

A Short Guide to Animal Surrender In New Mexico

Sanctuary: A sanctuary is a facility for hospice and senior animals. Very little space is generally available and since the vet bills are high for these needy animals, funding needs are great. There are very few sanctuaries in New Mexico.

Shelter: Shelters, often known as animal control or “the pound,” take in strays and owner surrenders. Their adoption fees are low since they are funded by tax money. Some people are afraid to surrender a pet to a shelter since there’s a perception that the dog will be “put down.” This is not necessarily true. “Low kill shelters” euthanize for health or aggression issues. “High kill shelters” euthanize for health or aggression issues and for lack of space. Animal Welfare Department in ABQ is “low kill” and, therefore, a good place to take strays and owner surrenders as they are spayed/neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated.

Other facilities: Facilities such as Animal Humane of NM and Watermelon Ranch are not city shelters. They have paid employees and facilities to house animals. Check their websites for information.

Rescues: Rescues such as Lap Dog Rescue of NM, are volunteer organizations funded by donations and adoption fees. Most rescues will place pets in individual foster homes while they await adoption. Adoption fees are higher than shelters since rescues receive no city funding. Foster space is limited as most volunteers work outside the home and have families. There is no facility so meet and greets are by appointment/application only. Rescue is NOT sanctuary and, therefore, cannot take in aggressive, severely ill or very senior pets.

Lap Dog Rescue of NM has always valued the pets that we’ve adopted into loving homes. Sometimes, the adopter (or adopter’s family) find that they can no longer care for their pet. This is typically a difficult situation. We will always take back a pet that has been adopted from us. Once a Lap Dog, always a Lap Dog!

Check out our website, www.LapDogRescue.org, for information on our adoptable dogs as well as information on how you can help by fostering, volunteering and donating. Thank you.

Brian

Brian Spence, President
Lap Dog Rescue of NM

