

Masleña Rescue Foundation (cont.)

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appointment to meet the animals and are invited to bring a vegan picnic to enjoy on the grounds. Hubbard offers a place where people can meet animals as individuals rather than as a commodity.

“There’s a big disconnect. People see a steak, but they don’t associate that with a beautiful cow,” she said.

Misfits of Oz also advocates for veganism and aims to help people see animals as sentient beings rather than food. The organization was founded by Shanda Harris as a dog rescue in Kansas. Then she took in a pig, and the direction of the organization changed. Today, Harris and her husband, Albuquerque Police Department detective Ben Melendrez, have almost 60 animals on five acres in Edgewood.

They offer a safe landing spot to animals that are most likely not to be adopted, including those with behavioral or health problems, including cancer and

body disfigurements. They are the animals Harris calls “the outcasts, the ones that would not have a chance otherwise.”

Most of their charges are potbelly pigs, but they also have full-size pigs, dogs, cats and goats. Like other sanctuaries, they rely on donations and the help of volunteers. They hold scheduled events and tours in the warmer months.

The new Roots Animal Sanctuary in Tijeras is home to 21 pigs, eight ducks, seven chickens, two turkeys, six dogs and two cats.

“The goal is to bring in these animals that have been subject to neglect, abuse, abandonment. Once they’re here, they’re here to stay,” said Kelli Quatronne, a veteran animal rescue worker who runs the sanctuary with her husband, J.P., and their 10-year-old son, Dashell. “I like to advocate for the voiceless. ... It’s important they have someone in their corner.”

Like other sanctuaries, Roots is a nonprofit and relies on donations



Photo by Shay Tong Van

for animal food, housing, medical care and other costs.

Quatronne, who works with children at Albuquerque schools and is a yoga instructor, plans to host two open barn days over the summer as well as weekend yoga classes.

“This place isn’t just a space for

animals to heal, but for humans to heal as well,” she said.

For more information:
maslenarf.org
santuariodekaruna.org
misfitsofoz.org
rootssanctuary.org

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