

SOCIEDAD PROTECTORA DE ANIMALES  
DE SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, A.C.



February 2022

# Paws & Claws



HOPE, HEALTH, HOMES FOR CATS AND DOGS IN NEED

## From the Director

The S.P.A. is kept going by a small group of loyal, hard-working employees—six in all. Dr. Omar Córdova is our veterinarian. His love for and concern about our animals and those belonging to the S.P.A.'s clients are readily apparent. Marlen is the happy face you see when you come to our window. Among a ton of other things, she answers phones, orders supplies, is Omar's right-hand person, and has a great laugh. Christina is the one to see about cat or dog adoptions. She provides valuable insight to adopters about our animals and the one (or two) that would be perfect for them. She often helps in the clinic as well.

Our three maintenance workers are Cirilo, Alex, and Diego. They are our daily eyes and ears for our animals. Not only are they aware of how each animal is doing, but they also keep our animals and their casitas clean and make sure the S.P.A. is kept in tip-top shape. In the past when visitors were allowed in, they would invariably comment about how the S.P.A. was not what they expected. It's not dreary, messy, or smelly. It's bright, happy, and clean, thanks to our maintenance workers.

We also appreciate the small group of core volunteers who have helped us with our cats and dogs during the pandemic (and before). They ease the workload and contribute greatly to socializing our animals so our cats and dogs are better prepared to become part of a family. We look forward to the time when Covid doesn't impact our ability to welcome back visitors and more volunteers. The S.P.A. board members are all volunteers whose leadership and skills are indisputable.

Thank you to our employees and volunteers for their devotion to the S.P.A.

-Megan Gabel, General Director

## Adoptions

	Dogs	Cats
January	2	3
YTD	2	3

### Clinic/Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 9am - 3pm  
Tue, Sat (**Discount Days**): 9am - 4pm

### Adoptions:

Mon - Sat: 11am - 2pm

Los Pinos 7, Col. Lindavista  
San Miguel de Allende,  
GTO 37736 Mexico  
Ph: 415-152-6124

### U.S. Mailing Address:

S.P.A., PMB No. 18  
220 N. Zapata Hwy. #11  
Laredo, Texas 78043-4464 U.S.A.

## Easy Links

Website: [www.spasanmiguel.org](http://www.spasanmiguel.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/spasanmiguel](https://www.facebook.com/spasanmiguel)

Donate and support our fundraisers: [www.spasanmiguel.org/fundraisers](http://www.spasanmiguel.org/fundraisers)

(Donate-Sponsor a Casita-Become a Member)

Dogs available for adoption: [www.spasanmiguel.org/adopt-me-dogs/](http://www.spasanmiguel.org/adopt-me-dogs/)

Cats available for adoption: [www.spasanmiguel.org/adopt-me-cats/](http://www.spasanmiguel.org/adopt-me-cats/)

Membership questions: [MembershipSPA@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipSPA@gmail.com)

Casita questions: [SPACasita@gmail.com](mailto:SPACasita@gmail.com)

Foster questions: [SPAFosters@gmail.com](mailto:SPAFosters@gmail.com)

See what your donation dollars and pesos support: [youtu.be/6grULRHi6Sk](https://youtu.be/6grULRHi6Sk)

[Donate](#)

## January Adoptions

Dog adoptions: Cassie, Rex

Cat adoptions: Lupita, Arthur, Ashleigh



**Rex**



**Cassie**



**Lupita**



**Ashleigh**



**Arthur**

[2022 Dog Adoptions](#)

[2022 Cat Adoptions](#)

“Like” our [Facebook page](#) to get the latest news!

## February Pets of the Month

By Megan Gabel and Jayn Corral

Smoky is a beautiful medium-sized dog with very expressive eyes and shiny black fur. He tilts his head and gazes at you when you talk to him. Since being at the S.P.A., he has come out of his shell and blossomed into a friendly, happy boy. Please check the full article about Smoky's evolution in this issue on page six.



Small/medium-sized Sofia is adorable. She enjoys being petted when she gets to know you. Both of these sweethearts are about 2 years old and really enjoy going for a walk.

Now almost 3-1/2 years old, Kahlua and her sister Sheridan arrived at the S.P.A. together in September 2020 after their owner passed away from Covid without making arrangements for her cats. Kahlua is a white, caramel, chocolaty blue-eyed Siamese type and is super quiet. Sheridan is a big black and white beauty and is very protective of her sister, Kahlua. They both get along well with people and other cats. It would be best for them to be adopted together into a loving, calm home.



Adopt any of these Pets of the Month during February and receive a free adoption kit. Preview all our animals at [www.spasanmiguel.org](http://www.spasanmiguel.org) (Adopt Me pages) and meet them at the S.P.A., Los Pinos #7, Monday-Saturday between 11 and 2, 415-152-6124.

## Celebrate the New Year by Adopting a Pet

By Jayn Corral

The new year is under way and we at the S.P.A. send our best wishes to all, old and young, whether you are new to San Miguel or long-time residents or visitors. The pandemic has caused us to change some of our protocols, as it has for just about everyone, but we are fortunate to have been able to remain open and operating while limiting risks to our staff, volunteers, and the public. Our primary mission, to provide hope, health, and homes for cats and dogs in need, remains the same.

The fact of the matter is that we need people to adopt S.P.A. cats and dogs. Only when we have adoptions is space created so that we are able to take in other cats and dogs in need. All of the animals available for adoption are posted on our website ([www.spasanmiguel.org](http://www.spasanmiguel.org)) (Adopt Me pages). Clicking on the photos of our animals uncovers a brief description of their personalities, preferences, and, for dogs, a video. The modest adoption fee (\$600 pesos) includes sterilization, current vaccinations, and more.

As the S.P.A.'s cat advocate, I'd like to tell you about some of our cats. We have cats that experienced life outside of the shelter, such as Claire, who was used for reproduction so the owner's young children could experience "the miracle of birth." We have Robin, whose owner died from Covid, but failed to make arrangements for her cats. And Willow...and so many others.

Other cats came to the S.P.A. as young kittens and have grown up at the S.P.A., so they do not know any other life. For example, Oreo, who is such a sweet boy, gets along well with other cats and humans and loves to sit on laps. Jacinta was rescued along with her siblings from a tienda. She is adorable in all ways. Both of these cats would be great family members and bring much joy and love.

Please check out these cats and all the others so they can have a chance to experience life with a caring, loving family. The S.P.A.'s adoption hours at Los Pinos 7, 415-152-6124, are Monday-Friday, 11-2. Masks required as is social distancing, but those restrictions do not impact your ability to meet our animals and fall in love with at least one!



## Frankie, a Bundle of Joy

By Harry Burrus

Frankie arrived at the S.P.A. in October of 2021. A little over two years old and smallish in stature; he exudes eagerness and joy and lacks the tough guy syndrome of a Sinatra or a Cagney. When he sees me approach and assumes we're going for a walk, his repeating vertical leap is remarkable, easily over four times his height. No NBA player approaches that, not even close. His golden eyes sparkle as I enter his casita. He spins like a whirling dervish on fast forward as I move to connect my leash to his collar. Our eyes lock. He's more than ready.

I get a kick out of watching him on the sidewalk. Conjures the first time I saw sandpipers scurrying on the beach. Their diminutive legs a blur they moved so fast. Frankie glides, a hockey puck across the ice, immersed in his own joy. In turn, I'm pleased to see him so happy.

Sometimes, his expressive ears twitch and curve in a particular direction. His radar operating, we soon encounter a street dog coming around the corner. Frankie throws the dog a glance and moves on. We pass a smiling couple holding hands, leaning against a wall. Pastel colored lantana surrounds them. Without breaking stride, Frankie tosses them a look; I match his gait; two sandpipers covering a concrete beach.

Frankie's energy level doesn't diminish as we return to the S.P.A. and his casita. I remove my leash from his collar. He stands and puts his front paws on my thighs. I rub his back and head and say, "Well done, Frankie."

If you are looking for a dog to share your day-to-day, who enjoys walks, and takes big bites out of life, and will be a loyal companion, come and meet this little giant with a big heart. Just seeing his enthusiasm will brighten your day.



In existence since 1980, the Sociedad Protectora de Animales de San Miguel de Allende, A.C. is the only no-kill shelter for cats and dogs in San Miguel. We provide food, care, and shelter for homeless and abandoned cats and dogs with the goal of finding forever homes for them. We do not receive any government support and rely upon donations to survive. When you adopt an animal from the S.P.A. you really save two – the one you take home and the one we now have room to take in. Adoption hours at the S.P.A., Los Pinos 7, 415-152-6124 are Monday-Saturday, 11-2. Masks required / social distancing practiced. The adoption fee for cats and dogs is 600 pesos and includes all current vaccinations, deworming, and sterilization (and more). All our available animals are shown on our website [www.spasanmiguel.org](http://www.spasanmiguel.org) (Adopt Me pages).

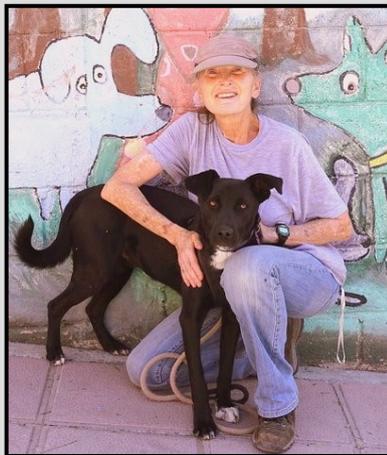
## Smoky, a Hidden Gem

By Megan Gabel

When Smoky arrived at the S.P.A. in mid-October, we were struck by what a handsome dog he is. After a number of days of trying, a Good Samaritan had managed to get him in a crate to bring him to the S.P.A. About 2 years old. Black shiny coat. Penetrating eyes staring out from inside the crate. Smoky refused to come out of the crate. Treats, sweet words, patience – nothing helped. His life was in danger though, so we knew we had to make it work. But, we knew we'd have our hands full.

Smoky has been a challenge. So scared of human touch. We have been very patient with him, giving him a lot of time to adjust, working at getting him to relax just a bit. For a number of days, I sat in his cage in isolation where he was placed as per our usual practice for new dogs. He rebuffed every touch – shivering in fear. I slid pieces of kibble in his direction, spacing them so that they made a path to me. I put the last piece on my knee. It took a few days for him to quickly grab the one on my knee, but he wouldn't let me pet him even when I told him that at least he owed me that! He flinched all the time.

Slowly but surely he moved out of isolation to a "casita" upstairs. He progressed to meeting a friend upstairs, and then another friend, and then going out in the back exercise area with 3 other dogs. Then we worked at getting him to let us put a leash on him, venturing a few feet out of his cage with the leash on, moving up the stairs to the exit to the street, and finally, thankfully, going for a walk on the street. He now wags his tail at us, greets us warmly, happy to be petted, gives kisses, comes in close for a cuddle, wants more. He likes going for a walk now.



We are very pleased at how he has progressed. He is a beautiful dog who obviously had a difficult past. We are happy we could save him and help him overcome his fears.

Meet Smoky during adoption hours at the S.P.A. any day, Monday-Saturday, 11-2. We're not sure if he will be frightened by you, a stranger, but we are sure that if you are patient, he will show you what a terrific dog he is.



HouseSitMexico.com is the online platform where YOU in Mexico can connect with reliable sitters *who serve for free, in exchange for a free place to stay*



# HouseSitMexico.com

## PET SITTERS WHEN YOU NEED THEM



“

*I LOVE House Sit Mexico. It was always a struggle to find someone that had a proven record to take care of our cats, but it's so easy now.*

*With this site we can see cat sitters, view their photos and their reviews. It's wonderful! We have used HouseSitMexico three times and would highly recommend them.*

*- Darlene M*

“

*Wonderful service!! HouseSitMexico helped me with my listing. I had 6 very qualified candidates within 48hrs. If you need a Mexico house sitter this is the site to use.*

*- Jenn G*

“

*Have used this site since its inception (in 2016) and have had awesome results with getting our house sits filled in less than 1 week—and with incredible house sitters! Highly recommended!*

*- Helen K*

[www.HouseSitMexico.com](http://www.HouseSitMexico.com)

Contact: [Admin@HouseSitMexico.com](mailto:Admin@HouseSitMexico.com)

The only house and pet sitting website exclusively for Mexico



## Sponsor a Kitty or Doggy Casita.

Your generous support will help with the enormous cost of care, food and shelter for our approximately 100 resident cats and dogs waiting for their forever homes.

Only \$30 a month\* for one year, or about \$1 a day.



For information on monthly or annual payment options, send us an email at [SPACasita@gmail.com](mailto:SPACasita@gmail.com)  
Questions? Call the S.P.A. office: 415-152-6124

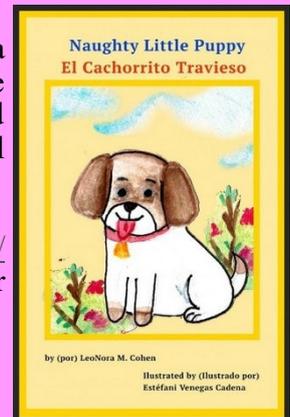
\* or peso equivalent

## Royalties from Children's Book Will Be Donated to the S.P.A.!

*Naughty Little Puppy (El Cachorrito Travieso)* by Leonora M. Cohen is a bilingual, charming story about what it means to have a puppy as a pet. Suitable for 5-10 year olds, the story is beautifully illustrated and can be sung to the old folk tune, "Down by the Station Early in the Morning." In a subtle and delightful way, it teaches children how to be responsible pet owners.

To learn more about the book and purchase one (or more), click here: [http://leonoracohenbooks.webstarts.com/naughty\\_little\\_puppy.html](http://leonoracohenbooks.webstarts.com/naughty_little_puppy.html) - a great gift for any child who dreams of having a puppy.

The author has generously agreed to donate all royalties from sales to the S.P.A.



## THANK YOU, ROSS MACDONALD, FOR HELPING THE S.P.A.!

Waiving or reducing the normal fee charged by MacDonald Package Delivery Services (<https://www.macdonaldspackages.com/>) is a HUGE benefit to the S.P.A.!

We appreciate Ross's help and support!

## Did you know that:

- the S.P.A. has been around since 1980 and is the only no-kill shelter for cats and dogs in San Miguel?
- we house an average of 100 animals (cats and dogs), providing food, vet care (including vaccinations and sterilization), and shelter for them until they are adopted?
- the S.P.A.'s clinic is a community clinic, open to the public?
- the S.P.A. relies SOLELY on donations to survive—we receive no government support?

Please consider helping us by becoming a member of the S.P.A., sponsoring a casita, and supporting other S.P.A. fundraisers. Our website details our fundraisers here: [www.spasanmiguel.org/fundraisers](http://www.spasanmiguel.org/fundraisers) and itemizes how to donate by PayPal, check, or cash. Call us if you have questions: 415-152-6124. Thank you!

**Every dollar and peso you donate helps the S.P.A. survive.**

## The Poetry of Being an Ingenu





Sociedad Protectora de Animales  
Los Pinos 7, 415-152-6124

**Adoptions**  
Mon.-Sat.  
11 AM—2 PM

**Clinic Hours**  
Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri.  
9 AM—3 PM  
Tuesday & Saturday  
(discount days)  
9 AM—4 PM  
*By appointment is best.*

[www.spasanmiguel.org](http://www.spasanmiguel.org)  
[www.facebook.com/spasanmiguel](https://www.facebook.com/spasanmiguel)

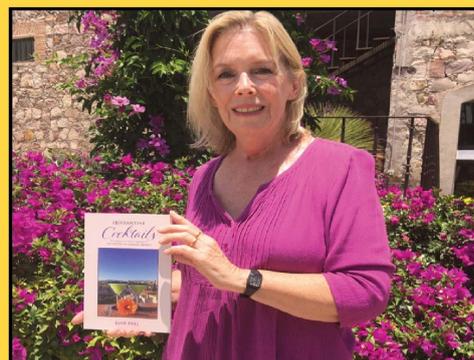
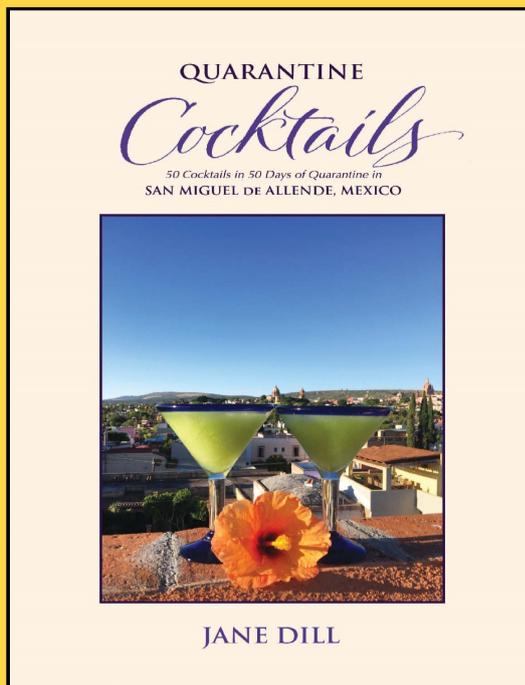
**The S.P.A.'s clinic is open!** The S.P.A. can meet your pet's needs, from routine preventative care to diagnosis and treatment of problems to surgical procedures and more. We have a well-equipped clinic and offer packages to help you save on vaccinations and sterilization. Under the current circumstances, we prefer that no one enters the clinic other than S.P.A. personnel. If critical, only 1 person may enter the S.P.A. with his animal and that person must wear a mask and stay 6 feet (2 meters) away from S.P.A. personnel. Thank you for your consideration in following these rules.

*Please call 415-152-6124 for an appointment with our vet, Dr. Omar Córdova.*

**NOW ON SALE!**

## QUARANTINE COCKTAILS

*50 Cocktails in 50 Days of Quarantine in  
SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO*



JANE DILL, the S.P.A.'s volunteer calligrapher for the Remembrance Tree (for 8 years) has written a book! **QUARANTINE COCKTAILS** is a collection of 50 cocktails and "mocktails" developed during the lockdown last spring and posted nightly on Facebook. It's "Quarantine Mixology", improvising and having fun with whatever ingredients you have on hand. Also makes a great gift! Available in SMA at the Galería San Francisco at the Fabrica la Aurora.

ORDER HERE for SMA or Amazon/US:  
[www.janedill.com/cocktails](http://www.janedill.com/cocktails)

## Our Daily Supplies Always Need Replenishing

The items below are supplies we replace on a regular basis. Please drop off donations at the S.P.A. during our regular office hours.

- Batteries (AA)
- Brooms
- Cat baskets for kittens/cats to sleep in
- Cat food—Felix canned
- Cat food—Royal Canin Development for cats (soft & dry)
- Cat food—Royal Canin Gastrointestinal for cats (soft & dry)
- Cat food—Royal Canin Babycat Milk (dry powdered milk for kittens)
- Cat food platters (plastic, divided, circular trays)
- Cat litter (we use Petco bulk litter)
- Cat /kitten toys
- Cat scoops for litter
- Cat treats: catnip and other treats
- Cats: Feliway Spray and Feliway Diffuser
- Cleaning supplies: dishwashing soap, bleach, pinol or equivalent
- Dog collars (medium-sized)
- Dog leashes (1” wide)
- Dog food—Pedigree canned adult dog food and puppy food
- Dog food—Royal Canin Puppy Development for young puppies
- Dog sweaters and jackets: all sizes
- Dog toys for puppies and older dogs: heavy-duty balls, ropes, stuffed animals
- Dog treats: biscuits, and other treats (no rawhide or pig’s ears)
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand soap (bar)
- Laundry detergent for washing machine (powder)
- Lysol spray (or equivalent)
- Mops (string mops)
- Office supplies: ball point pens (black); Sharpies permanent markers (black fine point); copy paper, laminating sheets, Brother TN450 laser printer cartridge
- Paper goods: paper towels and toilet paper
- Plastic bags: 48 cm x 60 cm (comes in a box) (not zip-lock)
- Plastic bags: 62 cm x 85 cm (comes in a box) (not zip-lock)
- Surgical gloves (size 6.5 and 8.5 preferably brands Protect or Ambiderm)
- Surgical masks
- Squeegees (long-handled floor squeegees – used to clean cage floors)

THANK YOU!



## Preferred Providers

Our Preferred Providers offer a range of goods and services at a discount to S.P.A. members. Just show your current S.P.A. membership card at the time of purchase to receive the discounts specified below. Please patronize our Preferred Providers as a way of thanking them for their support of the S.P.A.

### VETERINARIANS

**MVZ RICARDO LOPEZ LANDEROS** - Rio Grijalva No. 10 - Nuevo Mexiquito - Ph. 415-152 6977  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-2pm; 4pm-7pm Saturday 9am-2pm  
Consultations – 10%, X-Rays – 10%, Regular Teeth Cleaning – 10%, Vaccinations - 10%

**MVZ EDGARDO R. VAZQUEZ OLMOS** - Plaza Primavera #16 on Salida a Queretaro - Ph. 415-152 6273  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-2pm; Saturday 9am-12 noon.  
Consultations – 10%

**MVZ MICHAEL KRONISH** - Salida a Celaya #57 - Ph. 415-185-8185; 415-109-9957  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6.30pm; Saturday 9am-2pm.  
Consultations - 10%, Routine Vaccinations - 5%, Spaying/Neutering - 5%

**MVZ ALMA RUTH MIRANDA** - Stirling Dickinson #27 - Ph. 415-152-2341  
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm  
General Surgery - 10%, X-Rays & Ultrasounds 10%, Hospitalization - 10%, Medications - 10%,  
Vaccinations - 10%

### RETAILERS AND GROOMERS

**EL DESPACHO** - Las Moras #13 - Colonia Guadiana - Ph. 415-154-7195  
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-3pm; 5pm-8pm  
Food - 5-10%

**DUSTY PUPPIES** – Guadiana #17A – Colonia Guadiana – Ph. 415-154- 4555.  
Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-6pm  
Diamond Naturals - Dog/Cat Food - 10%, Regular Teeth Cleaning - 20%, SPA Bath Only - No Clipping -  
By Appointment - 10%., Pet Supplies - 10%

Being able to take advantage of our Preferred Providers program is just one benefit of becoming a member of the S.P.A. Members receive a 10% discount off the S.P.A. vet consultation fee every day.

If you are a member or join at the time you adopt, you will receive 10% off of the adoption fee (600 pesos). Please JOIN US! Individual memberships are \$40 US/500 pesos and family memberships (2 person limit) are \$50/600 pesos.

Join online here [www.spasanmiguel.org/members/](http://www.spasanmiguel.org/members/) (via PayPal) or in our office.

Please email [MembershipSPA@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipSPA@gmail.com) if you have questions.



Beautiful Crafts / S.P.A. T-shirts & Caps



S.P.A. T-shirts & Caps

Pick up one for yourself, a family member, and as a terrific present!

Available at the S.P.A.



(Front)



(Back)

**Unisex T-shirts:** white or black (youth, S, M, L, and XL). This style is perfect for both cat and dog lovers and a meaningful souvenir of San Miguel de Allende!

**Women's T-shirts:** red, white, or black (S, M, L. and XL).

**Men's T-shirts:** white or black (M, L, XL, and XXL).



All T-shirts: donation of 200 pesos each.

Caps: red, black or khaki (donation of 150 pesos each).



## Rewarding Memberships

Do you have something you cherish, but responsibilities get in the way, it's no longer present, and then you miss it? That's how we feel about the S.P.A. My wife and I have adopted two cats from the S.P.A., fostered two different pairs of tiny feline siblings, and volunteered a number of years now. We've been away to visit family and will return this summer. We miss the satisfaction of being there, helping the wonderful cause that is the S.P.A. We can't wait to get back and snuggle our furry friends...a routine we'll be grateful to return to and will cherish once again.

With gratitude in mind, we would like to thank **Jan Charkow** (individual), **Cheryl and Colin McNaught** (family), and **Irene and Gregory Diamante** (family) for renewing their memberships. Thank you. We could not do what we do without you.

You can join or renew online via PayPal through our website [HERE](#), in our office (by cash or check), or via other methods (see same website page). Please email [MembershipSPA@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipSPA@gmail.com) if you have questions. We accept checks for membership dues as follows: (1) by check (**U.S. or Mexican**) to **Sociedad Protectora de Animales de San Miguel de Allende, A.C.** (full name required by bank); or (2) by U.S. check to San Miguel Community Foundation (*for a U.S. tax receipt*) (mark for S.P.A.). Your membership dues (\$40/500 pesos-individual, \$50/600 pesos-family [2 members]) will help the S.P.A. continue its wonderful work caring for many of the unwanted cats and dogs of San Miguel while they wait for their forever homes.

-Randy

## Learn About Us and Our Cats and Dogs

**\*The S.P.A. is open for adoptions as long as certain precautions are followed. If you come to the S.P.A. with family or friends, only one person will be allowed to enter the S.P.A. to be interviewed for an adoption of a cat or dog. That person must wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from S.P.A. personnel. Adoption hours are Monday-Saturday, 11-2.**

**\*Check our website:** [www.spasanmiguel.org](http://www.spasanmiguel.org) for our available cats and dogs (photos, biographies, and videos) ("Adopt Me" pages) and to learn about us and how you can help. Please remember that adopting a shelter animal saves two lives—the one that is adopted and the one we now have room to take in.

**\*Follow us on Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/spasanmiguel](http://www.facebook.com/spasanmiguel), stay up to date, and see our happy albums of success stories—those S.P.A. animals now in forever homes.

### EDITOR: Harry Burrus

If you need or want to contact me for any reason regarding Paws & Claws — to submit a story, send a photo, just to make a comment — please email me at [SPAPawsandClaws@gmail.com](mailto:SPAPawsandClaws@gmail.com)  
**It would be great to hear from you!**

**Advertise in Paws & Claws and reach a large audience of animal lovers and consumers. Our rates are reasonable and our readership is large. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.**

Number of Issues	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page
1 monthly issue	200 MXN	180 MXN	150 MXN
3 monthly issues	500 MXN	450 MXN	375 MXN
12 monthly issues	1800 MXN	1500 MXN	1300 MXN

**Preferred Providers: ask about our 15% discount.  
 To convert to dollars, use current conversion rate.**

