



PRAIRIE DOG TALES



THE "IN DEPTH" PERIODICAL
WE BURROW INTO THE ISSUES TO DIG OUT THE DETAILS ON MATTERS AFFECTING PRAIRIE DOGS... AND THEIR PALS.

Volume 4, Issue 1

Summer 2010

Prairie Dog Pals Updates

The Midwest Prairie Dog Shelter (MWPDS)



The MWPDS is a sister organization dedicated to prairie dogs and is run by a wonderful person, Dianne James. In fact, her "gang" of prairie dogs is known as the James Gang! She does fantastic work in her facility and has often helped PDP with the fostering of compromised prairie dogs. An update from Dianne follows:

The Midwest Prairie Dog Shelter, Inc. has had a very busy Spring with new babies showing up in pet stores across the nation once again. Just this Spring alone, MWPDS has re-

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Sunport Begins Poisoning

Lethal control of prairie dogs (and other wildlife) at the Sunport goes back decades. In 2003-2004 an attempt was made to humanely relocate them but due to federal restrictions, and a number of other issues, only about 1200 were moved before the program was suspended. The airport authority subsequently resumed their extirpation program using carbon monoxide and a number of other measures to dissuade the prairie dogs from occupying the grassed areas between the runway and taxiways. Recently, under pressure from the FAA, the airport authority will step up the program and will begin using aluminum phosphide to poison the prairie dogs. Aluminum phosphide is an anticoagulant fumitoxin causing the affected animal to bleed to death in agony over several days. Anyone saying that the animals "go to sleep" is lying. Also, at least four coyotes who routinely frequent the area will be shot.

Letter to the Editor, *Albuquerque Journal*, 5/31/10:

MANY OF US are concerned about the imminent poisoning of prairie dogs and the shooting of coyotes at the Albuquerque International Sunport. The poison they have chosen to use is aluminum phosphide, an extremely toxic nerve gas, which causes convulsions and internal bleeding in the animals who often take up to three weeks to die in agony. Other threatened animals such as the burrowing owls, who make their homes in prairie dog holes, will likely be killed as well. One wonders what might happen if a migratory bird such as an endangered grey vireo or an eagle happened to eat a poisoned carcass and this deadly poison migrated up the food chain in this way. We understand that airports are under special constraints because they are under FAA regulations to protect human safety. However, some airports such as Portland have a comprehensive wildlife management plan using non-lethal techniques to control wildlife. A quotation from their Wildlife Hazard Management Plan states "While the priority of this plan at PDX is aviation safety, the Port will achieve this goal through responsible environmental stewardship."

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homed 28 prairie dogs. The majority of calls taken are from those with questions about the basic care of baby prairie dogs or health related issues, and all are referred to the care sheets on Prairie Dog Lovers Burrow <http://www.prairiedoglover.com/>. Other calls are inquiries from those found in their natural setting.

An example of the type of calls is “I think my black-tailed prairie dog has worms.” When asked what makes them think the prairie dog has worms, it is generally because they spotted the prairie dog’s scent glands, which are found near the rectum and do indeed look like little white worms. After explaining what that is--“the happy stamp”--most people laugh and are greatly relieved to know that it’s normal. Below is a photo of two PDs playing and the scent glands are showing on the PD on their back.



Lots of other questions are answered on a daily basis, including emergency calls. Just last week a call came in from a man in Arizona who found an emaciated prairie dog hiding behind the wheelchair of a patient in his home. In doing what he thought was a good thing; he placed the prairie dog in an aquarium with a large bowl of vegetables and called me the next day to ask for help. In just one day, the prairie dog had gorged herself and blew out her intestines. I asked him to take the prairie dog to a veterinarian and he had her humanely euthanized. The general public does not realize that an emaciated animal needs to eat VERY slowly. Calls are always welcome 24/7 @ (260) 704.7364[PDOG] and an email support Forum is always available at Yahoo Groups but is invitation only. All referrals should be sent to Prairie Dog Lovers Burrow where they must click on Join PDLF to request an invitation.

Ana Davidson

Ana is one of the founders of Prairie Dog Pals, and continues, to this day, to work towards the preservation of the species. PDP frequently consults with Ana on PD issues. Following is her bio:

I conduct research in two primary areas: community ecology and macroecology. I use manipulative field experiments, ecoinformatics, and statistical modeling to address questions on the ecology and conservation of biological diversity at both local and global scales. My community ecology research focuses on understanding the drivers of community structure and biodiversity, often in the context of global change. I have explored these relationships largely by focusing on the roles of keystone rodent species, ecosystem engineers, and mammalian herbivores in grassland systems. My macroecology research addresses questions in basic ecology and those related to the large-scale conservation challenges that face our planet, such as global biodiversity loss and extinction risk. Read more:

<http://www.unm.edu/~davidson/home.htm>



First Catch

The call came in from the Mira Vista neighborhood. There was a prairie dog in a yard, it may have been injured climbing through the fence; the owner’s dogs were trying to get to the prairie dog. Paul Eilers took charge of the situation and picked up the lost and frightened prairie dog. Based on the 2/4/20 intake inspection we think the owner’s dogs did get to the prairie dog as it had one big wound in its side and several smaller ones. The wounds were cleaned and treated with antiseptic and the PD put into an observation cage.

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Fortunately, the wound healed and the PD recovered no worse for the encounter. It was released to the Sevilleta in June.

Bosque Farms Relocation Project

For some years now, a few insistent voices have pled with Prairie Dog Pals for a compassionate rescue in a highly vulnerable spot in Bosque Farms. These extraordinary, very capable, very organized, and very devoted animal lovers in Valencia County transcend the status quo to the benefit of the prairie dogs. The large empty lot off NM 47 next to the McDonald's restaurant was dreadful! There was so little for them to eat and a high incidence of road kill. This colony's best hope were Karen & David Dremann and Lee Wharton, wonderful advocates who just would not give up. Thus, the Bosque Farms Prairie Dog Relocation Project to rescue this beleaguered colony was launched. Visit their blogsite at <http://bosquefarmsprairiedogs.blogspot.com/>

Paul went out over the 19th and 20th to help with the rescue, over the two day period he and the Bosque Farms Volunteers captured 105 prairie dogs! Well Done!!!!

Garage Sale

The PDP garage sale was a great success thanks to the generous donations of our members and volunteers. You can see that we had a wide array of treasures. It was a long but rewarding day as we made over \$700.00! Ray Watt and Graziella Singleton are trying to sell some of the remaining items on eBay or at other neighborhood garage sales. We'll be working with other animal rescue groups to disperse the rest of the items.



Pups

One is unlikely to forget the sound of a newborn pup - a kind of intimate contentment emitted in a very faint, high-pitched murmur (uuunnhhhh). The moment we heard the barely audible "sticky" squeals, we knew we were once again "foster parents." For the mere sacrifice of an endless supply of shredded toweling, we were able to learn even more about life in the burrow.

In Memoriam

Gunny Bear was with us for just under two years, the sole survivor of a poisoning. A sweet Gunnison, he was as friendly as could be (during the summer) and turned into a brooding soul during the winter. Frances Gauthier called it PHS (pre hibernation stress) after being bitten following a summer of cuddling. Gunny's story follows:

The call came from a couple we know whose names we can't divulge, from a place we can't mention. You know - homeland security and all that. They had both taken jobs at a refuge in another state (their gain - our loss) and could not take their rescued prairie dog with them. They assured us that this wild guy was ready for release, and we agreed to relocate him once he was introduced to a welcoming family. From the moment he arrived it was obvious that he was different. This fellow clearly was out of his element at the staging facility. He would frantically reach for Frances, our volunteer quarter-mistress, with panic in his eyes that cried out, "Hold me, I am not one of them!" After a few days it was apparent that he was not as "wild" as claimed, and we decided to find out if he was habituated to humans. We set up an enclosure, Yvonne and Frances climbed in, and we let loose the prairie dog of war... whoops... peace and tranquility. He was the love-puppy incarnate, quickly acquiring the name GunnyBear - Gunny, short for Gunnison and Bear - well, because he was big and cuddly!

One day Gunny was lethargic and Yvonne took him to the vet; he died a few hours later. He was a willing spokesrodent and is missed! Gunny April 2007-May 2010.



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Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awards

PD advocate and rescue technician extraordinaire Ellie Coonce was a finalist for the 16th Annual Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award. The award honors young people whose vision, initiative and dedication to volunteer work have made a positive difference for others or their communities. Ellie was nominated for her tireless contributions to rescuing prairie dogs and for spreading the word about prairie dogs to the general public!

Earth Week 2010

Earth Day is the designation of April 22 as a day to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. April 22 corresponds to spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. Earth day was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in held on April 22, 1970. While this first Earth Day was focused on the United States, an organization launched by Denis Hayes, who was the original national coordinator in 1970, took it international in 1990 and organized events in 141 nations. Earth Day is now celebrated in more than 175 countries every year.

Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week, an entire week of activities focused on environmental issues.

Ellie organized the Earth Week event at Eldorado High School, putting together 4 days (April 13-16) of environmentally focused presentations. Prairie Dog Pals was invited to participate. I say invited but truly we just stood by while Ellie talked of her passion. Well Done!



From left to right are Claudia Giese, Kaberine Eagleson (The Wildlife Center), and Ellie.



From left to right are Andrea, Ellie and Leyton Cougar (Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary.) Also participating was Hawks Aloft.

Fetch-apalooza

Becky Davis once again sponsored a table for Prairie Dog Pals at the 2010 Fetch-apalooza. Fetch-apalooza is a huge adoption celebration featuring hundreds of adoptable pets, entertainment, information, and give-aways. The event was again a huge success with over 507 pets finding homes during the event.

A good time was had by all at the 2nd annual event in April, particularly the over 500 animals which were adopted. PDP volunteers Annabeth Fieck, Linda Hobart, Becky Davis and her friend Mary Anne McCort spoke to many visitors and adopters at the fair about the care and need for preservation of our keystone species, the prairie dog. We were broiled like potatoes by the end of each day because Becky forgot to bring a canopy, but that just made our smiles to visitors that much brighter.

The only dim spot was that our booth was placed in the middle of "Advocacy Alley," among other philanthropic groups. This section was shunned by those visitors who may have felt our tables were pulling too hard on their wallets and purses. A diplomatic comment to this effect was sent the Fetch organizers by Becky Davis. We will see if this helps our advocacy numbers at next year's fair.

Emerson Elementary

Late last year we got a call from Linda Hobart about some prairie dogs at Emerson Elementary School. Know that we have been trying to connect with APS for some time but they just can't seem to follow through. In the past emergencies were graciously handled by Jay Hart at Parks and Recreation, but he has retired. The site had about a dozen burrows and the prairie dogs were already hibernating so we promised to get to them when they emerged in the spring. Unfortunately APS was quicker and the panicked call came that the contractor was bulldozing the prairie dogs. A few quick calls and a sympathetic contractor bought us the time needed to get in and get the 8 prairie dogs out of harms way. Many thanks to Linda for her continued vigilance!



Construction rubble is already encroaching on one resident's domain.

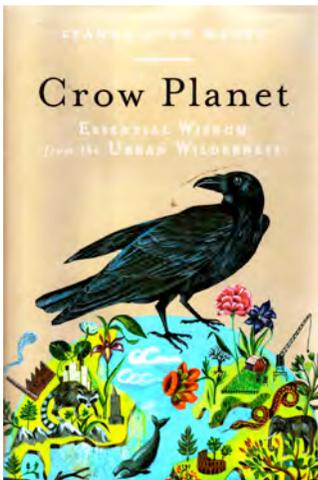
Photo of the Day: Children Love the Black-tailed Prairie Dog

The Black-tailed Prairie Dog mascot visits a school, inspiring children to care for the natural riches of Janos, Mexico. Read more: <http://news.yourolivebranch.org/2010/06/10/photo-of-the-day-children-love-the-black-tailed-prairie-dog/>



Books

Crow Planet, Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness by Lyanda Lynn Haupt.



“We live on a changing earth where ecological degradation and global climate change threaten the most foundational biological processes. If the evolution of wild life is to continue in a meaningful way, humans must attain a changed habit of being, one that allows us to recognize and act upon a sense of ourselves as integral to the wider earth community.” Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Books

Hope For Animals and Their World: How Endangered Species Are Being Rescued From The Brink by Jane Goodall.

In the language of conservation biology, there is a term called “the Lazarus Syndrome.” It pertains to a species, written off as extinct, that later is found to exist. Today, ornithologists are debating and hoping that the near-mythical Ivory-billed woodpecker might qualify.

Wyoming has its own citation on the Lazarus map, for it was in the badlands on the east side of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, near Meeteetse, that a remnant black-footed ferret was spotted on Sept. 26, 1981.

As the tale goes, ranchers John and Lucille Hogg found a dead mink-like animal near the dog food dish of their blue heeler, Shep, who had killed it.

Upon closer inspection by a taxidermist, the carcass was positively identified as a black-footed ferret. Further inspection turned up more ferrets and suddenly the species miraculously had risen from the dead two years after the federal government began preparations to declare it gone forever.

Black-footed ferrets cannot survive in the wild without access to healthy prairie dog colonies, their source of food. Ferrets, such as the one below, are considered one of the most threatened mammals on the planet.



The notable feature of Ms. Goodall’s book is that it serves as a baseline for telling us the status of several species around the world that are on the edge of winking out.



...continued, from Crow Planet: “In spite of the string of magazine covers announcing the contrary, we all know that ten simple things will not save the earth. There are, rather, three thousand impossible things that all of us must do, and changing our light bulbs, while necessary, is the barest beginning. We are being called upon to act against a prevailing culture, to undermine our own entrenched tendency to accumulate and to consume, and to refuse to define our individuality by our presumed ability to do whatever we want.” Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Prairie Dogs in the News

Feds say white-tailed prairie dogs not endangered

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced Thursday that the white-tailed prairie dog does not merit protection under the Endangered Species Act. Read More:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i1RLuHDeBLMVxRPknptyyXnSsfogD9FVDH3G1>, and, http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/06/02/Federal_Regulations.htm.

Barrasso: White-tailed Prairie Dog Decision Saves Jobs

U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) praised the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) decision that the white-tailed prairie dog does not warrant protection as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Read more: <http://bignews.biz/?id=878030&keys=Senator-John-Barrasso-WildlifeService>

Editor: Maybe Mr. Barrasso and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service should study *A Sand County Almanac*. Aldo Leopold proffered a touchstone by which to judge human activity: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Prairie dogs damage private development as habitat disappears

"We want to maintain control of all the wildlife and plant species in the state. We do not want the federal government to assume jurisdiction over any animal or any area." Read more:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700033659/Prairie-dogs-damage-private-development-as-habitat-disappears.html>

Oro Valley man might lose Ariz. hunting license for killing protected prairie dog

An Oro Valley man who killed a protected prairie dog near Sonoita last fall could lose his hunting license. Read more: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article_76808380-5f6f-11df-9483-001cc4c03286.html

Prairie Dogs: The Talk of the Town

They're not just irresistibly cute. New research suggests that Gunnison's prairie dogs are also among the planet's most sophisticated communicators, but do they have their own language? Check the article out in the May/June BBC *Knowledge Magazine*.

State's proposed rules will require permits for certain imported animals and ban others

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's new proposed regulations for bringing exotic pets into the state have some hobbyists and pet store owners squawking. The rules, which are still being refined, would require individuals and businesses to get permits from the department when they import certain non-native animals, birds and fish from other states. Parakeets, finches, frogs and most turtles are on the list. Read more:

<http://www.abqjournal.com/news/state/012241497297newstate06-01-10.htm>

Bryce Canyon National Park

Southern Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park honored the Utah prairie dog. Officials conducted the park's first-ever Utah prairie dog celebration day on April 30. The prairie dogs are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Bryce Canyon officials reintroduced them to the park between 1974 and 1988. Today, officials say there are around 200 in the park. The April 30 event included presentations on the prairie dogs, opportunities to watch them in their natural environment and activities for kids. Read more: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14932268

Wild Earth Guardians, 2010 Report from the Burrow

The Report from the Burrow assesses the state of the prairie dog community by evaluating the last year's performance of government agencies responsible for prairie dog protection and management. The report is a tool for the public to hold our state and federal government institutions accountable. The collective of state and federal agencies are legally bound to protect our wildlife and habitat. How did New Mexico do? New Mexico got a D. (Scoring: A, B, C, D, and F).

Both prairie dog species (Gunnison's prairie dogs, black-tailed prairie dogs) are listed as "species of greatest conservation need" in New Mexico's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. New Mexico's Natural Heritage program undertook a survey of black-tailed prairie dogs and reported approximately 40,000 occupied acres in the state in 2004. Historically, between 6,640,000 and 8,950,000 occupied acres existed in New Mexico today. There are no reliable estimates of the Gunnison's prairie dog population in New Mexico. Shooting is banned on state trust lands but is otherwise unrestricted. The state does not monitor or mitigate for plague. The state has no policies aimed at safeguarding either of its prairie dog species. The state has an incentive program for landowners to protect prairie dogs, but no landowners have enrolled. You can see, read and/or print the report at: <http://www.wildearthguardians.org/AboutUs/Publications/tabid/156/Default.aspx>

YIPS! AND NIPS!

YIPS & NIPS: Here are some of the year's YIPS (gains) and NIPS (losses):

NIPS: The prairie dogs have slowly been disappearing along Tramway between Indian School and Rover. Some of this is due to ongoing thinning. However, many believe that the demise is due to a vigilante who appears to be poisoning the prairie dogs.

YIPS: To Debbie Bauman and her team at the DOT. She collaborated with PDP to remove prairie dogs along the Tramway walking path in advance of construction.

YIPS: Mike Friggens, Ana Davidson, and Jon Erz for developing agreements with PDP for the relocation of prairie dogs to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Preserve.

NIPS: To the Sunport for poisoning prairie dogs with horrific aluminum phosphide and shooting coyotes.

NIPS: To APS for allowing construction to proceed at Emerson Elementary despite previous discussions about relocating the prairie dogs. ❖

We demand no less from the Sunport! Although Sunport management claims they have "tried everything but nothing worked," we contend they have not tried some non-lethal and humane methods used at other U.S. airports. The Sunport needs a comprehensive plan that includes relocation, secure and opaque perimeter fencing and hazing methods with full-time wildlife biologists to do the job. This takes money, but the Sunport already has spent a quarter of a million dollars on poisons. This is not a long-term solution, but simply a cheap, easy fix.

NAOMI JULIAN Outreach Coordinator, Prairie Dog Pals Albuquerque

Find a Humane Way To Clear Runways

IT'S DIFFICULT to make a case against the killing of coyotes and prairie dogs at the Albuquerque Sunport. Why? Because, as explained by the Sunport administration, the FAA is requiring that these killings be carried out.

If the airport does not do better than it has in eliminating these creatures that, according to the FAA, are hazardous to airplanes that are taxiing or taking off or landing, then the FAA has the authority to close the airport.

On the other hand, the airport administration conducts an ongoing, nonlethal wildlife-management program of hazing the few coyotes who trespass inside the "perimeter fence," a technique that is common in other airports in the United States. The airport also continues to improve its coyote-exclusion fencing as funds are available, according to administrators.



ANIMAL WELFARE

In addition, the airport uses a technique, not of poisoning the prairie dogs but of asphyxiating them with canisters of carbon monoxide gas, a method also used commonly elsewhere in the United States. Dead is dead, of course, but possibly the carbon monoxide is less gruesome and cruel than is poison. ...

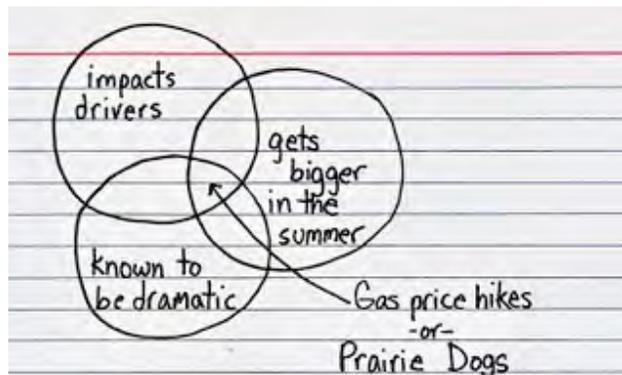
With due respect to the FAA and to the unarguable need for aircraft safety, would it not be possible that a qualified professional organization or business be given a contract to humanely remove as many of the prairie dogs as can be done within a period of time agreeable to the FAA, the Sunport, and the rescuers, before the poison is inserted into tunnels?

SUSAN WEISS
Corrales

Read More about the Sunport's plans here:

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S1557699.shtml?cat=516>

One might ask, what can I do? The decision to ramp up the poisoning is based on a broad range of considerations, many beyond the local arena. If the Sunport doesn't comply with federal regulations, airport operations could adversely be affected. But isn't there anyway man and beast can coexist? I would think so! So if you want to consider stating your feelings on the matter, consider writing to one or all of our congressmen. Perhaps, with enough support, they might be willing to challenge the FAA to at least consider more humane means.



A little humor by Jessica Hagy called Indexed!



Do you Yahoo? Do you Facebook? Become a "Friend" of Cynomys Rex spokesrodent of Prairie Dog Pals.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was conducted on January 30, 2010. The meeting was well attended with over 30 present. Two new board members, Naomi Julian and Judy Garner, were elected as outreach coordinators. They replaced Lynn Diehl who had resigned due to personal reasons. Minutes of the general meeting can be found on the archives page of the website. The next general meeting will be held on January 29, 2011, so mark your calendars.

During the meeting the winning ticket was drawn for the wonderful quilt created by Inara Kuck. And the winner is....Ginger Larkin! Pictured below, PDP president Yvonne Boudreaux presents the quilt to Ginger!



Naomi Julian and Judy Garner, new PDP outreach coordinators, spent weeks preparing their new PowerPoint presentations to use for school (and other) visits. They kicked off their new team effort on May 11 and 12 at Los Padillas and Longfellow Elementary Schools. Spokesrodents Nemo and GunnyBear took turns as the third member of the outreach team. Both teachers and students were delighted with the presentations. Naomi and Judy will continue their outreach in the schools this coming school year.



First Release of the Season

Ninety-seven prairie dogs were released on June 21, the summer solstice, at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. The project was the handiwork of many people, but we must recognize Ana Davidson, Mike Friggens and Jon Erz for their commitment to the project and undying, unfazed, and limitless dedication. The excitement started, well with the first capture of the year...nay it started in 2009 when the three scientists approached Prairie Dog Pals with a, offer "you can't refuse"...relocate prairie dogs to the Sevilleta. I don't know if you know, but "us taxpayers" own one of the most pristine prairie environments in all of the USA! ... and it is a National Wildlife Reserve! You'll have to visit the website <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/sevilleta> to gain a full appreciation. There are numerous ecosystems from alpine desert to riparian!

For the prairie dogs it was Nirvana! Heaven for the displaced, abused, and unwanted prairie dogs, and the rainbow leading to the pot o' gold. This is not to say it was an "e-ticket." The prairie dogs would become part of a thriving ecosystem doing the things that prairie dogs do best, being a keystone species and ALL that, that implies!... I know some of you were disappointed that we were focusing our efforts away from Albuquerque, but consider that this may be the "ark" for Gunnisons--a place where they can thrive.



❖
"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."
Aldo Leopold

Future Plans:

Activities: The site stewards have already been busy for months, tending to the urban colonies. The rescue team completed some spring trapping, capturing 57 prairie dogs before suspending activities for pup season. Our outreach coordinators never stop, and have a full agenda for the year! For the summer it will be more of the same.

We'll be working along Tramway, moving prairie dogs out of harm's way as DOT widens the walking path. We plan to thin populations at the I40 intersections between Wyoming and Tramway. We've targeted a few areas such as Los Colinas and Lomas and Tramway as well for removals. We also have projects further afield. The majority of the prairie dogs will be going to the Sevilleta this year. Read on.

Partnering: Prairie Dog Pals completed its first Challenge Cost Share contract with US Fish and Wildlife for the introduction of prairie dogs into the refuge. Under the first contract habitat was created for 1200 prairie dogs. Recently we signed a second contract for introduction of the prairie dogs. For 2010 our goal will be to relocate 600 prairie dogs. Work responsibilities are still being defined but there will be volunteer opportunities both with the capture and staging as well as with release. If you are interested email prairiedogpals@comcast.net.

Weems: We've once again been offered the opportunity of conducting an Outreach Event and Display at the Weems Artfest this fall. Volunteers will be needed for the 3-day event. A board member will be present at each shift, so even those who have not tabled at an Outreach Event can come with confidence as there will be an "expert" on hand to field any difficult questions. More information will be provided once the dates have been set.



Margaret Dowling and Barbara Johnson at Weems

The "Italian Job"

No, not the movie! Prairie Dog Pals has friends in far away places like Italy!

Last year a group of people in Italy who love prairie dogs and ground squirrels created a non-profit organization named "Cane della prateria & Citelli" which means "Prairie Dogs & Ground Squirrels." These wonderful animals are not common to Italy but the group, as well as many Italians, are enchanted with them.

The organization provides information about the characteristics of the species and how to take care of them. They provide information about food, habitat, health and anything else necessary to sustain them. They have written a book called *Cani della prateria & Citelli* in the hope that people use it to understand how to take care of their precious friends. They support petitions in the United States to save prairie dogs. They provide information about the life and value of prairie dogs in an effort to stop the senseless killing that occurs in the United States by ignorant people.

From Sara Di Santolo: "Sometimes we saw a prairie dog in a shop, alone, in a small cage, stressed, with the wrong food. This year we've adopted a prairie dog family in America thanks to our members and Prairie Dog Pals. We're so proud to have done this and we hope to do it again soon."

Below is an outreach event with brochures, gadgets, books, pictures etc. to give people a chance to learn about these fantastic animals:



The group has created a number of websites with information as well as discussion boards:

www.canedellaprateria.info; www.citello.info;

www.citello.it; www.canedellaprateria.net;

www.canedellaprateria.org;

www.canedellaprateria.forumattivo.com

They also have an English forum here:

www.prairiedog.forumattivo.com.





**PRAIRIE DOGS ARE KEY...
to 150 species of wildlife
& health of arid grasslands.**

Prairie Dog Pals

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**Could things be
looking up for
prairie dogs?
Please join the
groundswell &
contact us today
to see how you
can take part.**

Prairie Dog Pals
PO Box 14235
Albuquerque, NM 87191
TAD/Telephone/Fax: 505 296 1937
Email: prairiedogpals@comcast.net

Are *you* a supporter of Prairie Dog Pals?

Here's how you can help:

Volunteer to be a steward, outreach spokesperson, relocater, or other prairie dog pal!

Use your administrative skills to help us with our web site, PR, outreach, and more!

Make a donation to support our work!

We also accept additional donations of food and other needed supplies.

I would like to support Prairie Dog Pals. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

I would like to volunteer to help Prairie Dog Pals. Please contact me at the following:

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Send your tax deductible contribution to: Prairie Dog Pals,
PO Box 14235, Albuquerque, NM 87191



Prairie Dog Pals
PO Box 14235
Albuquerque, NM 87191

STAMP
HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321