

Cat and Kitten Play Area

A NEW CAT ENTERTAINMENT ROOM AT THE VALENCIA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER *By Judy Babcock, Quixote Humane*

Thousands of cats and kittens are impounded at the Valencia County shelter every year. Some are feral cats caught in traps by animal control. Many, some of which are owned, are captured by home owners that don't want them on their property and take them to the shelter. Far too many are brought in by their owners because they couldn't find homes for kittens or are no longer able to afford to keep them. The most heartbreaking are older adult cats brought in by people who's parent or other family member has passed away and don't want the responsibility of caring for their pets.

Unlocalized and sick or injured cats are euthanized after the three business day hold period for owner reclaim. The most friendly and healthy cats and kittens get a chance to be adopted in the adoption cattery. There are several banks of stainless steel cages, with litter boxes, blankets, food and water, to hold the cats and kittens so the public can meet them.

But just in time for Christmas Quixote Humane purchased a play enclosure for the adoptable shelter cats. The coated wire and PVC pipe structure is an innovative product made by Cats on Deck. It is made up of prefabricated sections held together with custom clamps that can be assembled in a wide range of shapes to fit the space available. Benches and shelves of the same material create resting places to jump upon, to climb, or to relax.

The funds for the play area are part of a bequest to Quixote Humane from the estate of Rhonda Sophia of Bosque Farms. Her generous donation has made it possible for cats and kittens in the adoption cattery to have a place to play and stretch out in a more comfortable space than their cages.

The cat play area was purchased to honor Rhonda's beloved cat, Eric. He was kept in his home and cared for by friends and neighbors until a rescue was able to take him to be placed in a new home. Rhonda's two dogs, a Heeler and a Husky, were also placed with a rescue that will care for them until they are either adopted or end their days in the rescue's care.



Cats on Deck is a modular system of coated wire and PVC that can be assembled in a variety of sizes and shapes. It was designed for home owners who want to have a safe, outdoor enclosure for their house cats. It is light weight and can be assembled with minimal tools, can be disassembled to be moved to a new location for travelers, and has a portal available for attachment to a doggy door so cats, or very small dogs, can have access to the outdoor enclosure. Visit www.catsondeck.com for more information.

Because Rhonda's friends and neighbors knew how much she cared for her pets they made sure they were able to find them a safe place for the rest of their lives. If you love your pets take the time to include them in your end of life planning. Create a trust that allows for long term care with people you know will honor your wishes for the care of your pets.



THE BIG FIX

Quixote Humane is offering an added incentive to spay or neuter your pet this winter by sponsoring "The Big Fix". Make an appointment for spay or neuter to be done between January 1st and March 31st with one of the participating Valencia County veterinary hospitals and clinics: Animal Hospital of Los Lunas, Arrow Animal Hospital, Bosque Animal Clinic, Los Lunas Animal Clinic, Sun Ranch Pet Hospital, Valencia Animal Clinic, and VetCo, and your name will be entered into a drawing for three cash prizes. The first name drawn will win \$250, the second \$150 and third \$100. There are additional drawings for gift certificates from: **Fat Sat's** Bar and Grill, **Henrietta's** Restaurant, **Pete's** Cafe, **Ribs** Hickory Smoked Pit Bar-B-Q, **Teofilo's** Restaurant, the **Old Mill** farm and ranch supply, and other prizes.

Help prevent the next wave of unplanned puppies and kittens from coming into the shelter in the spring of 2011. There are not enough homes for all of them. For too many their lives will end before they even grow up. Thousands of others will be passed from family to family because they were given away as cute babies to homes that are unable to care for them.

Stop the cycle, please spay or neuter your pets.

Win \$250, \$150 or \$100

The animals pictured below are only available for three days, but there are plenty of other choices! Visit the Valencia County Shelter, 1209 NM 314, one mile south of Main Street in Los Lunas. Open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Tues - Sat. 866-2479