

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

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Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to the Commission, staff, and county volunteers!

I am a volunteer at Sandoval County Animal Services, and I'm always trying to figure out ways to find homes for the dogs at the shelter since all the rescues that we generally transfer to are in the same boat as the shelter: Full.

So, let's get creative.

I would like to see the Commissioners use discretionary funds and then build into the budget for the next fiscal year – and beyond - a program to provide free adoptions for military veterans and their families.

The VA reported in 2020 that an average of 16-17 veterans took their own lives every day. Anything we can do to help stop this, we should be doing.

The biggest battle in my life has been a battle with cancer, and having my dog by my side – Arthur, rescue Chihuahua – helped me more than I can say. He's also there when the guilt of surviving when others didn't creeps in.

Survivor's guilt is real, and I can't imagine how much some of our veterans suffer thinking of the "what if..." of a military action they were involved in.

Our veterans have fought battles I can't begin to comprehend and have lost friends – the thought might be in the back of their minds that they could have saved someone. Or they've seen things that haunt them, and they'll never forget. They've returned to civilian life and are expected to just be okay.

Having someone who is completely non-judgmental – dogs are pretty awesome at that! - to take care of every day may make all the difference for someone. Having something outside of yourself to care for can be a life saver.

Also, a program like this could assist the shelter in obtaining grant funding in the future if it's successful. Free money is always a good thing!

Please consider offering free adoptions for all of our military veterans and their families so we can work toward clearing the shelter and perhaps saving two lives at a time.

Thank you for your time.