

## Afghan hounds rescued from nightmare existence

### Journal Staff Report

The e-mail was titled “cute pet photo submitted,” which is how the pictures arrive, the dogs in hats, the cats in attitudes. But there was no cuteness in the photo of Griffin. There was emaciation, hip bones angled like fists, a sad, shaven coat.

Griffin is one of 67 Afghan hounds and 25 birds taken from a property in San Miguel County last month, an event that involved law enforcement officials, volunteers and experts in hoarding cases. Rescuers found open wounds, embedded wires and deformed and even broken bones when the dogs were cleaned up. One of the dogs had an open tumor and was put down. Of the 15 puppies that were taken, only two survived — it’s believed the rest died of parvovirus.

Susan Stephens, president of Afghan Hounds New Mexico, is fostering Griffin — and she sent his photo to draw attention to the effort to save the dogs. She’s also fostering one of the puppies, which is now about 3 months old.

Most of the adult dogs have been adopted or are in foster care arranged by Afghan Hound Club of America. To see photos and read about those dogs, visit [www.afghanhound.net](http://www.afghanhound.net).

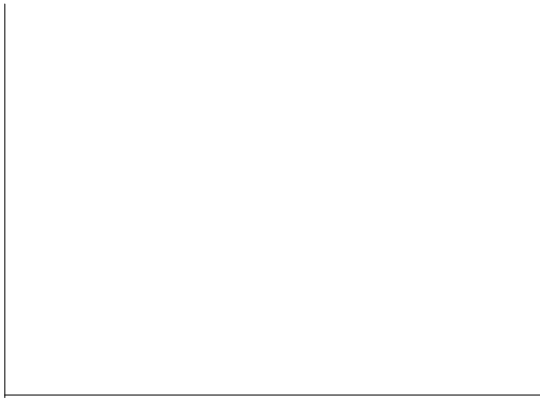
The national group supports a network of volunteers that cares for homeless Afghans until good homes are found for them. But the medical and transportation costs for so many dogs is “really, really expensive,” Stephens says.

Meanwhile, 25 macaws, cockatoos, parakeets and other birds are in the care of Avian Rescue Corp. in Albuquerque, where president Ron Howard says they are in protective custody for now and not currently available for adoption. As with the dogs, the birds needed veterinary care and evaluation.

Stephens has opened an account at Los Alamos National Bank, 301 Griffin St. in Santa Fe, to help the national group pay for its work on behalf of the dogs. The account number is 00947121-01131, or contact Pamela Mayfield at 661-2202 for information. Stephens has also distributed donation cans at locations in Santa Fe.

To ask about donating to Avian Rescue, contact Howard at [avianrescue@earthlink.net](mailto:avianrescue@earthlink.net).





**PHOTO COURTESY OF UOMI S. BROG** Griffin is one of the Afghan hounds rescued in San Miguel County.