

VOICE OF THE SILENT

Magazine editor is advocate for humane treatment of animals

PETroglyphs awards

Cat Writers' Association Muse Award
2004 & 2005 — Best Regional Publication

2002 — Milagro Media Award from Animal Protection of New Mexico

Nancy Marano's awards:

Cat Writers' Association
2000 — CWA President's Award for Best-of-the-Best of the Muse Awards for an article in Cats & Kittens on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse.

2000 — CWA Muse Award for Best Magazine Article

2004, 2005, 2006 — Best Newsletter Column, Cat Chat

2004 — Sticky Paws Award for Best Training Article, on cat agility

2006 — Shojai Mentor Award — for mentoring a CWA member into publishing at a higher level

2004 — Journalist of the Year Award from New Mexico Week for the Animals

Marano is also a professional member of the Cat Writers' Association and the Dog Writers of America Association.



RICHARD PIPES/JOURNAL

BY ISABEL SANCHEZ
Of the Journal

Nancy Marano has had pets since she was a kid — dogs, cats, the occasional rabbit or fish. But until she was given a subscription to Cat Fancy magazine, she'd never seriously considered writing about them.

And when, as a freelancer, she wrote for a magazine called New Mexico Pet News that lasted only a few issues, she never seriously considered becoming editor of its successor, PETroglyphs, available at veterinarians' offices, libraries, pet stores, bookstores and online — "Wherever we think people will allow us to put them. We try to get them where we think animal people will be going."

The little magazine that folded now is a quarterly of about 12,000 issues, free, distributed all over the state. It's an award-winning publication guided by an award-winning editor.

Its topics are local, regional and national issues and myriad aspects of pet care; its goal is to improve the lives of companion animals by educating and informing their owners.

"We've done a lot of work on the cockfighting issue," Marano says. "We really did participate in some way in getting that changed. We have done a lot of stories on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. We did a lot of work when Hurricane Katrina happened, because we've made a huge effort to do coverage of animal rescue issues."

"We focused on feral cats quite a bit, pet overpopulation, a fair amount on breed-specific legislation, things that are in the national news and especially here."

There are articles as well on the more mundane pet issues such as cat litter and dog leashes, and PETroglyphs includes birds, turtles, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets and hamsters in its universe.

See **PET** on **PAGE B3**

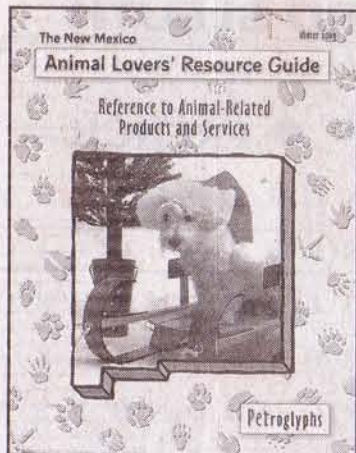
Nancy Marano, editor of PETroglyphs and president of its board, is an award-winning writer who heads an award-winning publication dedicated to the well-being and welfare of companion animals.

About PETroglyphs

In addition to Nancy Marano, the staff includes Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D., Cynthia Richards, Suzanne Brannan and Lynn Cumiskey.

Subscriptions are available with a \$15 (or more) tax-deductible donation

The Web site is petroglyphsnm.org



Pet magazine editor is a crusader for animals

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"I really want people to look at animals as being important in their lives, and to know how to treat them, to know what the issues are," Marano says.

Marano came to Albuquerque from Evanston, Ill., in 1993. Besides the opportunity to write, she found another motivation to get involved in pet issues. "When I moved out here I was upset by the way animals were treated here, the disregard for them."

Back then, the city shelters killed about half the tens of thousands of stray or abandoned dogs and cats brought there. She was appalled that cockfighting was legal.

"As I became more aware and got more involved in animal groups here, sort of on the sidelines, I realized there were tremendous problems.

The (rescue groups) were totally overwhelmed; they were trying to do the work of the shelters. I thought, there needs to be more education here, maybe other ways of handling this, more visibility given to the problems. I think basically people don't want to mistreat animals. I think a lot of times it's because they don't know, or just are not aware of the problems."

PETroglyphs, which Marano calls a labor of love, became part of the solution to those problems. "We have helped raise pet awareness," she says.

The publication is a nonprofit, distributed throughout the state. About 150 contacts all over New Mexico help keep its information up to date, especially for its pet resource guide. Started as little more than a list, the guide now is about 20 pages of groups "involved in rescue, rehabilitation,

adoption and advocacy of animals," a one-stop, comprehensive compilation of groups and agencies statewide.

"I love that. I think it's one of the best things we do, for everyone in the state."

The guide can be downloaded from the Web site, where readers can also find about 15 pages of links — to agencies and groups, statewide and national, to news and information, to sites ranging from the American Veterinary Medical Association to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary to Greenpeace.

"PETroglyphs is something I can't give up," Marano says. "While we've made tremendous strides in New Mexico, I think we have further to go and people still need the information. There are still new pet owners, and they need to know this. That's why we need to keep going."



RICHARD PIPES/JOURNAL

Nancy Marano, writer and editor of PETroglyphs, lives with two cats and a dog, plus a visitor, Jessica, shown here. Marano says she likes the combination of dogs and cats: "They have very different sensibilities. It's nice to have both in the house."