owner information is passed on to the veterinarian practice. The person takes the animal to the vet appointment and picks the animal up. The vet practice will send the invoice to the center. The ASCMV is always looking for more local veterinarians to contract our spay/neuter services with.

### **Medical Treatments** –

Medical treatments for fostered and foster to adopt animals are occurring on a case by case basis by calling the Center and making an appointment. You can make an appointment by calling 575-382-0018. If an afterhours emergency occurs, the foster or foster to adopt can call the number listed on their foster or foster to adopt paperwork and request a center employee.

### **Adoption Program** –

The ASCMV adoption program is still proceeding with some slight changes. A person interested in adopting an animal must find the animal on our website [www.ASCMV.org](http://www.ASCMV.org) and secure the animal number. The potential adopter then calls the Center at 575-382-0018 and requests an adoption appointment. ASCMV staff will ask for the animal number. When the number is provided, they will look the animal up in our shelter software to see if there are any issues with the animal that needs to be reported to the caller. If nothing, an appointment will be made. You come at the appointed time and meet the animal. You can request up to two animals per appointment. If one (or both) animals make a connection with you, you proceed with the adoption paperwork in the lobby.

If the animal is sterilized, then nothing else needs to be done. And the adoption is finalized. If the animal is NOT sterilized, the potential adopter becomes a foster-to-adopt. The animal is in your care and your responsibility, but still is property of the ASCMV. You sign a contract saying you will bring the animal back when requested by the center. After sterilization, the animal belongs to you.

We look forward to more surgery’s happening soon.

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**Return to Owner** –

The ASCMV continues to return animals to their owners during the pandemic. However, stray animal walk through have been suspended. All animal owners must search the impounded animals on our website at [www.ASCMV.org](http://www.ASCMV.org) . If the animal owner identifies their animal, they can come to the center 8:00 am till 5:00 pm Sunday to Saturday. A staff member will walk them through the kennel to ID the animal. Social distancing and masks are always required. When the animal is positively identified, the owner completes the paperwork in the lobby and the animal is redeemed.

The ASCMV hope this clarifies some of the miscommunication received by citizens, fosters, foster to adopts, and rescues during this pandemic period. However, this is a living document. It will continue to change as the health guidelines from the Governor of New Mexico changes and our plan of action for covid response changes.

Updated 11/17/2020

