



# ACoLC NEWSLETTER

Animal Companions of Las Cruces is thrilled to introduce the release of our very first newsletter for 2026!

Our newsletter is designed to bring new insights, showcase important events, and share motivating stories that resonate deeply with our community.

## From Advisory Board Chair - Linda Mandel

WE ARE PAWSITELY  
GRATEFUL 



TO OUR DONORS - THANK YOU



It is my pleasure to thank all of our donors and supporters as we continue to work hard to achieve our goal of 24/7 emergency veterinary care here in Las Cruces. The more externs we can recruit with a per diem of \$200/day to our local veterinary clinics, the more full-time veterinarians will accept our \$10,000 sign-on bonuses and return to Las Cruces upon graduation. The more veterinarians we have, the better chance of clinics staying open later and ultimately supporting 24/7 emergency care. Please support our mission! We are so grateful to all of you.

To Donate: <https://animalcompanionsoflascruces.org/donate>

## APRIL 2026 GIVING DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!

April 2026 Giving Day was a great success! We surpassed our goal of \$5000! A few of our Board members enjoyed the event at the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico. It was a fabulous turnout with raffles and delicious food served in the parking lot with participating food trucks. All the funds we raised and all donations go to fund extern recruitment expenses, per diem for externs, bonus awards for new full-time vets and boosts to vet techs just starting out in Vet School. With each dollar, we get closer to emergency veterinary care for Las Cruces and the surrounding area.



## NEW VETS ARE HERE AND MORE



Wanda Berryman, our Extern Coordinator, is pleased to announce that Animal Companions of Las Cruces has had a terrific 12 months! Six new full-time veterinarians are now practicing in Las Cruces. They are employed at Animal Hospital, Calista Animal Hospital, Jornada Veterinary Clinic, and Zia Veterinary Clinic. Three externs gained experience here last year at Calista and Schumacher; and four more will come this year from Washington State, Mid-western University and Oregon State. Wanda and her volunteer Jean Berlowitz work hard attending these university job fairs in the fall to recruit students in their 3rd and 4th years of studies. Your donations help to fund their travel and stay during their time here. Once they arrive for their externship the Board organizes a small dinner at La Posta so that we may meet them in person and welcome them to Las Cruces!

L-R ACoLC Members - Barbara Jones, Wanda Berryman, Nancy Sharp, Julie Basile, Jean Berlowitz, and Linda Mandel with Destiny Paiz-Extern at La Posta de Mesilla Restaurant

## PAWS UP - BRAND NEW!!



Photo right: Destiny Paiz was our first extern for 2026 and she was a huge success at Schumacher Veterinary Clinic. We Expect her to return upon her graduation!



In addition to our Externship Program and our Sign-On Bonus Program, we are proud to announce our PawsUp Pipeline Award held within the CFSNM. Two local Vet Techs who will return to Las Cruces to practice were each awarded \$1,000 toward their expenses for their first year of Vet School. Congrats to Nayeli Paredes and Emily Aguirre.

L-R - Nayeli Paredes, Julie Basile, Linda Mandel and Emily Aguirre.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you a member of our Facebook Group? We post current and relevant updates from local veterinarians, animal advocates, and state and local government bodies, as well as some notices about missing pets.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/674959470299625>

Have you checked out our website? It offers more information, including a list of local veterinarians and pages for donation and contact details. <https://animalcompanionsoflascruces.org/home>