

July/August 2018

The
Tucson

DOG

A publication dedicated to promoting the human/animal
bond and raising awareness of shelter and rescue animals.

Cover Story

Stitching Together the
Fabric of Dogpatch



Feature Highlights

A Haven for the Wild:
Tucson Wildlife Center

A Look Inside the
Canine Mind

Kids and Animals:
Learning to Read
One Dog at a Time

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The Leader of the Pack Speaks!

Dear Readers,

It seems like I am always saying "how excited I am about this issue" but I can't help it because I am very excited about this one. Not only the fabulous stories but we have made more changes and upgrades that I know you will love. Beginning July 1st, our new, interactive website will be up for you to enjoy. It is full of great things for you to see and we've made it easier for you to read The Tucson Dog online and past stories with our blog style format.

We also moved our Email Blast sign-up over which is now called our VIP list. If you have already signed up on our old site, you don't have to do it again, but if you haven't, I encourage you to do so. You will get emails about animal events happening in town as well as other great information on clinics, classes and more.

You will also see more of our sponsors on the website and some great contests starting in our September/October issue where you can have some fun, talk about your beloved pets and win great prizes. All this has been made possible by your support and the support of our amazing advertisers. We are growing by leaps and bounds as we celebrate our one-year birthday this issue! Yippee!!

In our cover story this issue, we are presenting a very important story about a very misunderstood place in the Tucson area called Dogpatch. The title, *Stitching Together the Fabric of Dogpatch* is very appropriate as we personally investigated what has been happening there. I want to thank our Associate Editor, Claire Sheridan for going above and beyond to make this story happen making multiple visits to the area to "get it right." I was able to make one trip out there myself to see the "real truth" and met some truly special people and their animals. Claire not only wrote the story but got involved to help the people that are trying to change things there for the better because, like all of our writers, she truly cares deeply about what is happening for animals in this beautiful desert community.

What I learned from my visit to Dogpatch is that people may live in a different way, but they love their animals and want the best for them. And it is incumbent upon us to understand that and not judge which is sometimes difficult for us humans to do. Our animals can teach us a lot about that!

I'd also like to mention a great event that we were a part of in May. Love Pup Family Fest was held at Reid Park on May 4th. It was a fantastic event and at press time, we heard that approximately 30 dogs were adopted that day with many other inquiries after the event. This is what we live for! Thanks to the Love Pup Foundation and IHeart Radio for producing this incredible event and inviting us to be a part of it. We met a lot of great people and animals that day and we look forward to the event next year!

Please check out this edition because there are so many wonderful stories that I cannot mention them all here, but I know you will enjoy them as I did. And remember the temperatures are extremely high now, so be aware of the effect the heat can have on our pets and protect them from it. As much as I love taking my dogs everywhere with me, this time of year, they are more comfortable at home until the temperatures cool down and we can go out for a walk, ride and some play!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer with much love, light and laughter!

Ann



Greetings from Gracie

Why Spay/Neuter Your Pet?

Dear Humans,

When we talk about pet homelessness and why they end up in shelters, this is first and foremost on my mind. The sad truth is that there are just too many unwanted pets and not enough homes.

A lot of people don't understand that spaying and neutering not only prevents many unwanted animals being born, but it is also a health issue. The ASPCA has a great list of reasons to spay and neuter that I would like to share with you.

1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.

Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats.

Spaying your pet offers the best protection from these diseases.

2. Neutering provides major health benefits for your male.

Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer.

3. Your spayed female won't go into heat.

While cycles can vary, female felines can usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. To advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently, sometimes all over the house!

4. Your male dog won't roam away from home.

An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate? That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

5. Your neutered male will be much better behaved.

Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house.

6. Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat.

Don't use that old excuse? Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds, not neutering. You pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

7. It is highly cost-effective.

The cost for your pets spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth. Letting your pet produce offspring is not a good lesson for your children, especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters every year.

8. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.

Every year, millions of cat and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unwanted litters that could have been prevented by spaying and neutering.

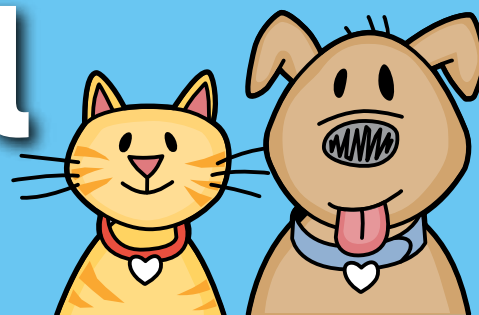
I hope this helps you understand why you should spay and neuter your pets. Please, please, don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution! Spay and neuter your pets!!

Peace, Love & Biscuits,

Gracie



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The Tucson **DOG**

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Cover Photo

Dogpatch resident Aracely with her puppy Lingua



22

COVER STORY: Stitching Together the Fabric of Dogpatch

Special Feature:
A look inside
the Canine
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Kitty Korner:
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The Tucson Dog Staff & Writers



Ann Herrington - Publisher/Editor - Ann began working in animal welfare in 1997 when she adopted a shelter dog named Harley who changed the direction of her life. She utilized her experience working in the media and advertising for many years to help shelter animals through education and off-site adoption events. In 2008, she founded the first of 4 magazines, The Prescott Dog. She continues to dedicate her life to helping rescue and shelter animals through awareness, education, and adoptions. Email: ann@thetucsondog.com.



Claire Sheridan - Associate Editor - Originally from the east coast, Claire relocated to Tucson from Seattle because she loves EVERYTHING about the desert. Her interests include: hiking, mountain biking, cooking and gardening. A former criminal justice professional long time yoga practitioner, and certified instructor, Claire blends her experience in trauma and crisis intervention into her consultant and life coach practices. Most of all Claire loves canines, and has a special affinity for large "bully breed" dogs. Email: claire@thetucsondog.com.



Judith Clark - Sales Manager - After thirty five years in Colorado, Judith relocated to Arizona in the late 90s, and then Tucson in 2001. A career of marketing, sales and customer service led her to our new project. She is a photographer, welder and artist and has been a constant pet parent. Judith and her husband currently have two Labradors and a very large kitty. Getting to know the animal community in Tucson is becoming her newest hobby. Email: judith@thetucsondog.com.



Devon Confrey - Staff Writer - Devon Confrey lives with his parents and sister, and sometimes his uncle, in Tucson, where he was born. He was first introduced to cats and dogs by his older brother and has liked being with them ever since. Fred and Daphne, his two awesome cats, like to play with his cool dog, Arlo. Devon has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Arizona. He likes reading and writes on his own, too. Email: devon@thetucsondog.com.



Bonnie Craig - Staff Writer - Bonnie Craig lives with three dogs, a cat, nine chickens, and a Betta fish. As well as writing, she enjoys painting and playing music. She is passionate about the natural world and loves gardening, botanizing, hiking, and camping. Most evenings she can be found in the garden listening to the chickens and playing endless games of fetch with a certain ball-obsessed border collie. Email: bonnie@thetucsondog.com.



Emily Dieckman - Staff Writer - Emily Dieckman loves to tell stories – especially about animals. While she impatiently looks forward to living in an apartment that allows dogs, she fills her time with writing, reading, cooking and petting other people's dogs. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California State University, Fullerton, and her writing has appeared in Borgen Magazine, Orange Coast Magazine, The Tucson Weekly and The Explorer Newspaper. Email: emily@thetucsondog.com.



Bella Wexler - Staff Intern - Bella has always adored animals. She is a vegetarian and raised \$3,000 for Hoofs N' Horns Farm Sanctuary as her Bat Mitzvah project in 2016 while raising awareness about the brutality of factory farming. She helps care for the many dogs that her family fosters. She is currently a Freshman at Catalina Foothills High School with a passion for writing and music. Bella has two adopted dogs and cats and a room that is never complete without layers of shed pet fur. Bella is inspired by the Tucson Dog magazine family and is thrilled to be part of them. Email: bella@thetucsondog.com.



Gracie - Canine Writer - Gracie is a 2 year-old former shelter dog who loves giving pet parents tips on how to keep their four-legged friends healthy and happy with her column, "Greetings from Gracie." She loves playing with her brother Andy, who is also a rescue. They both enjoy walks and car rides everyday. She loves traveling and has fallen in love with Tucson and the many friendly animal lovin' people and their pets she has met. Email: gracie@thetucsondog.com.

THE TUCSON DOG

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(520) 345-2801

Ann Herrington
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
Courtesy of Claire Sheridan

CARTOON
Courtesy of Jerry King

If you have a story idea,
please send it to
ann@thetucsondog.com

The Tucson Dog reserves the right to editorial control of all articles, stories and Letters to the Editor. The Tucson Dog assumes no responsibility for errors within its publication. The views herein do not necessarily represent the policies of The Tucson Dog and should not be construed as endorsements.

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On this 4th of July, The Tucson Dog magazine would like to thank and acknowledge those who have served in our military, past and present. And to their families who have also sacrificed in that service.



Say Goodbye to the **DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!**

**Sept. 1-3,
10 a.m - 5 p.m**

Presented by



**Kids 11 & Under
GET IN FREE!**

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**Bring Your Dogs Out
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- Rattlesnake training demonstrations by Arizona Animal Experts
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- Canine adoptions
- Old Tucson Signature Events
- Dog Days Events included in your park admission*



*Registration fee for entering dogs in the Amateur class for dock diving.



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Calendar of Events

Ongoing Adoptions

Animal League of Green Valley

Onsite Adoptions
7 days a week - 10a-2p
1600 West Duval Mine Rd.,
Green Valley
(520) 625-3170

Hermitage Cat Shelter & Sanctuary

Onsite Adoptions
Tues-Sat. 10a-5p
5278 E. 21st St.
Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 571-7839

Hope Animal Shelter

Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Thurs, by appointment
Fri., Sat., Sun noon-4p
8950 N. Joplin Ln., Tucson
(520) 792-9200

Humane Society of Southern AZ Main Campus

Onsite Adoptions
Main Campus
Mon-Sat 11a-6p
Sun: noon-5p
Closed Major Holidays

Pawsh at Park Place

Mon-Sat. 10a-5p
Sunday 11a-5p
5870 E. Broadway Blvd.
(520) 881-7406

Pawsh at La Encantada

Mon-Sat. 10a-6p
Sun 11a-6p
(520) 327-6577

HSSA Thrift Store on Speedway

Mon-Sat 10a-6p
Closed Sunday
5311 E. Speedway Blvd.
(520) 327-0010

PAWSitively CATS No-Kill Shelter

Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Sat 10a-2p
1145 Woodland Ave., Tucson
(520) 289-2747

Pima Animal Care Center

Onsite Adoptions
Weekdays noon-7p
Weekends 10a-5p
Closed the last Sunday of every month
4000 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson
(520) 724-5900

Ajo Substation

Onsite Adoptions
11a-1p MWF
4:30-6:30p Wed
1259 Well Rd., Ajo
(520) 387-7502

Pima Paws for Life

Onsite Adoptions
7 Days A Week
7a-11a & 3p-7p
2555 W Zinnia Ave., Tucson
(520) 867-1193

Special Events

JULY

Sun. July 1st & 15th, 9a-4p Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter: Cat Yoga (Ages 16+)

The Hermitage, 5278 E 21st Street,
Tucson, AZ 85711 (520) 571-7839
Participants ages 16-17 need their
guardian to sign a liability waiver
prior to attending Cat Yoga (email
ashley@hermitagecatshelter.org).
All participants will sign a waiver
before class. Please bring your own
mat, and dress comfortable. (yoga
socks, props, water bottle, etc.). Cost:
\$15. Sign up online at: [https://
app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.
php?owner=15139159](https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=15139159)

Sun. July 1st - Thurs. Sept. 20th Tucson Botanical Gardens: Dog Days of Summer

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N
Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 326-9686
Unlimited all-day admission to the
gardens is \$3/dog. Or, buy a dog
membership, good through Sept. 20th
for \$20 per dog (sibling dog members
additional \$10 each). Memberships
include identification card for your
dog, samples of homemade dog treats
from on-site Café Botanica. More
information: tucsonbotanical.org or
call: 520-326-9686

Mon. July 9th - Fri. July 13th, 10a-3p Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter: Cat Camp

The Hermitage, 5278 E 21st Street,
Tucson, AZ 85711 (520) 571-7839
For children ages 6-8, Cost: \$200.00
for information and to sign up: [https://
app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.
php?owner=15139159](https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=15139159)

Sat. July 14th, 10a-2p
Pima Animal Care Center
Adoption Event with No Kill
Pima County
 Ward 6 Tucson City Counsel Office,
 3202 E 1st Street, Tucson, AZ 85716
 For more information, contact Danielle
 Harris, Adoption Coordinator: Danielle.
 Harris@pima.gov, or: 520-724-5314

Sun. July 15th, 9a-4p
Humane Society of Southern
AZ: Dog Days in the Desert
Summer Camp
The Humane Society of
Southern Arizona
 Humane Society, 635 W. Roger Road,
 Tucson, Arizona 85705
 The Dog Days Summer Camp Rescue
 Crew is for children ages 6 to 8 years.
 The Dog Days in the Desert Summer
 Camp will give your child a new
 perspective on caring for animals,
 preventing animal cruelty, understanding
 animal behavior and more. More info:
 hssaz.org

Sat. July 21st, 10a-1p
Pima Animal Care Center
Adoption Event: Dog Days of
Summer
 Royal Buick, 815 W. Auto Mall Drive,
 Tucson, AZ 85705
 For more information, contact Danielle
 Harris, Adoption Coordinator: Danielle.
 Harris@pima.gov, or: 520-724-5314

Thurs. July 26th, 5:30p
Pima Animal Care Center:
Summit/Dogpatch Community
Meeting
 Pima Animal Care Center Community
 Room, 4000 N. Silverbell Road,
 Tucson 85745
 Anyone interested in learning more
 about the efforts to help the dogs
 and cats in Dogpatch, and/or
 those interested in lending a hand is
 encouraged to attend. For information,
 please contact Bennett Simonsen,
 Animal Protection Supervisor: Bennett.
 Simonsen@pima.gov

Sun. July 29th, 5p-7p
PAWSitively Cats No-Kill
Shelter: Raise a Glass for
Shelter Cats
 Arizona Wine Collective, 4280 N.
 Campbell Avenue, Suite 155
 A brand-new wine-tasting benefit for
 the cats, featuring Arizona wines and
 local beer on tap. \$25 for a tasting
 of 6 wines; \$10 goes to the cats.
 5% of bottle and glass sales will also
 be donated. Hors d'oeuvres, raffle
 prizes, and fun, all for a great cause!
 Questions? Contact: Susan Miller at:
 sjmilleraz@gmail.com or 520-870-1904

AUGUST

Wed. Aug. 1st - Thurs. Sept. 20th
Tucson Botanical Gardens: Dog
Days of Summer
 Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N
 Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712 (520)
 326-9686
 Unlimited all day admission to the
 gardens is \$3/dog. Or, buy a dog
 membership, good through September
 20th for \$20 per dog (sibling dog
 members additional \$10 each).
 Memberships include identification card
 for your dog, samples of homemade
 dog treats from on-site Café Botanica.
 More information: tucsonbotanical.org or
 call: 520-326-9686

Sat. Aug. 18th, 9a-5p
Pima Animal Care Center
Adoption Event: Clear the
Shelter
 Pima Animal Care Center, 4000 N
 Silverbell Rd., Tucson, AZ 85745
 For more information, contact Danielle
 Harris, Adoption Coordinator: Danielle.
 Harris@pima.gov, or: 520-724-5314

Thurs. Aug. 23rd, 7:30-9:30a
Tucson Botanical Gardens: Dog
Portraits by Photographer
Vicky Stromee
 Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N
 Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 326-9686
 Drop by on your way to work and have
 your beloved pet photographed in the
 Garden! Cost: \$10 for 1 pose, \$15
 for 2 poses; all proceeds benefit the
 Botanical Gardens.



SAVE THE DATE

September

Sat. Sept. 1st - Mon. Sept. 3rd
10a-5p
Old Tucson: Say Goodbye to the
Dog Days of Summer
 Old Tucson, 201 S. Kinney Road,
 Tucson 85735
 Celebrating all things canine!
 DockDogs®, will present a diving
 competition featuring professional,
 semi-professional and amateur diving
 categories including the Big Air Wave,
 Extreme Vertical and Speed Retrieval.
 The competition will run for three days
 during regular park hours, 10a to 5p
 with finals on Monday, September 6.
 To register, go to <https://dockdogs.com/events/cal/dog-days-of-summer-at-old-tucson-2/>. Pre-registration
 encouraged as contest is limited to 40
 dogs. Vendors; exhibitors, pet products
 & adoptions. Canines of the West
 Costume Contest, Mon 9/3. Kids 11 &
 under free, adults \$19.95. More info,
 go to www.oldtucson.com, or www.dockdogs.com.

Sat. Sep. 8th, 7:30a-1p
Humane Society of Southern
AZ: 3rd Annual Putt for Paws
Golf Tournament
Hosted by The Reliance Group
& Humane Society of Southern
Arizona
 Ventana Canyon Golf Course, 6200 N.
 Club House Lane, Tucson 85750
 Join the 3rd annual Putt for Paws Golf
 Tournament, brought to you by our
 amazing friends at The Reliance Group
 and OMNI Homes International!
 Kegs throughout the course & a
 complimentary Bloody Mary bar. All
 proceeds benefit HSSAZ! \$100 per
 player, \$375 for foursome. Includes:
 golf, range balls, cart, hole contests
 & lunch. Prizes, contests, awards,
 AND a Luncheon After-Party! www.puttforpaws2018.eventbrite.com

Sat. Sept. 29th, 12-6p
Pima Animal Care Center: Pride
In The Desert
 Reid Park, 900 S. Randolph Way,
 Tucson, AZ 85716
 For more information, contact Danielle
 Harris, Adoption Coordinator: Danielle.
 Harris@pima.gov, or: 520-724-5314

October

Sat. Oct. 13, 8:30p
RAD Rescue Inc. Fundraiser: The
Vampire: He Loved in Vein
 Gaslight Theatre, 7010 E Broadway
 Boulevard, Tucson 85710
 (520) 886-9428
 Cheer the hero and boo the villain while
 enjoying your favorite beer or soft drink,
 pizza, ice cream & free popcorn! This
 event benefits RAD dogs in rescue.
 Join us for family fun showing of "The
 Vampire: He Loved in Vein" Tix \$22 for
 all ages. Must be purchased from RAD
 in advance. There will be raffle prizes
 the night of the show. Questions? Email:
 radrescueinc@gmail.com, or call:
 661-400-5151

Sat. Oct. 20th, 7:30am
registration Humane ociety of
So. AZ 4th Annual Sweat For
Pets Fundraiser
 University of Arizona Mall
 Raise money, win prizes, save lives
 Walk, Run & Roll to benefit the HSSAZ
 More info: hssaz.org

November

Sun. Nov. 4, 10a-2p
Dogtoberfest
 The Gregory School, 3231 N. Craycroft
 Road, Tucson, AZ 85712
 This event benefits Handi-Dogs, Inc., a
 501(c)(3) non-profit. 1700 people and
 700 dogs attended last year. This year,
 300 Very-Important-Pup (VIP) Packages
 will be available for \$35. VIPs receive:
 Entrance ticket, Dogtoberfest t-shirt,
 early admission at 9:30a and a goodie
 bag. More information, contact: JoAnn
 Turnbull at: joann@handi-dogs.org

We are thrilled to invite you
to check out our new, interactive website at
www.thetucsondog.com
and sign up for our VIP List where you will receive
emails about events, special promotions and contests.
 Please know that we will NEVER share your email with anyone for any reason.



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Payoff Vet Debt



www.payoffvetdebt.com

Tucson to the Rescue!

It's the 3rd PAYOFF VET DEBT campaign.
Tucson's only multi-rescue group fundraiser
triples donations with a \$2 fur \$1 match.

**Not one pet is saved
until a medical bill is paid.
Let's send \$45K to ___ rescue group vets!**

100% of tax-deductible
donations go directly to vets.
Support at www.payoffvetdebt.com
or mail checks to
Lil Bit of Love PVD,
63457 E. Squash Blossom Lane
Tucson, AZ 85739
Donations matched to \$15K.
Campaign runs July 9-30.

**Match sponsored by SaddleBrooke
Pet Rescue Network & Bonnie Kay.**

WE NEED FRIENDS!

LIKE US on Facebook. View previous campaigns,
follow this one & share with friends.



Until there are none, save one

SADDLEBROOKE PET RESCUE NETWORK

Feature Story

SaddleBrooke Pet Rescue PAYOFF VET DEBT Campaign

By Claire Sheridan

The Third Annual PAYOFF VET DEBT capital campaign kicks off on Monday, July 9th. In the previous two years, the fundraiser donated a total of \$53,341 to some of the many animal rescue organizations in our community. This is Tucson's only multi-rescue group fundraiser.

The fundraiser is sponsored by SaddleBrooke Pet Rescue Network, which is a group of animal advocates in the SaddleBrooke retirement community. This year, they, and long-time local animal champion Bonnie Kay, are offering a \$2-fur-\$1 match of up to \$30,000 to benefit multiple animal rescue groups throughout Tucson.

In order for rescues to be included as beneficiaries of the fundraiser, there are qualifications they must meet. These include: being a 501(c)(3) that serves mostly Tucson with all-breed cat or dog rescue; operating a minimum of 1 year; having a verifiable veterinary debt of \$10,000 or more and having rescued a minimum of 15 pets in 2017.

If the community donates \$15,000, Saddlebrooke Pet Rescue Network will donate \$15,000, and Bonnie Kay will donate an additional \$15,000, for a total donation of \$45,000. These funds will go directly to paying off the veterinary care debt carried by local rescues.

Leslie Rocco of Saddlebrooke Pet Rescue Network said, "Pet rescue groups are unsung heroes with enormous, ongoing medical expenses and no income except donations. Vet expenses have dramatically increased because groups are saving animals [that were] once euthanized. *If not US, then WHO? If not NOW, WHEN?* The need is urgent."

The animal rescues in Tucson are saving senior, sick, abused, neglected and injured animals that would otherwise not receive medical care or find loving homes to advance the No Kill Solution for our community. The expense of providing care to these animals is enormous, and veterinary bills are a huge component of many rescue's expenses. The campaign's goal is bringing the Tucson community together to support the rescues that do this life-saving work.

Donations are tax deductible and 100% of the funds go directly to veterinary accounts of the rescue groups.

Learn more and donate at: www.payoffvetdebt.com
You can also mail a check to: Lil Bit of Love, PAYOFF VET DEBT, 63457 E. Squash Blossom Lane, Tucson, AZ 85739.

Be sure to like PAYOFF VET DEBT on Facebook.

Please spread the word and help them meet their \$45,000 fundraising goal by July 31.





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A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

All the dogs on these pages are available for adoption now. If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends, please call the group listed with the picture.



BAMBI (A617929) - My name is Bambi. I am a tan and white Shar Pei mix girl. The shelter staff thinks I am about 1 1/2 years old. I'm good with other dogs and am currently in foster care. I came to PACC in May. I like playing and am one to speak my mind. I prefer the feel and chew of a real-live book rather than these e-readers everyone has these days. Pima Animal Care Center 520-724-5900



SHIPALS (A628282) - My name is Shipals. I'm a yellow Labrador Retriever boy who is 2 years old. I'm good with other dogs and I make friends easily. I've been at the shelter since May. I have to say my favorite part about going to the beach is when I get to chase away seagulls. My favorite part of seeing the city is the pigeons that fly away after I run at them. Pima Animal Care Center 520-724-5900



GOOSE (854919) - My name is Goose! I am an 8-year-old boy who can't wait to meet my forever family. I am a mellow boy who loves to go on walks. I enjoy spending my days indoors lounging on a comfortable bed. I would do best in a home without cats or small dogs. I enjoy the company of female dogs. Visit me at HSSA Main Campus and make sure to bring your family, including dogs. Humane Society of Southern Arizona 520-327-6088 x173



CHARGER (715547) - I am a playful 5-year-old boy who already knows how to sit. I absolutely love treats. I will be easy to teach new tricks. The nice veterinarian at HSSA told me I have atopy which means I have allergies that make me very itchy. Don't let that scare you though! I will need a special diet of z/d food, some medications, and follow up veterinary care. Humane Society of Southern Arizona 520-327-6088 x173

DAISY DUKE - I am a 6-year old Redbone Coonhound mix, who weighs around 60 pounds. I need a home where I can go for walks, play tug of war with my toys, and just be loved. No cats please. I have a beautiful hound howl. I will make you laugh and check on you and lay by you when I sense you're upset. I can be dog-selective until I make friends. Tucson Cold Wet Noses adoptions@tucsoncoldwetnoses.com



CHEWY - I am an 11-year-old, 20-pound Cocker Spaniel. I love to spend time outside in the sun. A grain-free diet will be best for my skin issues. I love to eat so much that I get a little grumpy when my canine buddies try to take some of my food. Other than that I'm a sweet gentleman, my foster mom says, and I need someone to spend some quality time with me! Tucson Cold Wet Noses adoptions@tucsoncoldwetnoses.com



MOO I'm a 1-year-old "Cheaglehund" (Chihuahua, Beagle, Dachshund) sure to wiggle her way into your heart, very quickly! I have a spunky personality and a playful bark. I'm currently living with four four-legged sisters, and I've made myself the leader of the pack. I was malnourished when I was first taken in, but I've put on some weight and am as happy as can be! Miss Maggie May's Rescue 520-603-6908



SABRINA My siblings have all been adopted! Just me and my mom Coco Bean are left. I am 23 pounds. I love to play and wrestle, but I am on the quiet, shy side. I'm starting to enjoy sitting on laps. I am leash and crate trained, but I am still learning what's OK to chew and what is not. I need a no cat home. Miss Maggie May's Rescue 520-603-6908



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A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

If just one of every five Americans wanting to add a cat or dog to their family in the next year adopted from a shelter, not one single healthy, treatable cat or dog would lose his life in a shelter.

Source: Humane Society of the United States



PANDA I'm a medium sized Dachshund mix boy. Come meet me any day of the week! When the weather gets up into the triple digits, I like to head inside and sit and watch the world from a window. My favorite colors are ocean breeze, seafoam green, sky blue, and sand tan. I have plans to dig a hole so deep I could hop in and disappear if I wanted to. Pima Paws for Life 520-867-1193



DUO I am a handsome and smart 10-month-old petite Heeler mix. I am about 35 pounds. They don't get much cuter than me. I'm looking for a fun, active family, preferably with a K9 companion to keep me busy. My adoption comes with a 5-week puppy obedience package! My summer smell diary: warm garbage, corn on the cob, steaks on the grill, and the rain during a monsoon. RAD Rescue, Inc. 661-400-5151



NANNY I am a 12-years-young sweet senior Greyhound-Pit mix. I've lived with kids and have done well, but I would do best in a home without small dogs or dominant female dogs. I'm an older girl who loves to sunbathe, nap, and eat. I have Valley Fever, but I'm great about taking my daily medications with a yummy meatball. Apply online at my rescue to meet me! RAD Rescue, Inc. 661-400-5151



HEMI I am a 3-year-old Shar Pei who is fantastic with other dogs. I will tolerate cats. I am looking for an active family that might take me hiking, biking, and running, but that also love snuggling on the couch. I'm crate trained as well as dog-door trained. Most dogs don't like thunder. Lightning is what gets me: So bright and so fast, impossible to catch. Creepy! Pei People 520-730-5183

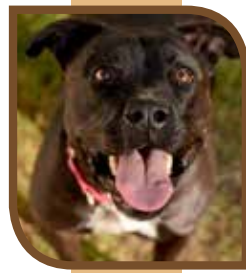
TONKA I'm an 8-month-old English Bulldog-Shar Pei mix that was purchased from a puppy store in the Phoenix area, and returned, as the family had "no time" for me. I love water and would love a home with a puppy pool. I am great with other dogs and super friendly to everyone I meet. I like looking to the stars to understand why I am the way I am. My resolve to love you is earth-bound. Pei People 520-730-5183



DARCY I'm a beautiful girl new to Tucson after surviving Hurricane Harvey in Houston. My life has been a hard road since then. I've been in and out of the vet. I love every person I meet. My favorite activity is to steal your laundry when you are trying to fold it - particularly socks! Will you consider giving this girl some much needed love and stability after enduring so much? HOPE Animal Shelter 520-792-9200



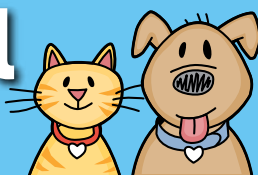
DOVE I'm a 3-year-old puppy, with a lot of awesome training under her belt. I went through 6 months of training as an epileptic service dog. I'm fantastic with children of all ages. I'm loving, and an absolute champ at cuddling. I would do so well as a family girl, or a hiking companion, or a fellow couch potato. I would fit in any place that can allow me to be their only pet. Smiling Dog Rescue 520-977-8000



KANE WOW, WOW, WOW! Big Daddy Kane (that's me!) is a stunning 7-year-old Blue hunk-o-love! I'm a polite and well-mannered boy who is great with all dogs and loves children too. I love to watch TV with you. I'm very good in the house and I never chew on anything that isn't mine. I'm a wonderful companion and a joy to live with. You will be glad to meet me! Smiling Dog Rescue 520-977-8000



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Pets in good hands with new PCC vet techs



By Tim Krone, DVM

PCC Veterinary Sciences Program Director

In May, 14 PCC students graduated with Associate of Applied Science degrees to be Veterinary Technicians.

In addition, 69 students from the East Campus and partner high schools received Veterinary Practice Assistant certificates, making them well-qualified to work in the front office of a veterinary facility.

Many Vet Tech grads have employment in local clinics from their recent clinical internships, while some still are on the job hunt. All program graduates need to take the National Board examination (VTNE) as well as a state-specific Licensure Exam.

Our students are well-prepared for this physically and emotionally demanding field. They have developed skills in hands-on veterinary technology nursing, microbiology, cytology and medical communication. Plus, they understand the regulatory environment in veterinary technology.

Pima County residents and their animals will be in good hands with these new vet techs.

Email your animal care questions or request info on Pima's program to pimalovespets@pima.edu.

PCC Veterinary Sciences

Division of Allied Health Dean: 520.206.6916

Lead Faculty: 520.206.7414

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Kitty Korner

Tucson Shelters Extend a Paw to FIV and FeLV-Positive Cats

Story & Photos by Devon Confrey

A little understanding goes a long way in the cat community.

Of all the reasons not to adopt a cat, feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and viral feline leukemia (FeLV) can sometimes keep away those unfamiliar with the diseases.

At first, this makes sense. The abbreviations feel complicated; they may bring to mind the human versions of these viruses. Cats that test positive for these viruses have weaker immune systems, which means they don't always live as long cats that don't have the viruses; this can be scary.

But, as these cats sit in Tucson shelters (and they do, there are enough of them that they make noticeable presences, many for extended periods of time, most outwardly unaffected besides an absence of owners), they may think to themselves that all this isolation seems unjustified.

The cats are here for now. Their conditions are manageable. There are resources, here, now, that not everybody knows about, to help give these guys fulfilling lives.



Take for instance "Herbie the Love Cat."

After a stint stalking the halls at the Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary, Herbie met a woman that took him home and gave him a second chance at life. The process was so smooth and she became so enamored with Herbie that she soon returned, determined to adopt another of his often overlooked brothers.

At the Hermitage five FIV and FeLV cats were adopted in May. Of all the adoptions the shelter had that month, 10 percent were for cats with special needs.

Part of the adoption process for FIV and FeLV cats at the Hermitage includes a "Lease for Life" program. With this program, if special needs cats develop complications with their conditions, the Hermitage will help adopters cover costs along with a copay.

The Animal League of Green Valley has a similar program, offering free vet care for the life of FIV and FeLV-positive cats. Adopters also receive an adoption counselor. This reassurance helps adopters and pets make the transition, and the cats get checked up on along the way.

Mister, an orange and white senior kitty, who is blind and also FeLV-positive, was able to find a happy home this summer because of the service.

PAWSitively CATS No-Kill Shelter along with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona has some FIV and FeLV cats available for



adoption as well. All over Tucson, an effort is being made to make these adoptions accessible.

Certainly, some parts of caring for an animal with these conditions will be different. This is true for the pet and for the sake of others, said Julie Gathers, Adoption Coordinator at the Hermitage.

"Don't bring FIV cats outside, because they may develop a respiratory infection, which is harder for them to deal with," Gathers said. Because their immune systems are not equipped to handle what might be common for other cats, for their own safety, they should be kept away from other animals that might be contagious.

FIV-positive cats can eat out of the same food and water bowls as other animals, and they can't spread their virus to people or dogs. FIV spreads through blood. Cats that fight are the ones owners need to worry about containing.

FelV is much more easily transmitted between cats than FIV. FelV can be transmitted through spit, and during grooming. Cats with FelV shouldn't be left together with cats that haven't been vaccinated, even for short periods of time.

All of that isn't to say that someone who doesn't have experience caring for cats with particular needs wouldn't be able to handle having a cat that's FIV or FelV-positive. "You just have to have the love in your heart to be able to adopt them," Gathers said. Immunodeficiency viruses don't require an owner to pay constant attention, or learn how to perform medical procedures. All it takes is owners who are careful and conscientious of their cat's needs and behaviors.



A brave and hopeful disposition goes a long way as well. One cat at the Hermitage with FelV lived to be 20 years old. Today, a positive diagnosis is not a death sentence.

And with every adoption, space opens up at a shelter, giving other cats the opportunity to come in. At the Hermitage, volunteers come and spend time specifically with these cats. Pay-it-forward adoptions at the Hermitage, or adoption sponsorships at PAWSitively CATS are ways that anybody can help, even if they can't take on a cat.



These shelters make a difference because they provide room for cats that are FIV and FelV-positive. These cats still have a lot of life left in them, and the shelters don't just assume the end is here.

For more information about FIV and FelV, visit: <http://bit.ly/FelineImmunodeficiencyVirus>



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CATS FOR ADOPTION

All the cats on these pages are available for adoption now. If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends, please call the group listed with the picture.



IWATSON (A339646) - My name is Iwatson. I am a Tortie and White Domestic Shorthair girl. The shelter staff thinks I am about 6 years old; I have been here since April. I am a cat of many interests, though my friends are few. I slink around like a sneaky slitherer. Much like Superman, the source of my power comes from the sun. I know the word "cat" in over seven languages. Pima Animal Care Center 520-724-5900



BAXTER (A629065) - My name is Baxter. I'm a brown and white Tabby boy. The shelter staff thinks I'm about 10 years old, and I've been here since May. I've made the most amazing discovery. Anything can be a bed! A stack of clean folded laundry can be a bed. An open book can be a bed. An unmade bed can be a bed. The arm of a chair, or a pile of mail on the table... Pima Animal Care Center 520-724-5900



JEZEBEL (850718) - I am a 3-year-old loveable girl who loves ear scratches! I tested positive for Feline Leukemia (FeLV), which means I will need to live in a low-stress home and live exclusively indoors. I can go to a home with other FeLV positive cats, as well as FeLV negative cats that have been properly vaccinated against the disease. Cats with FeLV can live long and healthy lives. Humane Society of Southern Arizona 520-327-6088 x173



MINX (852293) - Hi there. My name is Minx! I am a 2-year-old girl looking for the purr-fect family! I am a very loving girl who enjoys talking with my favorite humans. Do you think I could be a part of your family? Come visit me at HSSA Main Campus at 635 W. Roger Rd. If you have questions, give an adoptions counselor a call. Humane Society of Southern Arizona 520-327-6088 x173



JILLIE (34451706) - I'm a medium-sized black and brown Bengal mix girl, who has been in foster care since January. I used to dream of traveling the world, but now I just hope to find love and a comfy home. While looking out the window once, I swear I once saw a UFO. I tried to tell everyone, but they wouldn't even believe me. Will you? Saving Animals from Euthanasia (SAFE) 520-349-8637



ADELANTO (34584686) - I'm a 3-year-old Siamese mix boy in foster intake. My best friend growing up was a stuffed animal toy. I'm a fan of bookmarks. I think they're an art form often overlooked. Also, do not underestimate the power of an empty open cardboard box. Also, the full moon changes me in ways similar to a werewolf. Just kidding, but really: I do act weird. Be warned. Saving Animals from Euthanasia (SAFE) 520-349-8637



CHEETO The cat, not the snack. I am affectionate and I am a lover! I will nuzzle up to you and curl up in your lap. I love a good rub down, and I even tolerate baths and blow-drying. I enjoy playtime, especially when you flip a toy back and forth on the end of a string and stick. I would be a great addition to any loving family. Saving at Risk Animals 520-499-0545



ANASTASIA I am a Russian Blue and British Shorthair mix. I get along well with other kitties. And I'm a doll. I came into rescue with a kitty cold, but after medication and some TLC, I'm rocking my little life. I'm on the quieter side, and can be shy initially with people I don't know, but overall I'm a friendly companion cat who has the most wonderful purr. Saving at Risk Animals 520-499-0545



ANNIE I'm a small Domestic Shorthair girl. I like waking up in the middle of the night for a midnight cat snack. If you go away on a trip I will miss you. My whiskers are sensitive; they can predict changes in the weather and upcoming geological phenomena. My tail is both my closest friend and my most mistrusted enemy. HOPE Animal Shelter 520-792-9200



APRIL I am a small senior kitty! From my window I look at the clouds and imagine what my future napping spot will look like and what kinds of birds I might catch in my dreams. If you have in your home an entire room devoted to me, my beds, many toys, and strings, that would be fine. Also, please keep my litter box clean! HOPE Animal Shelter 520-792-9200



RONDO My eyes are big, my purr is loud, and I'm the one watching your every step. I like to chase my toys around the room, but I also like to curl up in your lap. Of course I like to play and wrestle with my brothers; they are my best buddies, and it would be great if I could get adopted with one of them (or my sister Harmony!). SOS Cat Rescue Arizona 520-445-3889



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CATNISS SOS peeps came to the rescue to give me a safe life indoors. I greet my foster family with purrs especially during breakfast and dinner. I'm a very active and playful kitten, love feather toys, ping-pong balls, and those twisty things... and love playing tag with my foster siblings. Even though I'm initially shy, I will warm up to people, it just might take a bit longer. SOS Cat Rescue Arizona 520-445-3889



PEKA BOO I am an extremely beautiful, friendly medium hair Calico girl who is very affectionate. I am currently spending my time in the shelter's allergy ward because I find it comfortable, but I do not have any allergies or food restrictions. The game after which I am named is not my favorite. I much prefer the thrill of Patty Cake. The Hermitage Cat Shelter and Sanctuary 520-571-7839



LANCELOT I'm a sweet handsome man that is FeLV-positive, but don't let that stop you, I am a people cat for sure! I love to be pet, and, if you've got treats, oh boy, you now have a friend! I can be a bit of a bully to my fellow roommates from time to time. I would do best in a one-cat home, but I can also go to a multi-cat home! The Hermitage Cat Shelter and Sanctuary 520-571-7839



EDGAR Hi, I'm a sweet boy. I was adopted a few months ago with my brother Allen. We were recently returned when our owner moved overseas. It's been stressful on us having to leave the home we had gotten used to. But we're keeping our spirits up and look forward to finding our true forever home. We are a bonded pair and need to find a home together. Tucson2Tails 520-812-5682



LIRA Hi, I'm Lira. I'm an extremely sweet and outgoing young girl. I have a sensitive tummy so it's important I'm kept on a consistent food. I love to play; I can live with dogs, cats, and kids. I love curling up on the couch to watch scary movies. I'm at PetSmart on Broadway & Pantano on Saturdays; come see me! Tucson2Tails 520-812-5682



BAILEY I'm a Domestic longhair senior. I also go by the name "Big Kitty," which says a lot about who I am. I am a master of finding hiding spots in your house that you never even knew you had. You think the room is empty until, hello, you see the glint of my green eyes up from on top of the closet shelf. Surprise! Pima Paws for Life 520-867-1193



INKBLOT In addition to my lovely fur, I'm a sweet 3-year-old lady who just loves being petted, am playful (as befitting my young age), and thrive on attention. I've lived with four Chihuahuas, a poodle, and five cats (including my friend, Gomez, who's here also). I am gentle with kids, so with just a bit of settling in time, I'll be the best addition to your life ever! The Animal League of Green Valley 520-625-3170



MACCHIATO A gorgeous Maine Coon and Torbie all mixed up on one petite package! When my mom had to move to Denmark, she decided that being the sweetheart that I am I'd be able to find another human to love pretty easily. She said, "Macchi loves to be picked up and snuggle under blankets, loves being petted, and purrs STRONGLY when she's happy." The Animal League of Green Valley 520-625-3170

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Kids and Animals

Learning to Read One Dog at a Time

Story by Bella Wexler | Photos by Natalie Mast

We've all been told at some point in our lives that the best way to overcome anxiety towards public speaking is to envision our audience naked. But, what if your audience isn't wearing any clothes in the first place and, instead, sports



The Dusenberry River library entrance

a coat of soft fur, a pair of floppy ears, and a wet nose – perfect for sniffing out a good book? As many children in Tucson are finding out, reading to dogs at Pima County Library locations is the best method of practicing their literary skills.

The Read to a Dog program currently takes place one hour per week

at fifteen of the twenty-six Pima County Public Libraries. Young readers and their families are welcome to stop by any of the participating locations, at the times specified on their website, to pick out a good book and read to a certified therapy dog. Each canine friend is brought by a dedicated organization: Alliance of Therapy Dogs, The Humane Society of Southern Arizona Pet VIP, Pet Partners, or Therapy Dogs International.

A typical Friday afternoon at the Dusenberry-River library involves tables filled with picture books, eager children and families waiting for a turn to read, two or more friendly dogs in the center of the room, and welcoming library staff. Included among these staff members is Children Services Librarian of five years, Annie Wicks, who oversees this location's Read to a Dog program. As visitors file in on four legs or two, Annie walks over to introduce herself to any new faces, seamlessly integrating them into this welcoming environment. Annie always remembers regular visitors, and cares about getting to know each newcomer, making that hour between 3:30 and 4:30 every Friday a safe and encouraging time.



Kai and Mina read to Aida

Some readers are regular participants who come every week. For example, Kai and Mina have been coming each Friday like clockwork because they love finding new books and meeting new people. Kai proudly reports that, "we've already met two friends!" Mina and Kai both enjoy reading by themselves while they wait to read to Lady or Aida, two of the four therapy dogs who take turns attending this event (the other two are Lily and Missy).



Evelyn and Charlee share a picture book with Lady

Some readers are brand new to the program. Annie invites newcomers to take part in crafts and pick out books, ensuring

that they understand the process as well as any regular visitor. Sisters, Evelyn and Charlee say that they especially loved reading to Lady during their first visit because "she is soft" and they "can pet her." The two plan to read plenty of funny books and chapter books this summer to their dog at home, in addition to the dogs at the library. After all, Charlee says that dogs are her favorite animals, "because they give me kisses and I'm an expert."

Another child, Sylvan, enjoyed his first time reading to Aida at the Dusenberry and River library. Sylvan has participated at other library locations in the past. He shared that he truly enjoys this program because the dogs are "very tolerant with kids." His mom, Audrey, believes in the benefits of providing



Sylvan enjoys a story with sleepy Aida

young readers like her son with a "non intimidating audience" like these cuddly canines.

Similarly, another reader said that she loves how the dogs "just sit there and listen" to readers. She says that the experience was "very therapeutic" because the dogs provided a peaceful and fun environment where, "I don't have a feeling of judgment."

In addition to being excellent audiences, these therapy dogs put on some exciting performances themselves. Lady in particular loved to show off some fun tricks while readers, Charlee and Evelyn giggled in amusement. Of course, Lady's favorite trick is to play dead because that's how she gets the most belly rubs.

When the clock struck 4:30, the happy families and little readers filed out, and Annie Wicks reflected on her experiences over her years with this program. She said that the most rewarding part is hearing so many stories from parents about how their children dreaded reading until they began attending the Read to a Dog program. But, beyond just hearing this, Annie gets to watch it happen. She has witnessed children go from sounding out words to reading sentences with fluency, all because their excitement about the opportunity to read to dogs makes them eager to practice reading throughout the week.

"It attaches positive experiences to something difficult and potentially frustrating for kids to learn," Wicks says. In the hopes that other families will explore this wonderful program, Annie encourages people to check the Pima County Public Library website to learn about the varying times and days this program takes place at different locations. Until then, perhaps we should stop envisioning our audiences naked, and instead try picturing a crowd of welcoming dogs like Aida and Lady or, better yet, go practice our speaking skills in front of dogs ourselves.



Kai, Mina, and Aida smile for the camera as they finish up their book

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at Registration &
Kegs throughout
the course.

Cover Story: Stitching Together the

Story by Claire Sheridan | Photos by Claire Sheridan and Judith Clark

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." - Mahatma Gandhi

It is an area fraught with difficulty, a political no-man's land, and it could perhaps even be called one of the remaining bastions of the Wild West: Dogpatch. For residents of Tucson, the name might ring bells; for those involved in the Animal Welfare Community here, it is a not-so-well-kept secret. While there are definitely problems in the neighborhood, the problems may not be what many think.



Summit, Arizona is a census-designated area south of the Tucson International Airport. To many, it will always be known as Dogpatch. There has been a fair amount of local media attention

focused on terrible things that have allegedly happened to animals in Summit. Reportedly, groups of dogs routinely wander the neighborhood and barren desert beyond, and dead animals allegedly litter the area.



According to a 2010 Southern Arizona Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT) Report:

During the height of the Summit View media frenzy, the Internet was flooded with stories of animals lynched from trees, subterranean dog-fighting rings, grisly scenes of dogs with their heads bashed in with the "murder weapons" lying conveniently nearby, and strange ritualistic cruelty performed by unknown occultists. ... After exhaustive attempts, **no** ACT enforcement agency [found] a single scrap of evidence to support the 'animal cruelty conspiracy theory.'

Based on these reports, I was surprised by what I saw, or rather by what I did not see during three separate trips to Summit. Against a background of western music, I drove to Summit imagining a possible encounter with a modern-day Wyatt Earp. Things didn't go exactly as I'd anticipated in Dogpatch. Having been cautioned that the area was potentially unsafe, and that packs of dogs roam freely, I wondered if the story of Dogpatch had already been told; I might be wasting time rehashing old news.

Surprisingly, the many residents with whom I spoke were genuinely interested in what I was doing, and, without exception, everyone I encountered was friendly and willing to talk to me. I did not feel unsafe when visiting the area.

Also, to my surprise, there were no packs of dogs. Driving extensively through the many dirt roads, twice with Animal Protection Officers and once on my own, there were no packs to be found. Even when we went looking for one that was reportedly *just* seen by a passing motorist who flagged down the dog truck, we

were unable to locate a pack. There were some homes where multiple dogs were contained in the yard by fencing, but absent were the hunting packs, which reportedly feed on the carcasses of other animals.

And, although there were deceased animals along the area's many winding dirt roads, there was a much higher concentration of other debris, including household trash. The several animals not contained by fences traveled solo, or were, at most, in pairs. They appeared to be unafraid of humans and too well fed to be strictly stray dogs. These were cared-for animals. During my childhood in a rural community, it was not unusual for people to know each other's dogs because the dogs wandered, and these animals appeared much the same.



Group of Dogs in Summit
photo courtesy Pima Animal Care Center

TNR for Dogs?

In Tucson, there is a movement to Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) so-called "community cats." These creatures are often feral, although they sometimes sidle up to their human benefactors when food is present. Some of the cats even go on to become owned, even becoming exclusively indoor pets. Almost no one, it seems, is horrified by the presence of these cats, which could otherwise be called "stray" cats.

Why are the dogs of Dogpatch any different? Are dogs valued differently than cats? Are there more people afraid of dogs, and therefore we must make every effort at dog containment? Leash laws notwithstanding, if multiple people feed a dog, and the dog wanders the neighborhood, could we not come to

view this as a "community dog?" Could we come to concern ourselves more with the dog's health status, and with the prevention of future generations of "community dogs" through a TNR program, based on the work already successfully being done with cats?

Talking With The Locals

Carlos Stahlkopff, owner of the area's carniceria (butcher shop/convenience store) La Cima, has lived in Summit for over 25 years. He believes that Dogpatch's dog problem comes primarily from dogs



**Animal Protection Officer Robledo,
Supervisor Simonsen, Carlos Stahlkopff
Owner of La Cima Market**

Fabric of Dogpatch

being dumped in the community by people who live outside the community—in fact, he has witnessed this phenomenon and reported it to the authorities at Pima Animal Care Center on numerous occasions. Although the dumping of dogs remains a fairly regular occurrence, Stahlkopff said that the problem reached a crescendo in 2007-8 with the economic downturn. He attributed the dumping of dogs then to people losing their homes and being forced to move into places where dogs were not allowed.

Stahlkopff looks through dumped piles of trash in an effort to locate identifying information about the folks who dumped it there. He reports the dumped trash to the authorities as well. On two occasions that he has called the Sheriff for emergencies at his home, including a break-in and someone threatening him, it has taken between 35 and 45 minutes for a deputy to respond. This is hardly surprising given that Pima County is over nine thousand square miles and the nearest Sheriff's office is located far from Summit. Clearly, Stahlkopff loves his community, and is willing to work to make it a better place to live. La Cima is a hub of the neighborhood; its owner could easily be Summit's unofficial mayor.



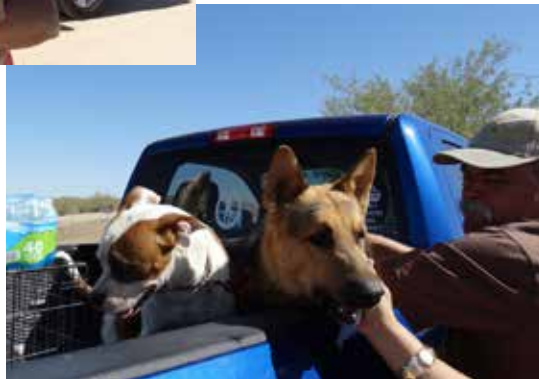
**Resident Rhonda Redman
with some of her "Refugee" Dogs**

Rhonda Redman has seven or eight dogs; she herself has lost track, but she does know that all are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and contained within her fully fenced backyard. She calls them her "refugees." She said, "People just drop them off out here. It's crazy." All of her dogs have, in one way or another, been rescues. A reason for losing count is that one rescue was pregnant when Redman took her in; the momma dog has had her litter, some of which have since been adopted.



**Martha Montenegro
with Piwi and Tito**

already been spayed or neutered. They used to have a female German Shepherd, but she was stolen from their yard earlier this year. The Montenegros' daughter rescued a nine-month-old Boxer, Hennessy, from people who were using the dog to



**Hennessy & Commander with their human,
Martha Montenegro's Husband**

practice tattooing. When their daughter was forced to move, they adopted Hennessy.

Calling All Angels:

In December 2009, Nancy Maddry responded to an ad on Craigslist about a horse in Summit. Little did she know that rescuing this horse would lead her down the path to helping dogs. After witnessing the living conditions of numerous animals, Maddry sprang into action, visiting the area by herself several times weekly to rescue animals, provide food and water and do outreach in the community.



**Long-time Angels Volunteers Nichole and Jayson
care for two puppy customers at Angels Outreach event**

Since then, Angels for Animals Tucson has been assisting Summit residents with free vaccination outreach events, providing information on spay and neuter programs and providing food to dog owners. They have placed approximately 200 dogs removed from the area into permanent homes. At the Angels' monthly community outreach event in May, using only a pair of tents and several folding tables, the group administered 47 parvo/distemper vaccinations, provided basic grooming of nails and distributed dog beds, collars, leashes, food and treats.

A Matter of Resources:

With the nearest pet supply store and veterinarian located a good 20-minute drive from Summit, the resources necessary to care for pets in a manner consistent with mainstream American media portrayals of good care, are simply nonexistent. The question is: Does that mean that the residents of Dogpatch do not care for their animals?

For Animal Protection Officer Daniel Robledo, the answer to that question is no. In his 11 years at Pima County Animal Protection and 5 years working for Animal Protection in Los Angeles, Robledo has seen more than enough animal neglect, abuse, and cruelty to last a lifetime. Yet, this man remains a gentle giant of sorts. At well over 6 feet tall, Robledo's stature affords him an imposing physical presence. However, the key to his effectiveness is not his ability to intimidate and enforce, but rather to meet people where they are.

Growing up poor in a difficult neighborhood of East Los Angeles, Robledo

Cover Story Cont.

was a self-described bad boy. His own experience allows him to identify with the people of Summit, and he communicates a profound respect for their way of life. Where some might see a ramshackle hodgepodge of dwellings, as we drove through the streets, Robledo pointed out the progress residents have made in building their homes. He remarked that Summit is a neighborhood where residents take care of each other. In his experience, Summit is very family-oriented; even though residents themselves might not have much, it is a neighborhood where “you won’t go hungry” if you are in need.

Although he has seen cruelty cases in Summit, Robledo said that the biggest problems in Dogpatch come from a lack of education and resources. Outreach efforts to educate the community about the benefits of spaying and neutering pets are in progress through Pima Animal Care Center (PACC), and PACC is also



PACC Animal Protection Officer Robledo checks a trap set to catch strays in Summit

working to provide basic animal care necessities, including fencing, to help people keep their pets at home.

Language can be a barrier to overcome, as many of the residents speak only Spanish. Robledo

is one of several Spanish-speaking Animal Protection Officers; Summit is an area where his bilingualism is a huge benefit to his work. In his experience, it is much easier to understand the nuisances of a situation by speaking to the people involved in the language they understand best; for many residents of Dogpatch, that language is Spanish.

PACC is attempting to remove dangerous and aggressive stray dogs from the area. Robledo said that a handful of known aggressive stray dogs cause the majority of the problems reported to PACC. Unfortunately, a lack of containment in fenced yards has meant that efforts at trapping the dogs that are known to be aggressive often result in inadvertently trapping cared-for animals who’ve wandered out of their yards. Enticed by the food and water in the traps, or perhaps merely curious, these pets are not the intended targets of the trapping effort. It takes more time to figure out where these pets belong than it would to round them up and haul them to the shelter.

During my ride-along with Officer Robledo, his trap was sprung twice by dogs that were clearly pets. Robledo found where the dogs belonged. His effort meant that someone didn’t lose a pet, and also that the dogs were only mildly inconvenienced by the experience, instead of finding themselves in the completely foreign environment of a kennel at PACC.

By The Numbers:

1,016,206 people reside in Pima County; the median household income is \$47,560. There are an estimated 254,052 total dogs, of which 78,858 are believed to be neither spayed or neutered.

Within the City of Tucson, there are 527,972 residents, and the median household income is \$38,155. Tucson has an estimated 131,993 dogs, of which 50,791 are not believed to be either spayed or neutered.

Summit (Dogpatch) has 5,097 residents, and the median household income is

\$28,935. There are an estimated 1,274 dogs, of which 587 are not spayed or neutered¹.

Based on data from the International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook dated April 2018, 119 of the 192 (62%) countries for which statistics are available have a Gross Domestic Product that is LESS than what Americans spend on pet care². That means that the total value of ALL of the goods and services produced by each of 119 different countries doesn’t measure up to the money we spend on our pets in the US.

In 2017, Americans spent \$69.51 *billion* on pet care; this year it is predicted that the expenditures will reach \$72.13 billion. As a comparison, the United States Department of Education’s discretionary budget for 2017 was \$69.4 billion³. We spend more money on caring for our pets than the money spent on educating our kids. Even when you consider that 68% of American households own a pet⁴, this figure seems high. Is it possible to care for pets as well without spending a fortune? Alternatively, if you don’t have a fortune to spend, does that make you an unfit potential pet parent?

Changing of the Guard at Pima Animal Care Center (PACC)

Pima Animal Care Center is working to build new relationships within areas of the community like Summit. Where previously the focus was on enforcement and ticketing, today there is an effort to understand how best to help people keep their pets happy and healthy.

PACC provides resources such as pet food, medical attention, free vaccination clinics; they provide outreach education about the benefits of spaying and neutering pets, and they even help with things like fence building to contain pets at their homes in Dogpatch.

According to Director Kristen Auerbach, “Just six years ago, PACC was taking in nearly 25,000 animals and less than half of them were making it out of the shelter alive. We were operating under a ‘pound’ model, which meant we were totally



Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

reactive. We saw loose dogs, we rounded them up and brought them to the shelter without much thought about the long-term consequences. What we found, after decades of this approach, was that it didn’t work. The endless intake of homeless pets never stopped. It was costly, ineffective, and deadly for most of the animals. About five years ago, we began changing our approach in an effort to actually get to the root causes of the problem. These root causes are about people – people who don’t have the means to provide medical care for their animals; people who can’t afford to or are unable to fix their fences; people that don’t know the rules and expectations around responsible pet ownership. Instead of rounding up pets from underserved areas, we’ve taken a different approach, focusing our resources on rescuing the pets facing true cruelty and neglect, helping to educate the community, and providing resources. We have microchip clinics, free spay and neuter services provided by partner groups, rabies vaccine events. We help people be better pet owners because this investment in people and animals – this proactive approach – has results that go far beyond any one animal. It’s working. Last year, we took

in around 16,000 pets and saved nearly 90% of them. This year, we're planning to do even better. Our pet support services department is now working in places like Dogpatch to help the community take better care of their pets and keep them contained. We know that for the vast majority of people, pets are their family members and at PACC, we are committed to giving people the helping hand they need to do good by their animals."

While problems persist in Dogpatch, the efforts of many people have begun paying off, and progress is evident. Maybe someday the neighborhood will be known strictly as Summit, but in the meantime, the patchwork that makes up the community will continue to have lots of dogs.

For information about how you can get involved in this and other community building efforts at PACC, please contact Bennett Simonsen, Animal Protection Supervisor: Bennett.Simonsen@pima.gov

PACC will host a community meeting to discuss Dogpatch on Thursday, July 26th at 5:30 PM in their Community Room. Anyone interested in learning more and/or lending a hand is encouraged to attend. PACC is located at: 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson 85745

Check out Angels for Animals Tucson @: www.angelsforanimalstucson.com

¹Source: Pima Animal Care Center

²Source: Statistics Times <http://statisticstimes.com/countries-by-projected-gdp.php>

³<https://ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget17/budget-factsheet.pdf>

⁴Source: American Pet Products Association http://www.americanpetproducts.org/press_industrytrends.asp

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Rescue News

Rescue A Golden of AZ Rescues Internationally

Photos Courtesy Rescue A Golden



Yong in Korea

With the recovery of the economy, fewer Golden Retrievers are in need of rescue and many families have been waiting to adopt. Rescue A Golden of AZ (RAG) heard about other dogs needing to be rescued overseas so they got involved. They contacted a rescue in Las Vegas called Golden Without Borders.

The first dog they transported here was named "Yong" (which means "brave"). Yong was raised on a meat farm in Korea, but when he

developed heartworm (a very treatable disease), they sent him to a kill shelter where a rescue got him out, provided him with vet care and ultimately saved his life. Yong was one of the lucky ones who came to America and was adopted by a loving family in Phoenix.



On their Golden Wings with
Mike and Lindsey

The dogs that come in from Korea are flown to LAX which is where RAG picks them up. Sometimes RAG has to drive from Tucson to LAX to pick up the dogs which is a 2-day trip. But sometimes, they have "rescue angels with wings" in the form of Mike Smith who is a pilot and owns his own plane and along with co-pilot Lindsey King, volunteer their time to help.

They also take two RAG volunteers to pick up the dogs and fly them all back. They do this all at their own expense!

Lexi, now Luna, was kicked out of her home by her owner and was in the street but her keen senses helped her avoid cars going around picking up dogs to go to the meat farm. She was taken in by a rescue in Korea who contacted the Korean liaison volunteer, who in turn contacted RAG and she was brought to America. Luna was brought to Tucson and was adopted by a family in Sahuarita



Yong now Oliver in his new
home in Glendale, AZ

and she is the center of their universe, getting more love than she could have imagined!



Lexi, white golden retriever
20kg, 9m-old spayed girl
sweet & friendly

Lexi now Luna's rescue profile from Korea



Luna today relaxing in her forever home

They even have a website called "Flight Aware" which is an animated video that allows you to watch the flight take off and see where the plane is and how it is progressing along the route. The trip is 11 hours long and they have to arrive at the airport 3 hours before the flight so all in all, it is a very long trip to safety and love, but so worth it!

So far, RAG has rescued 12 dogs from Korea and 17 Mexican street dogs from Guadalajara. The flight from Mexico is easier as it is only a two-hour non-stop flight and comes right into Sky Harbor in Phoenix where RAG picks them up. Compassion and Companions is the rescue in Mexico that sends dogs over.

All dogs have medical exams before they come over and rabies vaccinations 30 days before their flight. They are also vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they arrive.

In all, RAG has rescued 31 International dogs...2 from China, 12 from Korea and 17 from Mexico.

RAG is currently waiting for two puppies from Korea that have to be 4 months-old so they have their rabies shots before entering the country.

If you would like to find out how you can donate, foster or transport these special dogs, please contact Rescue A Golden at www.tucson@golden-retriever.org or call Scottie at (520) 360-4414.

Animal League of Green Valley Receives a \$100,000 Donation

Photos Courtesy Animal League of Green Valley

Earlier this year, The Animal League of Green Valley received a large, unexpected gift in the form of \$100,000 from one of their dedicated volunteers, Pamela Ritch. Pamela is an IT volunteer at TALGV and a major cat lover. She adopted a cat whom she named Shakespeare because of her lifelong love of literature and the theatre. She is a Professor Emerita of Theatre of Illinois State University.



Pam Ritch

Unfortunately, Shakespeare was not with her very long and when he passed away, Pamela was devastated by her loss. She wanted to do something meaningful in honor of Shakespeare to help other felines. She spoke with Jean Davis at TALGVnd came up with the idea to set up a place where people could sit and visit with cats they were considering adopting away from the shelter in a quiet environment. Jean agreed it was a wonderful idea, Pamela gave her gift of \$100,000 and construction began. It's called Shakespeare's Room of course and everyone is delighted with it! It took two months to build and was completed in February this year with a special ribbon cutting ceremony on St. Patrick's Day. Pamela was elated to see her vision come to pass.



Pam Ritch at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Ann Wyland and Jean Davis

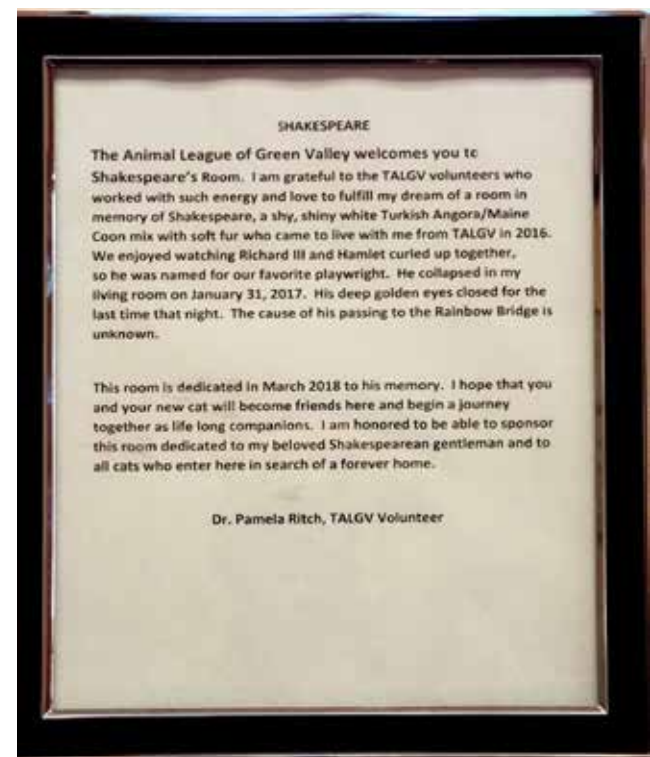
when it is not being used for meet-and-greets, resident cats have the opportunity to spend time there for some special rest and relaxation.

If you are in the position to do so, making a donation that you can actually see in action is a great idea and Jean says she loved being able to personally thank the generous donors who made Shakespeare's Room a reality.

The Animal League of Green Valley is an all-volunteer shelter that has many wonderful programs they offer that need money infusions like their Vet for Life program. If you would like to find out more about how you can help, contact them at: (520) 625-3170 or at their website at: www.talgv.org



A kitty getting a little quiet time in Shakespeares room



Dedication plaque

Shelters, Rescues & Resources

Area Shelters

Animal League of Green Valley
1600 West Duval Mine Rd.
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 625-3170
www.talgv.org

HOPE Animal Shelter
8950 N. Joplin Ln.
Tucson, AZ 85742
(520) 792-9200
www.hopeanimalshelter.net

Humane Society of Southern Arizona
635 W. Roger Rd.
Tucson, Arizona 85705
(520) 321-3704
www.hssaz.org

PAWSitively Cats No Kill Shelter
1145 N. Woodland Ave.
(520) 289-2747
savecats@PAWSitivelycats.org
www.PAWSitivelycats.org

Paws Patrol
750 W. Camino Casa Verde
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 207-4024
www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org

Pima Animal Care Center
4000 N. Silverbell Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 724-5900

Ajo Substation
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Pima Paws for Life
2555 W. Zinnia Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 867-1193
info@pimapawsforlife.org
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The Hermitage Cat Rescue
& Sanctuary
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Tucson, AZ 85711
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Local Rescues

Animal Rescue Foundation Tucson
ARFTucson@Gmail.com
(520) 319-9292

BARK (BabyAnimal Rescue Koalition)
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Tucson, Arizona 85705
barkntucson@AOL.com
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Central Arizona Animal Rescue
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Mike@caaronline.org
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Cochise Canine Rescue
P.O. Box 87
Pomerene, AZ 85627
(520) 212-1718
info@cochiseaninerescue.org
www.cochiseaninerescue.org

Coalition of All Breed Rescues Arizona
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arizonaweimaranerrescue@cox.net
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www.cabra.org

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missmaggieamay@cox.net

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www.radrescueinc.com
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ruffrescuetucson@gmail.com
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SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia)
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www.safeanimals.com

Save-A-Bull Rescue
www.saveabullrescue.org

Saving at Risk Animals
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www.savingatriskanimals.org

Smiling Dog Rescue
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The Sanctuary Project
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SOS Cat Rescue AZ
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info@SOScatrescueAZ.org

Feral Cat Assistance

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(520) 256-0443
tucsonferal@gmail.com
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Specific Breed Rescues

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AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG/HEELER
Arizona Cattle Dog Rescue
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(480) 442-ACDR(2237)
www.ArizonaCattleDogRescue.org

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD

Aussie & Friends
Payson, AZ
www.aussiefriendsrescue.com

Amazing Aussie Lethal White Rescue
Mesa
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Arizona Basset Hound Rescue
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(866) 88-AZBHR

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Southern AZ Beagle Rescue
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Information@soazbeaglerescue.com

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Arizona Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue
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(480) 415-5008
www.bernesemountaindogrescue.com

BORDER COLLIE

Arizona Border Collie Rescue
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www.azbordercollierescue.com

CHIHUAHUA

Arizona Chihuahua Rescue
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Mesa, AZ 85208
(480) 844-2447
www.azchihuahuarescue.org

Chiquita Chihuahua Rescue
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(480) 299-4349

The Chi Society
thechisociety@gmail.com
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Special Feature

A Haven for the Wild: Tucson Wildlife Center

Story & Photographs by Bonnie Craig

Summer in the Sonoran Desert sees soaring temperatures, along with an influx of wild baby animals, but as cities grow and stretch further into rural areas, humans and wild animals are vying for space. Most people have the best intentions when the inevitable interaction between civilization and the wild occurs, but often times, those good intentions end in tragedy. People

assume that a baby Cooper's hawk on the ground below their Aleppo pine, for example, is imperiled, bring it in the house, and separate it from its family and the important fledging process it was in fact working through.



Orphaned red-tailed hawk

The moral of the story? When in doubt, leave them alone. Mother Nature generally has a better idea of what's going on than we do. That said, there are times when intervention is necessary. When a Tucson area animal is obviously injured, sick, or orphaned, they have a refuge available at the Tucson Wildlife Center.

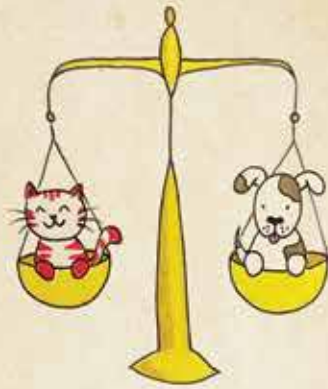
In 1998 Lisa Bates and Peter Lininger established the center and obtained 501(c)3 status in 2000. Since then, they have been committed to Tucson's wildlife 24/7, offering a help hotline, capture and transport service, veterinary emergency room, volunteer on-call veterinarians, and rehabilitation, release, and education for the community. The Tucson Wildlife Center's impressive facilities consist of the full service, state-of-the-art Sam Goldman Wildlife Hospital, various indoor and outdoor recovery and rehabilitation areas, and areas for long-term residents who cannot survive on their own in the wild.



Outdoor flight rehabilitation enclosure

The number of animals that come through the center is staggering. They see nearly 3,500 wild birds and mammals per year. On a Saturday morning, The Tucson Dog caught up with Director Kim Matas, Animal Care Supervisor Lou Rae Whitehead, and Animal Care Specialist Allison Huber, to learn more about the Tucson Wildlife Center. In the hospital, a variety of animals awaited care or convalesced, under the watchful eye of Whitehead, who bustled between them, bottle feeding an orphaned ground squirrel, weighing a baby night heron, and assessing the newly arrived curve-billed thrasher who crashed into someone's window. A red-tailed hawk who was orphaned when its mother was electrocuted by power lines comes in for a checkup, and someone brings in yet another fuzzy batch of Gamble's quail chicks, and this isn't even a particularly busy day, Whitehead explains.

In rooms down the hall a pair of bobcat kittens, an orphaned javelina, and two separate coyote pups are housed. Whitehead points at the coyote pup



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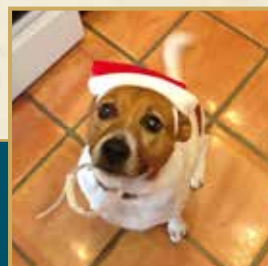
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Orphaned baby ground squirrel

cowering behind her crate. "This is how they're supposed to act," she says. The other pup is jumping up on the sides of his enclosure and wagging his tail, obviously somewhat habituated to humans, and has a swollen head caused by hydrocephalus. For these two reasons, he will probably never successfully be reintroduced into the wild.

There are many reasons animals find themselves at the wildlife center, most of them involving humans, and the extensions of our lives. Domestic pets are the most common culprit, according to Huber. Window strikes also occur regularly, as well as collisions

with cars, injuries from traps, pesticide poisoning, and abuse and cruelty. Tree trimming during the peak desert baby season of April through June can be disastrous for nestlings. Even contaminated water sources and hummingbird feeders can take their toll on wildlife.



Whilbur, the bobcat

A protozoan called Trichomonas, sometimes harbored in backyard ponds, pools, or birdbaths, is consumed by doves and pigeons who act as vectors. When hawk parents feed their tainted meat to their chicks, the babies form mouth legions and are unable to swallow, often leading to death. Many people are also unaware of the dangers their hummingbird feeders can pose. The formula can go bad very quickly, especially in the

warmer months, causing the birds' tongues to swell, and also leading to death if untreated.

Many of these sad fates are avoidable, however, if we as humans do our part to be responsible wildlife stewards. Simply cleaning out water sources in our yards regularly, and cleaning and replacing hummingbird feeder formula can save lives. Keeping cats indoors or building a "catio" is a great way to protect your cat, as well as protecting wild critters from them. If you're thinking of trimming a tree, consider doing it during the winter months. It's both better for the tree, and for the nestlings who will take up residence in the spring and summer. Finally, of course, under most circumstances, leave babies alone. If they look abandoned, chances are they're probably not. Most parents will stay away until humans have left the scene, not wanting to draw more attention to their young.



Whilbur, longterm special needs resident who was injured and orphaned by a bulldozer breaking ground for La Encantada mall

In addition to all of these easy ways to keep from causing harm to wildlife, people should consider volunteering with the Tucson Wildlife Center. In the summer they need 180 volunteers to keep up with the high volume of animals. Monetary donations are extremely important as well, as the center's funding comes solely from the public. They have a wish list including: copier paper, grocery store gift cards, tissues, paper towels, large plastic totes, blankets, pillowcases, exam gloves, chicken thighs, produce, and many other



Orphaned baby javelina snuggling its stuffed toy

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Horsin' Around



Miniature Ponies, Big Impact

Story and Photos by Emily Dieckman



Alyssa takes a ride on Dillon with Nancie Roahrig close by

What could make the giggling, silly-stringed, balloon-popping wonder of an eighth birthday party any better than it already is?

How about a pony?

When Nancie Roahrig, the president and founder of Step Up TLC (the TLC stands for "Therapeutic, Loving Caballos") and her 14-year-old granddaughter and volunteer for the day, Jamie Clement, rolled up to Alyssa Padias' birthday party, several dozen kids lost it.

Cries of "It's so cute!" "It's so soft!" and "I wanna keep him!" abounded, before the kids even had the chance to touch him.

Roahrig didn't waste any time. She and Clement were lifting children onto Dillon, the miniature pony, and giving them rides down the sidewalk in no time. The open mouthed, wide-eyed children struggled to form an orderly line in the face of such overpowering awe and desperation to make sure they got their turn.

As if it wasn't enough to spread joy to children and love birds all over Tucson (The Clydesdale Division of Step Up TLC also pulls carriages for weddings), this is only half of what the nonprofit does. Its primary mission is bringing the organizations' 13 horses (ranging from Shetlands to Arabians to miniature horses) into hospitals, rehabilitation units, nursing homes and in-patient units for the terminally ill, providing a little bit of cheer and a whole lot of cuteness to some of the people who can use animal therapy the most.

Roahrig started the organization back in 2006, after more than a decade of working as an in-home caregiver, and almost a decade of owning a horse-drawn carriage company with her first Clydesdale, Lenny. Her first experience with horses happened back when her daughter was a teenager.

"Then she met boys and learned how to drive a car, and I got left with the horses," Roahrig laughs – the kind of laughter that's packed full of cheer and gratitude.

A friend of Roahrig's lost her daughter to Leukemia, and when she told Roahrig how much an animal visit would have improved the end of her daughter's life, Roahrig started doing animal therapy in 2000. The very first time she went to a hospital, she stepped into the hospital with one Clydesdale, a ladder and a saddle. One of the kids she was visiting was a little boy who had been in a car accident with his mom. His mom hadn't made it, and after some time in a coma, the little boy was conscious but completely unresponsive, despite the efforts of nurses, psychiatrists and social workers.

"So here's this 2,000 pound horse, and they brought the little boy out in the wheelchair, and the little boy turned his head and stared at him," Roahrig said. "That was the turning point of his healing."

The kids at Alyssa's birthday party aren't in the hospital, but their squeals of delight and shining faces make it easy to see that animals have a universal sort of magic.

Stephanie Padias, the guest of honor's mother, has invited Dillon and Nancie over before for her son's first birthday party, and was happy to have them back. "I like what she does it for. I think all the money she makes goes toward what she does at the hospital, and she treats the horses well, and she's good with the kids."

Roahrig loves the work she does too. The story about the little boy and her beloved Clydesdale Lenny is just one of the "little miracles" she says she sees all the time in her work.

One young man—a husband and father—in hospice care, was in poor condition when Dillon first came to visit. But his spirits soared when he met Dillon.

When Roahrig and Dillon came back the following week, the man was sitting up in bed with the lights on, with more energy and happiness than his family had seen him have in weeks. He even asked a family member to buy a package of shortbread cookies from the vending machine downstairs, so he could feed Dillon. "Dillon rallied him, so it gave the family a whole other week to enjoy him," Roahrig said.

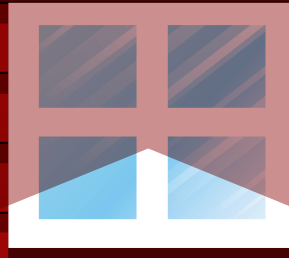
Another time, Dillon and Roahrig visited a dying man who had spent much of his life around horses, and the man passed away shortly after they left the hospital room. "The man had grown up with horses, so his family felt like [Dillon] was a messenger, telling him it was okay to go," Roahrig said. "They felt that Dillon was sort of the bridge between God and here."

Roahrig visits hospitals and hospice centers around town three times a month, with birthdays and weddings sprinkled throughout to raise revenue. Her ebullience in the midst of a chaotic birthday party makes it clear that none of it feels like work to her. Then comes part two of the pony party: Roahrig and Clement pour out (nontoxic, of course) paint onto paper plates and hand out paintbrushes to the kids. It's time to paint Dillon!

The kids take to the task with gusto, and Dillon's canvas of hair (who's protected by a strict "nowhere-near-the-face" rule, and under the watchful eye of Roahrig) transforms rapidly into a Pollock-esque painting. "The pony's lookin' fabulous!" cries the birthday girl, leading a charge to give Dillon's hooves a pedicure and stamping his side with handprints. She might not realize it, but by being a part of Step up TLC's mission, she's also leaving handprints on the hearts of people who need it most.



Birthday girl Alyssa Padias makes her mark



IN THE BARN

All the Horses on this page are available for adoption now.
If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends,
please call the rescue group listed with the picture.



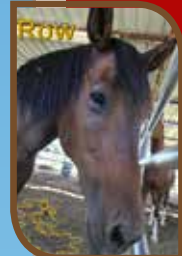
TEDDY I came to Equine Voices in January of 2012. I'm an old ranch horse that was found abandoned in the desert with a permanent injury to my leg. I was adopted out, but came back a year later when my owner couldn't care for me. I'm about 14 years old now and 14.5 hands. I'm kind-hearted and can no longer be ridden, but I would make a wonderful companion horse. Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary 520-398-2814



NOEL I'm a gorgeous 4-year-old Sorrel Quarter horse colt. I've had foundation training and learned to halter, lead, and pick up my feet. I get along well with other horses and am a sweetheart. I would need an experienced person to adopt me, and I would really like to be adopted with another horse named Magic. The sight of a kite on a windy day brings me joy. Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary 520-398-2814



BINDI SUE I'm a visitor favorite here at the rescue! I first arrived with my original herd in July of 2013. With the help of several rescue groups and some wonderful adopters, all the other burros have been adopted into good homes. I enjoy life here at the burro habitat! I've learned that good communication with people is all about body language, and sometimes, gentle nudges. Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary 520-398-2814



ROW I'm an Andalusian cross horse who is now in her teens. I am rideable, but I would need some refresher lessons first as it's been a few years. You can lead a horse to water, but you can also lead her to a new permanent home where she will be taken care of and happy forever. This world feels so open, even from my corral. Wildhorse Ranch Rescue 866-926-8007

WHISKEY I am a beautiful, blind Arabian horse who is about 17 years old. I love to ride and I load into a trailer like a dream. My rescue says they can offer specialized training to my adopter to help with the unique skills required to handle a blind horse. I also have a bumper guard mask to help me navigate when I am not being ridden. Wildhorse Ranch Rescue 866-926-8007



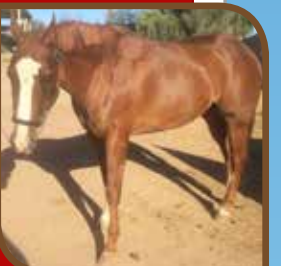
BRIGHTHEART I was rescued in June 2017. I was a gentle soul left without food, water, shade, or love. My outlook was grim upon arrival. However, against all odds, I continue to improve, and I am loving life out in the pasture. I am a handsome horse born in 1985. I am retired now, as I should be. During long walks, I clear my mind and do some of my best thinking. Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch and Foundation 520-266-0236



SUNSHINE I am one of the "Sonoita Creek Horses." I am drop dead gorgeous, but I will need to go through a training program if you are interested in adopting me. I've heard people have a kind of game of basketball called "horse." We horses have a lot of games, but we'd never be so esoteric as to name one of them "human." Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch and Foundation 520-266-0236



IGI I arrived at the rescue May 2015! I'm registered with the American Quarter Horse Association as I Got Invited, and that's where my name comes from! I'm a handsome gelding in need of a new life. I'm recovering from an old neck injury. I'm friendly and confident and addicted to carrots. There's something about southern Arizona scenery that's romantic to a horse. I was born May 24, 1998. Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch and Foundation 520-266-0236



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Special Feature

A Look Inside The Canine Mind

Story by Emily Dieckman | Photos by Canine Cognition Center and Emily Dieckman

In the Haury building on the University of Arizona campus, Evan MacLean turns to his fellow researchers and asks them a question he must ask them often. It is a question upon which much of their work as scientists depends. A question, which can only have one right answer:

"Do you guys want to play with dogs for a few minutes?"

MacLean is the director of the Arizona Canine Cognition Center, formed in 2016. Researchers in the center examine the evolutionary processes and the reasons behind the way dogs think. Playing games to test dogs' memories and other cognitive abilities may be a thankless task, but someone has to do it. And what better team than a group of researchers who attended some of the most prestigious universities in the country?



Evan MacLean, director of the University of Arizona's Canine Cognition Center

MacLean graduated from Duke; laboratory coordinator Averill Cantwell is a Harvard graduate, and Gitanjali "Gita" Gnanadesikan, a PhD student at UA, did her undergraduate degree at Princeton.

One reason the group studies dog psychology is part of a larger effort to study human psychology and evolution, not only over millennium, but over individual lives: How do babies transform from tiny, helpless creatures into fully-functioning adults?



A dog completes a task set up by researchers to examine the way canines think

One important step on the road toward language and adulthood for humans, said MacLean, is the ability to point and use other gestures, and to understand those gestures from other people. In this respect, dogs are even more similar to humans than primates—if you hide food in one of two places and point to the correct place, apes don't understand what your pointing gesture means, but dogs do.

"Dogs are really interesting to us because when you look at them, they seem so diverse, and we don't know if they see the world in different ways," MacLean said. "People talk a lot about dogs as a species, but they're all different, just like humans."

Something most dogs—and humans—have in common, however, is that oxytocin levels in both species increase when humans and dogs interact. Oxytocin is popularly known as the hormone that makes people feel warm and fuzzy when they're bonding with their newborn children, or a long-term partner. But more than that, it's actually connected to overall health. It is involved in things such as blood pressure levels, wound healing, and even mitigating the aftermath of an event like a heart attack.

"Having a pet dog is actually a fairly good predictor of how people recover

from something like that," MacLean said.

The researchers study factors such as oxytocin levels by taking saliva samples from dogs. They study concepts like memory and habit-forming by directing the dogs to do simple tasks, using treats as incentives. Cantwell brought her dog, a black lab named Dobby, into the office to demonstrate some of the tricks.

"Dobby, look," announced Gnanadesikan, holding up a small treat, then hiding it under either a cup on her left or a cup on her right. When Cantwell let go of Dobby's leash, he went straight for the cup with the treat. The same thing happened when Gnanadesikan erected a small barrier, hid the treat under a cup, then mixed up the cups. Dobby couldn't see where she hid it, but when she pointed to the correct cup, he went right to it.



Gita Gnanadesikan shows Dobby where she's about to hide his treat

In a game called "Memory," Gnanadesikan set up four cups, then hid the treat under one of them, making sure Dobby saw where she put it. Cantwell held Dobby by his leash, then set a timer for 20 seconds. She let Dobby go at the end of 20 seconds, and he went straight for the treat. When they did the same exercise, but set the timer for 40 seconds, Dobby grew restless—he started turning around, exasperated, and when he was free to go get the treat, he was more hesitant about where to find it.

The researchers said this is typical for many dogs: Their attention span seems to hit its limit somewhere between 20 and 40 seconds, and many of them forget where the treat is at the end of 40 seconds. Puppies, on the other hand, often have attention spans of only about seven seconds. Canine researchers are in the early stages of investigating how dogs change over their lifespans, in hopes of someday treating conditions like canine dementia.

Members of the community can contribute to this research by volunteering to bring their dogs in for tests. In fact, all the studies the center does, which generally take about an hour, are performed on dogs brought in by community volunteers. While the researchers run through tests, the dog owner sits in the next room over and watches the dog play games on a screen

"Pet owners get to see their dogs solving problems that they've never seen before," MacLean said. "We watch our dogs all the time – all our lives – but we hardly set up these tests for them to see how their minds work."

Part of the group's work is an effort to identify which dogs are most likely to make it through assistance dogs training programs – not every dog who starts off in a K9 unit training program or a seeing-eye dog course finishes their training. The team hopes their work will increase success rates by more accurately identifying which dogs will be successful.

Whether they're cut out for a life of service or not, dogs can always be counted on for their role in making their owners happy by providing a type of social support, a warm and fluffy snuggle partner, and a friend who seems to always understand how its owners are feeling. MacLean and his team are at the forefront of the effort to make sure we understand our pets just as well as they understand us—by conducting rigorous studies, recruiting volunteers, examining data, and sometimes getting down on dogs' level.

"One time, we were doing a study looking at oxytocin," he said. "Basically, my job was to lay on the floor with a bunch of Labrador retrievers and pet them for ten minutes at a time. That was pretty surreal that that was for research."

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Country Club and 22nd Street
Use Picnic Place or Concert Place
entrances off Country Club
Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
(520) 791-4873
Named after Miko, a TPD police dog
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Jacobs Park
3300 N. Fairview Avenue
Hours: Dawn to dusk
(520) 791-4873.
This small off-leash area is located
on west side of Jacobs Park.

Morris K. Udall Park
7290 E. Tanque Verde Road
Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
(520) 791-4873

Palo Verde Park
300 S. Mann Avenue
(south of Broadway, west of Kolb)
Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
(520) 791-4873.

Purple Heart Park:
Ivan's Spot
10050 E. Rita Road
Rita Road near Rees Loop
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(520) 791-4873.
Named after Ivan, a TPD police dog
lost in the line of duty

Sixth Avenue Dog Park
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(520) 791-4873.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park
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(520) 724-5000

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Business Spotlight

SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERINARY SPECIALTY & EMERGENCY CENTER: A Closer Look at Internal Medicine

By Claire Sheridan



SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERINARY
SPECIALTY & EMERGENCY CENTER

The Internal Medicine Department of Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center (SAVS) is kind of like a group of pet detectives, crossed with superheroes. While their white lab coats aren't quite capes, and they don't necessarily leap from tall buildings in a single bound, when it comes to figuring out symptoms that are difficult to diagnose and treat, these are the superheroes your pet needs.

Internal Medicine is a broad specialization which deals with diseases of the digestive, circulatory, respiratory, endocrine and urinary systems, as well as infectious diseases. These specialty doctors treat disorders like heart failure, diabetes, Valley Fever and everything in between.

Dr. Dawn Bachman has been working at SAVS since 2013. A native of Chandler, she completed an internship at SAVS during her veterinary training before doing her residency in Ohio. She returned to Tucson because she believes that SAVS is a "great practice with a lot of opportunity to practice good medicine and diagnostics—there is a balance." She enjoys Internal Medicine because she enjoys solving problems. Her passions are gastrointestinal and immune-mediated disorders, and she cheerily stated that fungal disease, including Valley Fever, is among her favorite things to treat.

A favorite success story involved a Chihuahua patient that developed an esophageal stricture after surgery. The poor little guy was regurgitating constantly after the surgery. Dr. Bachman was able to help, using a balloon dilation technique to re-open his esophagus, which cured the problem.

In addition to balloon dilation, she enjoys endoscopy and foreign body removal, although she noted that removing hair ties from a dog's stomach is "never fun." The most unusual object she ever observed an animal swallow was a butter knife. Fortunately, she was successful in removing the knife without further damage to the patient.

Her advice to pet parents is, "Trust yourself. If you feel like something's going on with your pets, have them evaluated."



Dr. Dawn Bachman



Dr. Janet Bailey



Dr. Brisa Hsieh

Dr. Janet Bailey echoed that sentiment. "When your pet does something outside of their normal (such as vomiting, having diarrhea, or coughing) see your veterinarian. Notice the little things so you know when there's a change." She also encourages pet parents to follow the instructions given by your veterinarian. If something doesn't seem to be going right on a given treatment, she said pet parents should call their veterinarian instead of making treatment decisions on their own. Often, if you are an established patient, the veterinarian can make recommendations over the phone.

Dr. Brisa Hsieh said she loves her job because no two days are ever the same. She enjoys working with the pet parents and patients, but also likes her colleagues at the practice. She encourages kids considering becoming a veterinarian to volunteer at a vet's office or animal shelter to get some experience and make sure the field is really what they expect it to be.

Dr. Bailey said, "Don't be afraid to become a vet. It's really hard to do the school, but doing this job is the reward. There are so many types of practice... Each case is completely different... every single patient's needs are different."

Seeing the human-animal bond, having the opportunity to work with pet parents who want to go further to find out what's going on with their pet, and knowing that people care as much about their pets as she does her own are just some of the benefits Bailey believes come from her practice at SAVS.

If your pet has strange and complicated symptoms, even if another doctor hasn't been able to help, this team of Super Women Doctors will surely do their best to figure out what ails them and restore your pet to full health.

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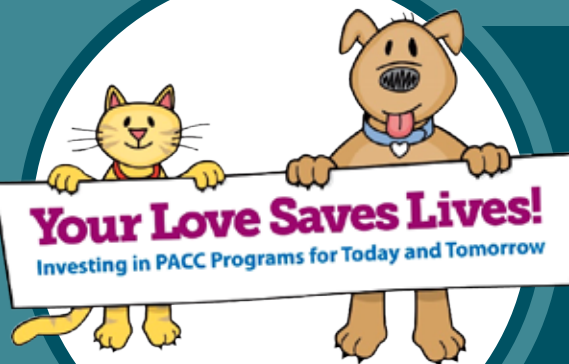
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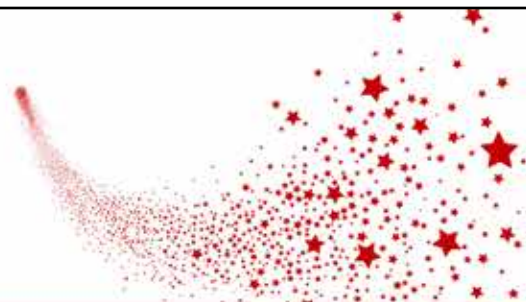
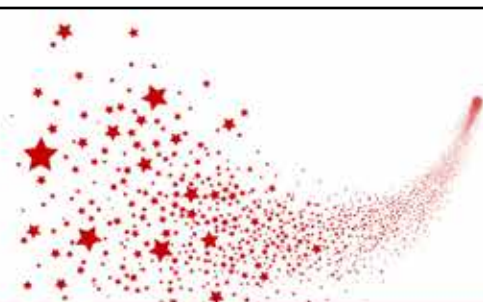
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