

Helping Felines and Friends

Felines and Friends needs help. The nonprofit group needs volunteers to help clean cat cages at Petco where adoptable cats are shown, to work at mobile events once a month and to do administrative work. That includes placing weekly ads and public service announcements, overseeing the trap/neuter/release program for feral cats and transporting cats to and from vets.

The group also needs adoptive parents for cats and foster parents for cats waiting for homes. A \$100 adoption fee pays for the cost of spaying and neutering, vaccinations, microchips and FELV/FIV tests.

Clipboards to sign-up for a particular cat are on top of the cages at Petco. Interested parties fill out an application, give it to the manager at Petco, who faxes it to Felines and Friends. If approved, the prospective cat parent brings a carrier to Petco and meets a representative from Felines and Friends to formalize the adoption.

For information, call Bobbi Heller at 316-CAT1. Web site is www.felinesandfriends.org for the California chapter; click on the link there for the New Mexico chapter.



JEFF GEISSLER/FOR THE JOURNAL

Felines and Friends director Bobbi Heller plays with one of the group's cats available for adoption through Petco in Santa Fe.

Santa Fe Group Puts Felines First

Group Specializes In Dealing With Feral Cats

BY POLLY SUMMAR
Journal Staff Writer

Carol Zamora stops at the cages just past the Petco checkout counter to play with a 6-month-old calico mix.

"If I ever hit the lottery, I'd buy a big farm for all the kitties that don't have homes," said Zamora, a librarian at Gonzales Elementary, who explains she's allowed one cat where she lives.

It's Petco visitors like Zamora that Felines and Friends is banking on.

"About 90 percent of our adoptions are through Petco," said Bobbi Heller, the nonprofit group's unpaid director. "We can have all kinds of information on our Web site, a name and description of the cat, but people really want to see it in person."

Cougar bait?

Feral cats could have lured mountain lions into Santa Fe 2

Duke City changes

Albuquerque will enact sweeping changes to its animal ordinance beginning Tuesday A1

Even with the efforts of Santa Fe's state-of-the-art animal shelter, there are not enough homes for the cats and kittens that need them.

"One of the reasons we formed the Companion Animal Alliance, which Felines and Friends (is) part of, is because we believe that if organizations work together ... the sum is much greater than what we could each do alone," said Bill Hutchison, communications and marketing man-

See FRIENDS on PAGE 2