

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



Pima County Sheriff's Therapy Dogs Making a Difference in our Community

The Animal League of Green Valley, Passing the Torch

The Incredible
Journey of Athena

Must Love Animals
& Exercise:
Comforting Goat Yoga

Training: Dog Parks and Socialization









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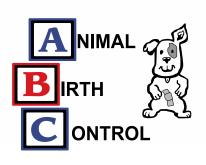
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#### **COVER STORY**

Pima County Sheriff's Therapy Dogs Making a Difference in our Community

Training: Dog Parks and Socialization



The Animal League of Green Valley, Passing the Torch

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Alison Martin - Account Executive - For over 25 years, Alison has been making a positive difference in the lives of animals and their people through her professional work in shelters, veterinary clinics and owning a pet sitting business. Alison is now a compassionate animal communicator, animal reiki practitioner and holistic health advocate. She and her husband share their lives with five dogs, one kitty, two horses and two goats. Email: alison@thetucsondog.com



**Bonnie Craig - Staff Writer -** Bonnie 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.



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Bella Wexler - Staff Intern/Writer - Bella is a student at Catalina Foothills High School, born and raised in Tucson with her family's two dogs and one cat. Her passion for promoting animal welfare has been inspired by her mom's dedication to fostering homeless pets and her sister's volunteer work with local rescue groups. She is grateful for the opportunity to learn from such a caring and talented team at the Tucson Dog Magazine and she is honored to have the privilege of writing about local people and pets. Email: bella@thetucsondog.com



Natalie Mast - Staff Intern/Photographer - Natalie is an aspiring photographer and a high school student at Catalina Foothills High School. She loves animals and even has adopted 4 cats. She has a passion for photography, videography, and language. Natalie is so excited to have the opportunity to promote animal welfare in Tucson and to be part of the Tucson Dog family.



**Gracie - Canine Writer -** Gracie is a 3 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. She loves traveling, 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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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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#### **CORRECTION:**

In the last issue, we wrote a story about Equine Voices which said they were located in Tubac.

That is where their thrift store is located, not their rescue.

The rescue itself is located in Amado. We apologize for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

# The Leader of the Pack Speaks!

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Spring! What a beautiful time of year to get out and explore all the beauty that is Tucson! There is so much to do with our "best friends" this time of year including our very fun and exciting 2nd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon at Reid Park on Sunday, March 8th from 10a-4p. It will be a day of Peace, Love & Dogs for the whole family to enjoy. By the time this issue hits the streets, we will be in our final days of preparation for WOOFstock. We have lots of fun in store for you and your whole family with over 20 rescue and shelter groups in attendance with lots of wonderful dogs for adoption! As before, there will be games, prizes, contests, demos and more! And don't forget to wear your groovy bell bottoms and tie dye as I will be showing off mine again this year! We look forward to seeing you there!

On the cover this issue, we are proud to bring you an incredible story about a very unique program being presented by the Pima County Sherriff's Department. Knowing how important dogs are at healing humans, they implemented a program called Canine Crisis Response Team (CCRT) that involves 5 therapy dogs that help improve the lives of the people they encounter in many different situations. These programs accommodate a variety of different situations from school children to inmates in correctional facilities and many things in between. It shows how dogs can make a difference in an otherwise stressful situation. This program is cutting edge and is changing lives for the better every day. I commend the Pima County Sheriff's Department for understanding how valuable these canines are in the world and caring enough to help the people that they benefit every day. I just loved reading about all the good work they are doing and I know you will too!

And speaking of dogs that help people, I was incredibly touched by a story about a dog named Athena who had a very rough start in life but was lucky enough to be rescued by Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue. And sometimes, it takes a village as you will see by all the people that stepped up to help Athena get well and become a beacon of hope in showing people that even if you have a disability by the world's standards, you can overcome it and help others by example. Dogs always amaze me as they do not let loss hold them back. They are incredible teachers and we can all learn a lesson from dogs like Athena. Every life has value and can make a difference to others.

And for some fun, we bring you a story about something I had heard about and always wanted to know more: Goat Yoga! Have you heard about it, done it or ever wanted to try it? As you will see in the story, it has multiple benefits and how can you not smile when you see goats colorfully dressed and prancing your way!

I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful weather this Spring with their furry friends. And if you enjoy taking your dog to the Dog Park for play, we have another great story for you this issue about Dog Parks so check it out and enjoy!

Love, light & laughter,

Ann



# Greetings from Gracie

WHY SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS AND ADOPT FROM A SHELTER OR RESCUE GROUP

Dear Humans,

With Spring upon us, every year shelters see a huge increase in puppies and kittens being born and entering shelters. Many become very overloaded; Why? Because people do not spay and neuter their pets. This puts a huge strain on shelters and rescues who do everything they can to save them all, but that is not possible. It's a simple math equation; there are more homeless animals than there are homes for them.

According to The Humane Society of The United States "there are an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals entering shelters every year. Barely half of these animals are adopted. Tragically, the rest are euthanized. These are healthy, sweet pets that would have made great companions. Why is this happening? It's happening for many reasons but the main one is over population and spay/neutering is the only permanent method of birth control for dogs and cats."

A USA Today (May 7, 2013) article cites that, "Pets who live in the states with the highest rates of spaying/neutering also live the longest. According to the report, neutered male dogs live 18% longer than un-neutered male dogs and spayed female dogs live 23% longer than un-spayed female dogs."

With our Annual WOOFstock event almost here, I think it is important to talk about why you should adopt from a shelter or rescue group too.

Animal shelters and rescue groups are your best source for adopting a pet. Not only do they have a great selection of adult animals for adoption but many (especially in Spring) have kittens and puppies as well as purebred pets. (25 percent of pets in shelters are purebreds.) There are also many purebred rescue groups that have specific breeds available. (You can see a list of them in every issue of The Tucson Dog.)

Did you know that most pets end up homeless through no fault of their own? The reasons are many like, "were moving and can't take the dog, my landlord won't let me keep the cat, we are having a baby," and so on. Sometimes their owner dies and they have no one that can take them. So many of these pets come from homes and are wonderful "family-ready" pets just looking for a loving home.

Many shelter and rescue groups also do behavioral analyses of each pet to ensure they will be the right fit for your family. And that brings me to another point...be realistic with your expectations of a pet in your family. Know that like a child, they will need an education about what humans want from them. Do you have time and money to go to a training class? Do you work all day? Maybe a puppy is not for you. Are you active, do you have children? These are all questions you should ask yourself to make a good choice about what dog or cat would be a good fit for your home and family.

Remember, pets are not trash to be discarded! If you can't make a lifetime commitment, don't get one. Any separation from our family will cause us pain and anxiety so please, think it through before you get a new pet and then go to a shelter or rescue to adopt!

See you all at WOOFStock where you can see many wonderful dogs for adoption!

Peace, Love & Biscuits,

Gracie



Source: humane society.org USA Today (May 7, 2013)



# Calendar of Events



#### **MARCH**

#### Sat. March 7th - 11am to 12pm Yappy Yoga

Mesquite Elementary School (9455 W Rita Rd)
Join the Humane Society of Southern Arizona for an hour of relaxation and puppy kisses.
Yappy Yoga is open to yogis of all levels!
For more information and to purchase tickets please go to www.hssaz.org/yoga.

#### Sun. March 8th 10a-4p The Tucson Dog Magazine's 2nd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon

Reid Park Bandshell
Put on your bell bottoms and tie-dye and join
us for A day of Peace, Love & Dogs! Lots of
lovable dogs for Adoption from over 20 area
shelter & rescue groups.

Many vendors with great products and services. There will be contests, prizes, demonstrations with lots of food and fun! Bring the whole family and let the kids Enjoy our Free Kids Zone with games, prizes, face painting, Balloon twister and Carticature Artist. The event is FREE. If you can, please bring a donation of dog/cat Food, blankets, leashes, etc. to fill up Cody's Friends booth To help animals in need. For more information, call (520) 345-2801 or go to thetucsondog.

# Sat. March 14th 11a-2p Tucson Rescue Now ADOPTION / FUNRAISER EVENT

Fairwinds Desert Point A Leisure Care Premier Community 10701 North La Reserve Drive Oro Valley, AZ 85737

# Sat. March 15th at 2pm Blessing of the Animals

The Attic Thrift Store at
The Animal League of GV
1600 W. Duval Mine Rd., Green Valley, AZ
Please bring dogs on a leash and cats and
other small critters in carriers. The blessing
will be officiated by Steve Wagner, Associate
Pastor of the Green Valley Baptist Church.
For more information, please contact
Michele Miner at 520-270-6097 or email at
minermaynard@gmail.com

# Sat. March 21st, starting at 7am Community K-9 Walk for Cops

University of Arizona Mall
Corner of Cherry & University Blvd.
Contests, Police K9 Demo, Vendors & more.
Free parking in Cherry Garage, Street Meters and nearby Permit lots.
Weiner Dog Races at 10am
\$20 for one dog & 2 walkers
\$10 for each additional dog
Register online at www.soazlef.org

#### **APRIL**

#### Sat. April 11th Drags for Paws 2.0

The O Comedy Lounge 2000 N Oracle Rd, Tucson AZ 85705 Last year, Tucson's own "Queen of Charity", Miss Nature, with the help of other community members, raised over \$2,500 for the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. This year, Miss Nature is hoping to break that number and raise \$2,600! We will be at a new venue this time and hope to bring nothing but laughter and fun into your life during what is sure to be a memorable event! We sold out last year and are hoping to do the same again this year! For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.hssaz.org/Drags.

#### Sat. April 18th Puttin' on the Dog

Kino Sports Complex 2805 E Ajo Way, Tucson AZ 85713
Join the Humane Society of Southern Arizona for our largest fundraiser of the year! We are celebrating 2020 with a Roaring 20's theme. Tickets are \$150, but if you buy before and don't forget to bring your well behaved, leashed dog with you.

And if you want a more private affair purchase a VIP ticket for only \$300.

VIP perks include hors d'oeurves, beverages in a speakeasy, and a sneak peek at our silent auction items. VIP's also enjoy reserved seating. For more details and tickets go to www.hssaz.org/POD

#### Sun. April 26 – 10a-3p Tails & Ales Bi-Annual Dog Wash

Barrio Brewing Co
Join the Tucson Roller Derby Team and the
Humane Society of Southern Arizona for our
bi-annual Dog Wash.at Barrio Brewing.
Buy a custom pint glass (or get one in your
VIP package) and take \$1 off every beer
refill during the event. Then kick back and
relax while we give your dog a bath! For
more details and to purchase tickets go to
www.hssaz.org/Tails.

#### Mon. April 27th 2020 9th Annual Doin' It FORE the Animals Golf Tournament

Desert Hills Golf Club
All proceeds benefitting The Animal League of Green Valley, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3), nonprofit, no-kill cat and dog shelter.
There will be raffles and a 50/50. Ticket price is \$80.00 which includes lunch. On course snacks will also be offered.
For more information, please contact Sandy Hanover at 520-262-8245 or email at skhanover1957@gmail.com or Sally Rankin at 713-806-7364 or email at srankin128@ aol.com.

#### MAY

#### Fri. May 1st - May 3rd Dogs Days at Old Tucson

201 S. Kinney Rd., Tucson
Think your dog can dive off the dock!
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are free! Buy tickets online at oldtucson.com
or call (520) 883-0100







#### Everyone's Invited to the 2nd Annual Woofstock, Tucson

#### Story by Ann Herrington, Photos by Frank Olma



The Tucson Dog Magazine is so excited to invite everyone to our 2nd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon event on Sunday, March 8th at the Reid Park Bandshell from 10a-4p. Get out your bell bottoms and tie dye and join us for an incredibly fun day of Peace, Love & Dogs!

At print time, there were over 20 rescue and shelter groups signed up for the event who will be bringing dogs for adoption. Not all groups adopt out at the event as each one has their own adoption process and costs and we respect that and do not alter that in any way. Most do applications and home checks although some shelters complete the process onsite and the dog may go home that day. Check with each group to find out their individual requirements.

This event is a great way to see an array of different ages, sizes and breeds of dogs if you are looking to add a new "four-legged" family member to your home.

We were overwhelmed at the attendance last year so have prepared for a big crowd this time with more fun for everyone and lots more food trucks as we had longer waits in line last year due to only 3 trucks which we have remedied with the addition of 3 more for a total of 6. There will also be vegan options as well as main courses and desserts! If you just want a quick drink, The Tucson Dog will be selling waters and sodas at our booth which will be located next to the stage.

The day will begin with a Blessing of The Animals by Sandy Wahl from St. Marks Church which is always so well-received. We will have lots of contests again with great prizes for our 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. (See the complete Schedule of Events in this issue.) Just sign up at the Contest Registration booth next to the stage. We will have demonstrations by the Desert Disc Dogs, The Tucson Police Department K-9 units and Southwest Rescue Dogs (a search and rescue team) and a few other surprises.

Back by popular demand, we will have the Lure Course, courtesy of Brittany Spaniel Rescue as well as Paw Painting for your dogs and we are working on a few other items not confirmed yet.

We will once again have the Kids Zone, complete with Face Painting a balloon twister, henna tattoos, a caricature artist and lots of games and prizes including a picture booth. The Kids Zone is free to the public but tips are always appreciated.

We are grateful to our sponsors and vendors this year. We want to thank our Title Sponsors, Creature Comforts Pet Resorts, Pet Doctor RX as well as our exclusive radio sponsors, 96.1 KLPX & 94.9 MIXfm. We would also like to thank all of our animal loving businesses that also support the event with an array of fantastic goods and services including lots of free samples for you and your "best friend".



Our event will be hosted by KLPXfm's afternoon drive on-air personality, Beth Simmons from 10a-12:30pm and MIXfm's afternoon drive on-air personality, Syndi Long from noon-4pm. These dog-lovin' gals will be entertaining you from the stage



all day with our groovy contests and announcements of what will be going on all day including a Parade of Adoptable Animals throughout the day on stage as well. This will give prospective dog parents an opportunity to meet some of the pups up close and personal.

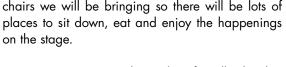
We will once again have a low-cost microchip clinic from 10a-1p, courtesy of No-Kill Pima County who is offering micro-chips with the registration for only \$10 which

is an incredible price! Micro-chips protect your beloved pets and help them find their way home. All shelters now scan for chips immediately when a stray animal is picked up. Veterinarians also have scanners should someone bring a lost pet in so protect your pets if you haven't already and come to get them micro-chipped. We will also have some special guests for you to meet like our WOOFstock Cover Dog winner, Sebastian, with a presentation and prize pack being awarded around noon time. We have a few other guests and surprises in store that we are still working on for you.

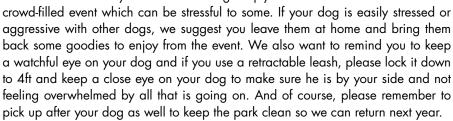
The event is completely free to the public but we ask, if you are able, please bring dog or cat food, treats as well as leashes, collars, blankets and other dog/cat accessories to be donated to Cody's Friends non-profit group. Founded in 2010

by then 10-year-old Cody Allen who is now in college, Cody's Friends provides donated pet food and critical pet supplies to over 35 human service agencies and 75 animal rescue groups throughout Pima County. It's a great way to give back to your local animal community!

For your convenience, there are bleachers located in front of the stage area as well as tables and chairs we will be bringing so there will be lots of



We invite everyone to bring their friendly dog but also want to remind you that not all dogs enjoy a



We encourage you to bring your dog if you are looking to adopt another family member so he can help choose the right dog for your home. The demo arena will be available for meet and greets when not in use for demonstrations.

We were so thrilled at the great crowd we had last year with no incidents and know this year will be just as wonderful with the amazing people that live in Tucson and love their dogs as much as we do!

Please share this event with your friends and family and join us for a doggone good time at The Tucson Dog Magazine's 2nd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon, Tucson! See you all there!



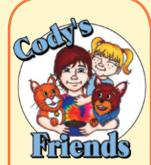


Fun for Everyone

SUNDAY, MARCH 8th, 2020 • REID PARK 10a-4p • FREE EVENT Hosted by our favorite On-Air Personalities from 96.1 KLPX and 94.9 MIXfm

## LOTS OF LOVABLE DOGS FOR ADOPTION

from area shelter and rescue groups



**Bring** Cat/dog food, pet supplies, sweaters and blankets

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

10a	Welcome to Woofstock (Stage)
10:15a	Blessing of the Animals (Stage)
10:30p	Desert Disc Dogs Demo (Demo Arena)
11a	Best Trick or Talent Contest (Stage)
12noon	<b>Best Psychedelic Dog Contest (Stage)</b>
12:30p	Parade of Adoptable Dogs (Stage)
12:30p	Desert Disc Dogs Demo (Demo Arena)
1p	Best Looking Dog (Stage)
1:30p	Southwest Rescue Dogs

(Search & Rescue Demo) (Demo Arena)

**Tucson Police K9 Unit Demo (Demo Arena)** 2p **Best Owner/Dog Look-A-Like Contest (Stage)** 2:30p

3:00p 3:30p

**Desert Disc Dogs Demo (Demo Arena)** Parade of Adoptable Dogs (Stage)



Tucson Dog Magazine's WOOFstock **Cover Dog** Winner

Events and Times subject to change.

GOING ON ALL DAY: Lots of fun Dog games & Activities • Lure Course for Dogs • Paw Painting Kids Zone • Caricature Artist • Kids Zone • Caricature Artist • Face Painting • Balloon Twisting

#### Thank You to Our Sponsors:





























# Training



#### **Dog Parks and Socialization**

#### Story by Jeremy Brown, The Complete Canine

In theory, the dog park can be a great place to bring our canine friends for many reasons, such as socialization and exercise. In fact, in larger cities it is the only time that some dogs get off the leash, chase a ball, and see other dogs. However, dog parks can also be a stressful environment that may bring out negative behaviors. When speaking to clients about this topic, I often say we need to make sure your dog is a "dog park dog" and take a few steps to set them up for success. As handlers, we need to: understand our dog's type and level of play, understand what types of play are not conducive to a good time and watch our pet's body language and interpret it correctly.

#### **Assess the Situation**

Before entering the dog park, I consider the following factors: What is the layout like and does the entrance cause my dog more stress that could lead to negative behavior? Are there any stressors that could lead to negative behavior, such as an adjacent bicycle path or is the small dog side directly connected to the large dog side? Taking a dog with high energy into the dog park can also lead to confrontations as they enter, so I try to release some of that energy by walking around beforehand or utilizing controlling commands at the gate. One helpful hint is to practice desirable behaviors and commands at the dog park when others are not there to ensure the distraction and excitement doesn't get the better of them later. However, treats and food at the dog park can cause other issues, so training is done with no others for safety. I also like to watch the dogs in the dog park and make sure I am entering a situation that will set my dog up for optimum success. From using the right equipment for your dog on-leash while entering the dog park, as well as being a proficient handler in commands, will help ensure that your dog is successful from the moment they enter. My goal is to be an advocate for the animal in every situation I put them in and try to lead them into a positive interaction.

#### Survey the Area

Another important factor to consider before entering the dog park is the size and number of dogs in the area. One study showed that 3-4 dogs do well together on about an acre of land, but many of our parks are smaller than that. Many of us don't realize the impact that a high population in a small amount of space will do to a dog's stress levels. This kind of stress will turn a positive social experience into the opposite for some. Dog parks are ideal for socialized dogs, not dogs that are learning to be social. It is also imperative that handlers watch their canine friends while at the park and not use it as a social hour for themselves. While we can meet pretty amazing dog people at the park, I constantly hear that a client was talking to another handler and they didn't



realize that their dog was getting into trouble. Safety is vital, as bad situations at the dog park can lead to injury, psychological damage and training to "fix" what happened at the dog park. As handlers, we need to be vigilant in unpredictable situations, such as socializing in a dog park and help meet the needs of our canine friends.

#### Take into Consideration the Canine's Needs

Understanding what is best for the animal at each stage of their life is key. Behavior can change and if your dog is not ready for the dog park at their current stage, they may be ready later on in life. I want all of my dogs to be as social as possible, but the wrong situation could lead to a negative behavior even with the best dogs. Not all dogs are dog park dogs and this is not a bad thing. Due to controlled breeding and mixed breeding, the levels and types of play that some dogs exhibit could stress out other canines. Dog parks are not bad places, but we need to consider what the canine's needs and wants truly arel

#### Things to Consider About Your Canine at the Dog Park:

- Would dogs rushing the gate as they enter or barking dogs cause negative behavior?
- How well does the canine listen when distractions are high?
- Is this a safe place to help reach social goals?
- Who wants to be at the dog park more, the dog or the human?
- What type of play does my dog exhibit and is this safe in the dog park?
- How well can you read your dog and other dog's behavior?



# Karen McWhirter, DVM At-Home Pet Euthanasia and Aftercare Services (520) 519-9311

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



#### COCO

I'm a smart 8-year-old shepherd mix lady who loves to learn. After eight years, my dad moved away and couldn't take me along. Hove working with my trainer, overnight visits with friends, fun car rides, nice long walks, sleeping with my moo cow, and yummy Puppuccino treats at Dutch Brothers. Adoption fee: \$85, includes Vet Care Support for Life. TALGV (Open daily 10-2) 520-625-3170.



#### **MASON**

I'm a 2-year old Shepherd/heeler mix boy who had to play catch up because my first owner thought Arizona was too hot for walking. However, I was housetrained and used a doggy door. At TALGV I've impressed my trainers by learning to walk nicely on a leash and obey basic commands. I would be your loyal companion. Adoption fee: \$85. TALGV (Open daily 10-2) 520-625-3170.



#### **ATHENA**

"Hello! I'm Athena! I was adopted from HSSA several months back but was recently returned because my owners couldn't care for me anymore. I'm a little sad, but the awesome people here at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona have assured me that I am a VERY good girl who is going to find a new family soon! I'm 3 years old and very smart, affectionate, and sweet. I would love for you to come meet me!" Meet Athena at 635 W. Roger Rd or give us a call at (520) 327-6088 ext 173 for more information.



#### **CHAI**

"Hello there! My name is Chai and I'm a 3.5 year old girl who is very excitable and energetic! I'm a quick learner who likes structure and routine. I love playing with people, but whoever adopts me better have strong arms, because I'm a BIG girl! Come meet me today!" You can meet Chai at 635 W. Roger Rd or give us a call at 520-327-6088 ext 173 for more information.



I'm about 5 yrs. old and weigh only 10 lbs. They say I came from Yuma, AZ and I am very healthy. I am a little shy but warm up pretty quickly, especially with women. And once I do, I am super sweet and loving and love to cuddle. I'm good on the leash and am also crate trained. I am housebroken and know how to use a doggy door. I am calm and not a barker. I like children and would fit into many different types of family situations. If you would like to meet me, contact my friends at Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary at cherishedtails@yahoo. com or (520) 616-0171.



#### KAIA

Hi, Hi and Hi!!! My name is Kaia and I am a very pretty 3 year old female Yellow Labrador Retriever that loves other dogs, people, toys, balls, car rides and to be next to you. I am affectionate, non destructive in the house, house broken and dog door trained. I am available for adoption with Southwest Oasis Lab Rescue in Tucson. www.solraz.org



#### **POOKIE**

Hi y'all! My name is Pookie and I am a 8 year old Lab Mix who was saved from an overcrowded shelter in Texas where I was surrendered when my owner died. I am super sweet and affectionate, dog door trained, and I walk well on a leash. I get along with dogs, cats and everyone I meet. I am available for adoption with Southwest Oasis Lab Rescue in Tucson. www.solraz.org



#### WESLEY

I'm a 3-year old male chocolate lab who is a happy, sweet friendly boy that loves affection and has lots of personality! I am almost completely blind, but get around just fine. I need a home where I can get some special attention. Contact: Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue at gmadeines@yahoo.com and/or fill out an adoption application at www.dlrraz.org



# A VISIT TO THE DOGHOUSE

All the dogs on this page are available for adoption now from Pima Animal Care Center 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900. Monday - Friday, 12pm - 7pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am - 5pm.

All the PACC dogs on this page have a \$0 adoption fee. A \$20 license fee applies to adult dogs. Adoption includes spay or neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip, and a free vet visit.



**TILLY** ID# A695346 - Age: 6 years Hi, I'm Tilly. I'm a very sweet and engaging girl who will make a wonderful companion. I'm a social gal with the other pups in playgroup, I walk well on a leash, and I appear to enjoy being around kids.

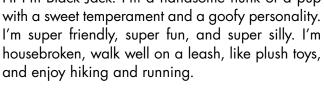


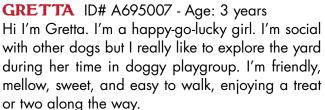
**SKYLAR** ID# A695954 - Age: 2 years Hi I'm Skylar. I'm a super friendly, calm, loving pup who appreciates being pet and cuddled. I will look at you in the eyes to give thanks for the time spent with me. I'm gentle, I walk well on a leash and I enjoy hiking.

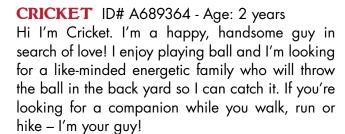


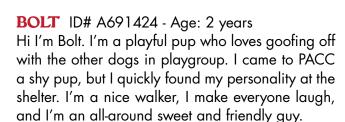
MATILDA ID# A685848 - Age: 2 years Hi I'm Matilda! I'm a sweet but shy gal who would thrive in a household with a confident, social dog. I walk great on a leash, I'm housebroken, crate trained, and I don't really seem to mind cats. I'm a mellow girl who enjoys car rides, tasty treats and taking afternoon naps. Please email PACC.foster@ pima.gov to meet me.

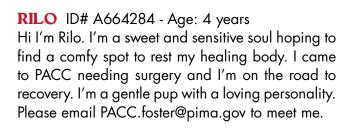
BLACK JACK ID# A689830 - Age: 2 years Hi I'm Black Jack. I'm a handsome hunk of a pup and enjoy hiking and running.



















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# Kitty Korner



#### Paying it Forward with Professor X

#### Story by Emily Dieckman, Photos Courtesy Clara Lee Arnold

In the wake of her husband's passing, longtime animal welfare advocate finds joy in providing pet therapy with her cat.

Clara Lee Arnold and her certified therapy cat, Professor X, both have an aura of sunshine. She has a lovely smile that puts people at ease, and it's practically

Professor X all dressed up for Halloween 2019

impossible to look at Professor X's big yellow eyes and signature bowtie and not want to pet him.

Arnold can't remember ever not wanting a cat. When she was a kid, her first pets were insects, then she moved to rats, bunny rabbits, and finally, when her parents allowed it, her first cat. Her life has continued to center around animals ever since. While running the Oxford Lafayette Humane Society in Mississippi for a decade in the '90s and early 2000s, she met Mike Harvey, the man who would become her husband.

"Our love and passion for animals was definitely something we had in common," Arnold says. "His motto was 'pay it forward.' He just really thought that we would all do better if we all took the effort to help each other."

Arnold even converted Harvey, originally a dog person, into a cat lover, when he rescued one and named him Jake, who is turning 19 this year. The couple poured themselves into animal rescue work, taking on the most difficult cases, including feral cats and animals with missing limbs, feline immunodeficiency virus and incontinence. They jokingly called their house in Tucson, where they moved in 2014, "The Arnold-Harvey Home for Wayward Animals."

They were always looking for ways to improve animal welfare. After seeing the conditions of stray animals in Belize while on vacation, Arnold started the Hopkins Belize Humane Society in 2008. The organization holds free spay/neuter clinics, provides animal care to Hopkins and surrounding communities, and promotes partnerships with other humane organizations in Central America. Arnold travels to Belize several times a year to run clinics and other events.

Arnold was doing a clinic in Belize in 2016 when her husband fell down in the Pittsburgh airport and was rushed to the



Clara Lee Arnold and Professor X at the Hopkins Belize **Humane Society** 

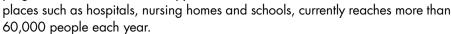
hospital. He spent two months in the hospital, before returning to Tucson to live in a hospice facility and passing away shortly after. In his final days, which weren't entirely lucid, he often spoke about how they needed to go check on Jake or was petting invisible cats. Arnold requested visits from a pet therapy dog every day, and even walked to a local animal shelter for a little pet therapy of her own.

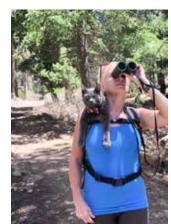
In the fall of 2018, Arnold took in a gray kitten that had been found in a dumpster in South Tucson. She expected him to be just one more bottle baby she would take care of for a few weeks until he was ready to be adopted. But she realized

quickly there was something special about this one, who had a perfect mix of adventurousness and an intuitive sense of patience. She decided to name him Professor X and keep him, and the two started going on hikes together.

"I had been looking desperately for something to do to honor [my husband's] memory," she says. "I just thought that getting Professor X certified as a therapy animal would be such a special way to honor his memory."

She did just that in June 2019 through the Humane Society's Pet VIP Pet Therapy Program. The program, which certifies therapy animals to visit





**Professor X and Clara Lee** Arnold on a hike



Professor X, therapy cat extraordinaire!

"She has trained him so well to interact with different animals, different species, different environments, and he's just a love," said Veronica Zimmerman, Pet VIP lead. "It's an honor to have them as part of the program, because she just uses him in such a wonderful way to help people cope with their situations."

Arnold says she's been amazed by how much joy Professor X brings people even when he's not on the clock. Strangers often approach to ask if they can pet him. He's been to three weddings with Arnold, including one where Arnold was the maid of honor and Professor X wore a tiny

tuxedo to match her dress. As for official therapy, they try to average about one pet therapy visit a week, to facilities such as hospice and memory care units.

"The joy it brings me is really indescribable," Arnold says. "I think of all the things I've done in animal welfare - and I'm really proud of some of the things I've done in animal welfare - this I the best thing I've ever done, because it's all positive."

Arnold spent Christmas 2019 at the Center at Tucson, an inpatient facility which serves patients who need physical rehabilitation or complex nursing care. She says seeing the way Professor X brightened the faces of patients and their families made for one of the best Christmases she's had in years.



Professor X in his wedding tuxedo

"He's a therapy animal for others, but he's often also a therapy animal for me, coming to terms with my husband's death and getting out into the world," she says. "Doing it with him by my side sort of makes it feel like I'm doing it with my husband."

Follow Clara Lee Arnold and Professor X's adventures on Facebook at Professor X the Hiking Cat.

# The Scratching Post

#### CATS FOR ADOPTION

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

Contact: Pima Animal Care Center, 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900. Monday - Friday, 12pm - 7pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am - 5pm for the cats in this section.

\$0 adoption fee. Adoption includes spay or neuter, ageappropriate vaccinations, microchip, and a free vet visit.



#### HUCKLEBERRY

ID# A691876 - DMH - Age: 7 years Hi I'm Huckleberry. It's hard not to fall in love with me. I enjoy the company of other felines and I love to eat seafood. I'm always the first one in line to eat!



#### WORKING CATS

PACC has many working cats looking for homes! These kitties are all business. They may not want to be touched, but they will spend time with their buddies patrolling your warehouse or property, keeping unwanted critters at bay. To learn more about the Working Cat Program, please email Stephanie.Stryker@pima.gov.



TILLY

ID# A670330 - Age: 7 years

Hi I'm Tilly, I'm a purr machine! When you open up my kennel door, I'll immediately greet you. I've being treated for allergies and I hate this unfashionable cone. I would love to spend some time with a foster (or forever!) family. If you can help, please visit her at PACC or email PACC.foster@pima.gov.







I'm a 7-year-old tabby and white boy that is overdue for a new home. I think an older family would be best since I didn't appreciate the baby at my last home. I did get along with the resident dog, and although I was an indoor/outdoor guy, I'd like to live indoors with you in our special place. Adoption Fee: \$45. TALGV 520-625-3170.



#### BURT

I'm a lonely longhaired 7-year-old black guy. At the shelter I'm easily intimidated by other cats, so I spend lots of time on my high perch. I will come down to the floor so you can brush and pet me. I would really like to have someone who is patient and caring to give me a new lease on life. Adoption Fee: \$45. TALGV 520-625-3170.



#### **SHADOW**

"Hi, I'm Shadow, a gorgeous 11 year old cat who wants to live out my golden years with you. I'm a really nice boy who just needs a fresh start in life. I was originally adopted from HSSA in 2008, but came back when my owner could no longer care for me. Come meet me at 635 W. Roger Rd or give HSSA a call at (520) 327-6088 ext 173 for more information."



#### **BOO BOO**

"Hello! I'm Boo Boo, a 7 year old cute pie who loves to snuggle and hang out with you. I love being the center of attention, so I'd prefer to be adopted into a home with no other pets. Come meet me at 635 W. Roger Rd or give HSSA a call at (520) 327-6088 ext 173 for more information."





#### The Animal League of Green Valley, Passing the Torch

#### Story by Bella Wexler - Photos by Georgia Puttock



(left to right) Incoming board president, Kim Eisele with outgoing president, Jean Davis

It was during the 1980s that Margaret Roesch noticed a need in the community of Green Valley for an animal rescue. She worked with hospice patients whose primary concern was not their own futures, but the futures of the pets they would leave behind. Inspired by the selfless love extended by these people to their

beloved animals, Roesch founded The Animal League of Green Valley and incorporated it in 1984. She is the first of many animal advocates to pass through the organization's doors, including fiercely committed Jean Davis who recently retired as board president.

Jean Davis had retired from her thirty years as a schoolteacher when she stumbled upon The Animal League of Green Valley. That was seventeen years ago. Needless to say, she fell in love. By 2005, Jean was appointed president of the Animal League board, a position that would bring her fifteen years of oversight into the expansion of this comprehensive rescue organization. During her presidency, Jean prided herself on foremost being a "listener and enabler". Now, she is ready to be part of the next great chapter of The Animal League's

mission as a volunteer again, passing the presidency to Kim Eisele. The Animal League of Green Valley is so grateful for Jean's nearly two decades of leadership and looks forward to many more years with her on the team!

Since the beginning, Jean has always demonstrated active engagement in her community. She spent thirty years as a dedicated and well-beloved teacher before joining The Animal League mission. "They say find a job that you love and you'll never work another day in your life," Jean says, "Well I found 2"! After The Animal League finally got their official building in 2001, Jean lobbied on behalf of the shelter for the right to include a picture of their building on their website. Making it known to the public



Jean with office cat, Tipsy

that The Animal League of Green Valley was an official non-profit organization with a physical location was critical to putting it on the map. As more people became familiar with the Animal League, its resources became accessible to more pets in need. Soon, Jean was also volunteering at The Animal League's thrift store to generate funds. Seeing that the blossoming shelter was already rich in volunteers and driven board members, she decided to step up as a member of the board to help with organization. In the years since, Jean came to help with so much more.

Jean is widely known for her contributions to youth engagement programs at The Animal League. More specifically, she applied her love of teaching young

people to bring many teenagers in as youth interns at the shelter. At one point in time, the majority of volunteers were of retirement age. Now, The Animal League of Green Valley boasts a volunteer base stemming from a variety of age groups. She does intend to give someone else the chance to take the reins on the Youth Interns Program in the future. However, Jean can be thanked for initially spearheading this community outreach program.

In the time that Jean has been involved with The Animal League, the shelter has broadened its influence immensely. The facilities themselves have expanded to include individual dog and cat wings as well as multipurpose and IT rooms.



Dogwashing at The Animal League of Green Valley fundraiser

Beyond this, they built "Shakespeare's Room" in 2018 which is a space (named after a cat previously under the Animal League's care) where prospective adopters and animals can meet to socialize. As Jean says, the purpose of The Animal League of Green Valley is a proactive one with the intent of giving pets a

fitting home that will last. Messages like these from The Animal League of Green Valley have certainly spread. Jean wisely attributes this to cooperation between the shelter and the people surrounding it: "We listened to our community and the community listened to us". Jean's optimistic, cooperative attitude exemplifies the notion that maintaining a nonprofit for animal welfare takes a village. With the help of inspirational volunteers and board members like her, the Animal League of Green Valley has not just been maintained, but also expanded.

The bottom line is, Jean hopes that her time as president of the board and volunteer for The Animal League of Green Valley will leave a legacy of kindness. She has learned many things in her seventeen years of involvement and fifteen years as president. Besides requiring her to learn how to spell "Chihuahua", her experiences with The Animal League thus far also exposed Jean to a multitude of other animal welfare advocates with diverse backgrounds. It is a volunteer community of all ages, interests and identities who share the common passion

for helping homeless pets find their forever families. Since its inception, The Animal League of Green Valley has been bringing people together through the love of animals. In the end, Jean may have retired from her position as president of the board, but, she will never completely leave The Animal League, nor will it ever leave her.



Jean's retirement reception poster















#### The Story of Little Lost Pepper

# Story by Annie Baker TALGV volunteer and author of *Pet Illness, Pet Loss, and Prayers That Help*



Pepper before she was lost

Pepper is a 4-year-old Chihuahua who had been hoarded with 22 other dogs in a single household. She arrived at The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) on September 17, 2019. Poor Pepper was frightened of everyone. For weeks she hunkered down in her bed, cowering and snapping at anyone who tried to coax her out.

Volunteer Barbara C. persistently worked with Pepper and eventually earned her trust. However, Pepper's fear of people in general prevailed. Six weeks after Pepper's arrival, a potential adopter, Joelle, was drawn to this scared little dog. She

came nearly every day for 2 weeks, and with Barbara C and others' help, she made progress.

#### October 27, 2019, Day One

Today Joelle adopted Pepper! But when they arrived home, Pepper bolted. Her collar and leash slipped off, and she raced out of the garage down the street. Joelle called TALGV. Volunteers Barbara C and Jenny sped off to join the search while the bad news traveled fast among us all at TALGV. Feeling helpless, I prayed:

May Pepper be protected from predators, cactus and all things that can sting, poison, pierce or kill a little Chihuahua in the desert. May she let go of her fear of people and be guided to know that it's people who can bring her back to safety. I affirm that Divine Love is helping Pepper find a safe place to sleep tonight and that tomorrow will open the door to her rescue. Amen.

#### First week lost in the desert

TALGV is receiving reports of "Pepper sightings," strengthening our hopes. Barbara C and Jenny are out there, combing the area, calling and searching. Joelle is setting up a humane trap outside her house, poised for Pepper's safe capture.

I prayed: Divine Spirit, You are present with all creatures and know where Pepper is and in what condition. She is reportedly covered in cactus spines and still running from the people trying to save her. May You give her the courage

to let go and surrender herself to the next person who attempts to help her. Surrender, little Pepper, and be guided to safety, food, and water.

#### November 9th, 2nd Week

Pepper's last location was about a mile from Joelle's house. No news of sightings or rescue. Are Barbara C and Jenny still out there, searching? Yes!

My heart is in pieces. It has been 2 full weeks, and I can't hold onto the belief that Pepper is alive, unless she let someone lure her into their home. If that hasn't happened, how can she survive this



Pepper after being lost

long in pain and without food and water? No new sightings is an ominous sign. I keep trying to think "life!" but can't help knowing the possibility of death is becoming a probability. God be with you, Pepper.

#### November 12th, Two and a Half Weeks

No news.

Pepper, whatever is happening or has happened to you, may you be at peace. I'm so sorry you had to go through all this. For my own sanity, I'm letting go of wondering, fearing and holding back tears. I'm accepting the probability of your having gone to the Rainbow Bridge. Rest in peace, little one.

#### November 14th, Evening

**SHE'S ALIVE!** She has been rescued! She walked into the open gate of a back patio where the lady of the house happened to be sitting when Pepper appeared. Thank you, dear lady, for jumping into action, closing the gate, calling your friend over and herding Pepper into a crate! Thank you for calling The Animal League and bringing her to us. You have been a Godsend and a mender of broken hearts!

#### November 15th, Morning

Thanksgiving Day is a week away, but today is my day of giving thanks for Pepper's survival and rescue.

When Pepper arrived at TALGV, one look told Barbara C and Jenny that life in the desert had been unkind. Pepper lay in the back corner of the crate. She gave no response to either volunteer. Then Barbara had an



9 days post

idea. She laid her head at the door of the crate, took a deep breath and exhaled, hoping Pepper would remember her scent. She did. Pepper turned around and placed her head close to Barbara's.

Pepper was transported to the vet who sedated her, treated her for dehydration and extracted cactus spines from her face and body. Joelle came and took Pepper home with antibiotics, pain pills, feeding instructions, and a happy heart!

#### November 16th, the End of the 3rd Week

Pepper is recovering and bonding with Joelle, lying on her lap, being restored. That little survivor's name has been changed to what ultimately gave her new life: Grace. And so my prayer today is one of rejoicing:

Play music!
Turn up the volume!
Today it's time for percussion!
Beat a drum or pots and pans,
Whistle, whoop, and hit the high notes!
Today, right in this moment,
I rejoice and thank God for Grace's life!







#### **Must Love Animals & Exercise: Comforting Goat Yoga**

#### Story and photos by Rebecca West



**Emily Haddon GOT Yoga** 

Into physical fitness and new experiences? Ready to try something completely different that involves hanging with the furry bleating set, complete with scraggly beards and cloven hooves? (Sound of brakes screeching) Err, wait. Say what? We're talking about goat yoga — and before you question its existence, the answer is, yes, it's a real thing. What's more, it's fun and going on in Tucson right

now. Well, maybe not right at the exact moment that you're reading this, but goat yoga classes are regularly conducted around town if you're interested.

Since May of 2019, G.O.T. (Goats of Tucson) Yoga has been inviting members

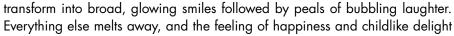
of the public to stretch, cuddle and relax while having fun and getting a bit of exercise through goat yoga. If you're completely unfamiliar with the concept, it's yoga that includes small, playful goats interacting with individuals practicing this ancient discipline.

Yoga is a physical, mental and (for many) spiritual endeavor that improves balance, strength and mobility while promoting inner-awareness and emotional wellbeing. This is accomplished through stretching, controlled breathing and holding poses. The deep breathing exercises calm your mind and put you more in tune with your body. Add a pack of cheery little goats with their ability to hit pressure points, and you've got a fun-filled activity whose residual effects can last throughout the day.

**GOT Yoga Class** 

unicorn horns, unless you're terrified at the thought of tulle and gold lamé. The goats come scrambling — or, perhaps, flouncing — out of Emily's trailer donned in colorful frilly skirts and giant bows, following behind her as if she were the Pied Piper. She immediately leads them into the mobile pen she's set up on a small hillside within Morris K. Udall Park on a beautiful Sunday morning.

That's where the magic happens. And it is magic when you see the faces of those assembled



is contagious. The goats are lively and agile, hopping about from one person to another as they take advantage of the various poses that accommodate their diminutive stature. Cow or cat poses are especially well-suited for these maneuvers.

goat poses

If you're wondering whether or not goats are naturally inclined to partake in these fitness sessions, the answer is: not without some incentive. In this case, it's animal crackers. Yes, the tasty treats are doled out by Emily as she slowly makes her way around the inner circle of yoga mats, pausing in front of participants to encourage the animal-human interaction. She and others claim that being pummeled by the tiny hooves feels like a massage.

While Emily has many regulars, like Fatemah Dili and Laura Kruszewski, who come for the therapeutic benefits of stress relief, she also encounters a lot of

curiosity seekers who show up for the flat-out oddity factor. For Cynthia Washington, who has practiced some yoga in the past but admitted to being a first-timer with goat yoga, it was all about the novelty. "A friend of mine invited me about a week ago to go to goat yoga this weekend, and I wanted to try something new, so I said, 'Why not?' There's six in our group, and I don't think any of them have done it before. I'm looking forward to it," she added sunnily.



**GOT Yoga tutus** 

Classes for beginners to advanced levels can be scheduled privately or in groups. To learn more about them, the cost, and where they take place, you can visit the G.O.T. Yoga website or follow them on Facebook @goatsoftucsonyoga.

So, how do you get in on it? All of this comes courtesy of Emily Haddon, founder of G.O.T. Yoga. Emily, a life-long animal lover, had the idea for sharing that love when she inadvertently met Clara Reynolds, a yoga instructor. The two instantly hit it off, and the business blossomed from there.



animal cracker incentive

animals has long proven to put humans at ease. It's the reason emotional support animals are frequently recommended for persons suffering from high levels of And her approach is on point: it's almost

Emily is quick to point out that her

classes provide a joyous and stress-free environment that is beneficial to people

dealing with issues such as Post Traumatic

Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Working with

impossible to be stressed around a group of petite "kids" wearing pink tutus and



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# Cover Story



#### Pima County Sheriff's Therapy Dogs Making a Difference in our Community

#### Story by Brian Pettepiece Photos by Candice Eaton and Brian Pettepiece

Dogs bring joy into our lives simply by being themselves. With their consistently positive demeanor and undeterred happiness they can easily cheer us up when we're feeling down or when we need a friend. Dogs are indeed unique animals that carry a kinship with us and have the ability to comfort us, to be our best friend. This is what makes therapy dogs so special. Therapy dogs are unique in that it is actually their job to bring that joy to others, to provide comfort where it's most needed. And it's a job that they love doing.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department now has five such therapy dogs, whose job it is to improve the lives of those they meet. These dogs, all Labrador retrievers, spend all their time with their handlers, including going home with them at night, and serve the public in three different roles: as part of the Canine Crisis Response Team (CCRT), in Corrections Pet Assisted Stress Therapy (CPAST) or with the School Resource Officer Team (SROT)



From left, Charles Garcia and Leo, CO John Dickinson and Luke, School Resource Officer Deputy Brittani Caudillo, Dominick Anaya and Leia, SRO Deputy Lynsey Cole and Nova. Photo credit Candice Eaton

Pima County Sheriff Mark Napier stated that the Labrador breed was chosen because of their trainability and lack of aggression. While some breeds can have aggressive tendencies that are more suited to other tasks, he said that labs are more likely to just want to run around and have fun. In addition, he stated that labs are generally a compliant, people-oriented dog; qualities that make them perfectly suited to therapy work. Stressing how therapy dogs can have a positive effect on people, "when you pet a dog it just makes your blood pressure go down," Sheriff Napier said. "Humans have a unique relationship with dogs," and it's this relationship that enables the Department's therapy dogs to have such an impact on the people they meet every day.

The purchase of the dogs was made possible by the financial assistance of an organization called Arizona Complete Health. This partnership between the community and law enforcement allowed the Department to not only acquire the dogs but also helps to pay for their food and equipment.

One way that the Sheriff's Department's therapy dogs interact with the community is through schools. Echo is an eighteen-month-old black lab handled by School Resource Officer Deputy Brittani Caudillo at a local middle school. Deputy Echo regularly plays a role in destressing students who may be having a difficult time, sometimes just by merely being present. Deputy Caudillo described one interaction she and Echo had with a child that was having a particularly difficult time at school that day. After the child told Caudillo that he didn't like dogs, she offered to walk with him back to his class instead, keeping Echo off to the side and away from him. Back in class, Echo, probably able to sense that the child needed help, gently placed his head on the child's knee. After a few moments the child began to pet him and before long he had completely relaxed. Echo had relieved the stress that the child was feeling simply by spending time with



SRO Deputy Brittani Caudillo and therapy dog Deputy Echo. Photo credit Candice Eaton

dogs and don't have dogs at home, but they love him." She said that many kids have said that Echo is why they like coming to school, and if he's not there it's not as good of a day. It's interactions like these that make Echo's job so important. Therapy dogs have the ability to relieve tension and to relax people, qualities that go a long way in helping students who may be having a particularly bad day or are going through a stressful situation.

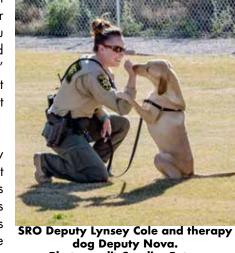
him. Caudillo said that "there's been

a lot of kids that say they don't like

Deputy Nova is a yellow lab that works with School Resource Officer Deputy Lynsey Cole at a local high school. Cole describes Nova as sweet

and docile and said she's amazed how much Nova helps boost the morale of the school staff. Cole said that a lot of teachers tell her how it made their day just being able to see her. "You wouldn't necessarily think that would happen, but I hear it all the time" she said. And hearing things like that reminds Cole of the important role that Nova plays with the students.

Officer Leo, a three-year-old yellow lab, was the Department's first therapy dog. Detectives Charles Garcia and Nicole Crowson are Leo's handlers. Leo is part of the Crisis Canine Response Team (CCRT). He mostly works intra-departmentally



**Photo credit Candice Eaton** 

Therapy dog Deputy Nova taking a break. Photo credit Brian Pettepiece

with officers who have gone through stressful situations, helping them through trauma that they have been exposed to on the job. Garcia said that Leo is "taken out to critical incidences in order to help get everybody back to a sense of normalcy" after experiencing a stressful situation. One example of Leo's expertise was recently seen in his interaction with officers that were involved in an officer involved shooting. "He helped them to decompress," Garcia says. Just by being around the officers and offering them the chance to relax and pet him, Leo helped them work through the stressful situation they had experienced. Being in a relaxed state can also help officers deliver better statements and have better recollections of incidents.





**Detective Charles Garcia** and therapy dog Leo. Photo credit Candice Eaton

Perhaps one of the most interesting jobs that the Sheriff's Department therapy dogs do is performed by Luke and Leia. Both yellow labs and siblings, they live and work at the Pima County Detention Center. Luke's handler is Corrections Officer John Dickinson and Leia is handled by Corrections Officer Dominick Anaya. Dickinson says that the dogs serve multiple roles at the jail, visiting with both the inmates and the staff. By visiting with both staff and inmates, they reduce the stress level of both which helps to reduce confrontations, assaults and improves the overall mental health outcome of everyone that the dogs meet. Luke and Leia "basically, make it a little better place to be," said Dickinson.

One of the places that the dogs regularly

visit is the jail's intake area. Dickinson described this area as being one of the highest tension areas in the facility. With new inmates being checked in, many whose first time it is being in jail, it becomes quickly apparent that being incarcerated can be a stressful experience. The dogs' ability to calm an area down just by being present in the room both reduces the chances of injury due to confrontations but also can help smooth relations between staff and inmates. Petting a dog has a calming effect and can improve a person's mood, two positives for canine and human interaction.

Seeing the positive impact that these therapy dogs have in the jail is really something special. Immediately upon walking into a housing pod with the dogs for a visit with the inmates, the mood is rowdy. The inmates have just been let out for some recreation time and there's tension in the room, with lots of movement and loud voices. After five minutes, the room has calmed down. Not only are the dogs on their backs getting their bellies rubbed, but some of the inmates are on the floor with them, petting them and even getting licked. The room has become full of smiles with inmates asking about the dogs, waiting their turn to pet them, and telling stories about their own dogs. Luke and Leia are lapping up every second of the attention.

In the middle of the calming scene, one inmate said that seeing the dogs not only



Therapy Dog Officer Luke visiting jail staff. Photo credit Brian Pettepiece

helped with his depression but also helped him get over his fear of dogs. As Luke and Leia help him overcome his phobia, he said that "it shows me that not all dogs are mean and want to attack me." Another inmate said that visiting with the dogs really has made an impact on him, stating that "it definitely brings me peace" to see the dogs. He grew up with dogs and was heartbroken when he lost his childhood dog. He likes Leia in particular and says that she always goes right to him when she comes to visit. He also recounts a story about another inmate whose dog had died while he was in jail. Almost sensing that this inmate needed some comfort, Leia went right up to him and gave him some loving attention.



Therapy dog Officer Leia getting some loves from an inmate at the Pima County Detention Center. Photo credit Brian Pettepiece

Seeing the palpable effect that these therapy dogs have on both the jail's inmate population and staff is truly unique and is helping to make the Pima County Detention Center a national leader in corrections. Sheriff Napier stated that as far as they know they are the only county detention facility to keep therapy dogs on staff, not just bring them in for periodic visits. "We know that people in jail are sometimes having mental health issues or substance abuse issues," he said, and the calming effects of petting a dog can have real mental and physical benefits. Seeing the results of having Luke and Leia on staff at the jail proves that this is true.

As the Pima County Sheriff Department's therapy dog program rolls into its third year, it has become more successful than anyone had anticipated. All five dogs have made an impact on the Pima County community. Leo, the Department's first therapy dog, who made community outreach easier and more accessible, continues to help reduce stress on officers who have experienced on-the-job trauma. Echo and Nova are two dogs making school more comfortable and welcoming for students. And Luke and Leia are having a measurable effect on people who live and work at the county jail. With these five amazing dogs, it's easy to see the difference being made in people's lives every day.

Operating this therapy dog program shows that the Pima County Sheriff's Department is a true community partner, not just helping to keep the community safe, but also making it a more welcoming place to live. It can easily be observed that these dogs are making a difference, and truly living up to their mantra of being our best



Therapy dog Officer Leia visiting inmates at the Pima County Detention Center. Photo credit Brian Pettepiece

friends. The Department looks forward to this successful program continuing well into the future. And if you're lucky enough to see one of these amazing labs out in our community, say hello. They would like to make your life a little better just by being themselves.



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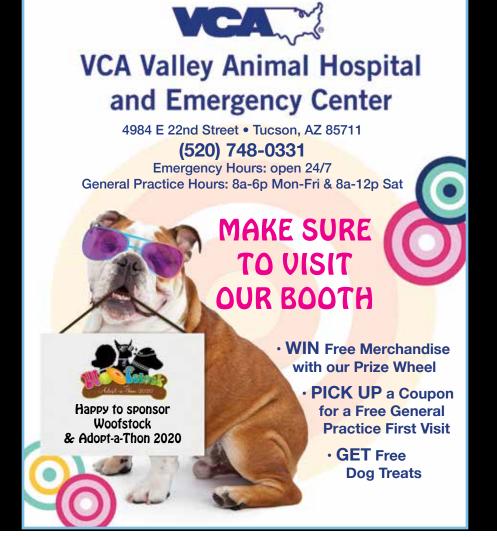
















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#### In the Doghouse with Fig & Tessa (Follow-Up)

#### Story and Photos by Rebecca West



Michele Figueroa of PACC with Tessa

It's so important to remember that shelter animals have just as much love to give as any other pet, and they require your help far, far more. That's why PACC and so many others are working overtime to draw attention to the number of animals who need adopting and the importance of fostering homeless pets.

In our last issue, we covered

an up-coming campaign involving Michele Figueroa, Internal Operations Manager at PACC, to raise awareness for hard-to-place dogs. If you read the story, entitled "In the Doghouse with Fig," you'll recall that on February 10, 2020, Michele, or "Fig," as she's known, was going to be climbing into a PACC kennel turned into a giant doghouse in the hope of finding a home for the dog who had been there the longest.

Sleepover details included moving a bed in and staying put until the animal was adopted, which everyone was hoping would happen at least by Valentine's Day. In an effort to get the word out and drum up support, Fig emceed podcasts straight from the "doghouse," posted to social media, and even orchestrated her very own version of Carpool Karaoke with the canine candidate. The song? Shania Twain's rousing "Man! I feel Like a Woman!"

The extended pajama party was undertaken with the help of local sponsors Friends of Pima Animal Care Center, PACC's official nonprofit partner. This issue, we wanted to follow-up with which dog was selected, how it went, and what came of the two groups' combined efforts.

As it turns out, a sweet female pit bull by the name of Tessa (#A643683) ended up being the focus of all the fanfare. Spayed and up to date on all of her shots, the beautiful fawn-colored terrier arrived at PACC on October 10, 2019, where she has waited patiently for a forever home ever since.

Her surrender papers noted that she is good with kids, very adaptable, and not too vocal, which is always a plus. She also loves her toys, is super friendly, loyal to a T, and adores cuddling. Speaking of which, during her stay with Fig, she would inevitably crowd the operations manager off her couch bed during the night while trying to be nearer to her.

When asked about the size of the bed in comparison to Tessa's size, Fig took it all in stride: "Tessa is very playful and affectionate. The first couple nights, she'd try and sneak up on the couch we brought in and sleep with me. After that, she pretty much just muscled her way up every night, leaving me hanging on the edge or falling off completely."

The staff at PACC determined that Tessa is not quite 3 years of age yet, so she's still a youngster who very much acts like a puppy. Unfortunately, when she was brought in, she was suffering from allergies that were making her life intolerable. With proper diet, treatment, and continued management, her skin condition has markedly improved, and she's much happier for it.



Wall of supporters' names

Sadly, as the end of the day rolled around on Friday, February 14, Valentine's Day, Tessa had still not been adopted. She had, however, had a number of potential pet parents come in and enquire about her. While they were all keen on welcoming her into their family, each had very small dogs already in the household that were too petite to be a good fit — which is a word that cannot be used to describe Tessa.



Doghouse faux front

The positive news is that lots of people still wanted to support Tessa, and the well-publicized event brought in larger crowds than the facility usually sees. That, and many other animals were adopted as a result, so it wasn't a bust by any stretch of the imagination.

If you want to make a difference in the life of an animal in need, PACC's Facebook page has a list of upcoming events they're taking part in, if you'd rather not visit the center. For instance, until June 20, 2020, you can find your new furry friend at Dogs-N-Donuts, where PACC will be the 3rd Saturday of every month with dogs available for adoption from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Another spot is at Bookmans Midtown, where PACC will be on the 4th Saturday of every month until June 27, 2020. The same times apply. They also be at the Tucson Dog Magazine's 2nd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon on March 8th at Reid Park.

As noble as it is, don't dash out and rescue a pet without first thoroughly going over its needs versus your time, patience, and budget. If an animal is going to require more than you can provide, it needs to be a pass on your part. The caring and helpful staff at PACC can help you decide whether an animal is a good fit for your particular living situation before you bite off more than you can chew. Doing so significantly reduces the number of returns or surrenders.

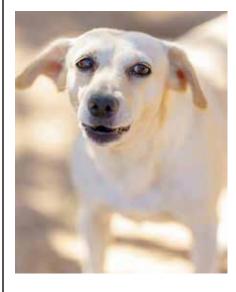
For more information regarding this fantastic facility and all they do, refer to the contact information listed below.

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#### Barb's Dog Rescue: Home has No Border

#### Story by Bella Wexler - Photos by Cheryl Nestico

Animals have a way of grounding people with a sense of purpose even when hope feels out of reach. This is exactly the effect that the stray dogs roaming the streets of Puerto Peñasco had on Barbara Mumaugh following the tragic and premature death of her daughter. Seeing these homeless pets inspired Barb to found her own rescue, where her daughter's legacy could be honored through each dog served. "They actually saved me first", Barb says, "so I've been saving them ever since".



Rescued mother nurses her pups

It all started with ten dogs in 2001. Since its foundation, Barb's Dog Rescue has grown to accommodate over a thousand dogs yearly. Whenever the local animal control finds puppies and pregnant mothers, they count on Barb to rehabilitate them. Even with so

many dogs passing through, not a single one is handed over to a family without thorough home checks and screenings. This is especially important since many of the dogs who are brought to Barb's rescue have faced past abuse and trauma. Everyone at the rescue is committed to giving each rescued animal a safe environment in which they can thrive.

Barb's Dog Rescue is a 501c3 nonprofit organization registered in Arizona. As such, it runs entirely on volunteers and donations. This can be a challenge at times given the sheer demand for food, supplies and veterinary care coming from the high volume of dogs in need of recuperation. In



Two dogs lounge in the shade

addition to this, the Mexican government has recently instituted variably enforced regulations regarding the transportation of dog food. For instance, no more than 50 lbs. of food can be driven across the border per vehicle. To avoid any issues with border patrol, Barb recommends that anyone interested in donating much needed dog food considers purchasing it from a local store in Mexico rather than dragging it all the way from the States. While there may be a slight import markup at the local establishments, it is well worth the convenience of avoiding difficulties in transporting the donations.

Now that Barb lives full time at the site of her rescue in Mexico, she has found that it can be helpful to partner with organizations in the southwest of the US to provide a wider sphere of resources to dogs in need. She currently sends around 100 dogs per month to a Phoenix rescue



**Volunteer Comforts a Rescued Puppy** 

called Halo and would enthusiastically cooperate with any Tucson rescue groups willing to reach out to her as well. As of now, the vast majority of adopted dogs from Barb's Dog Rescue go to homes in the US and Canada. As always, there is no adoption fee associated with sending pups to loving

families capable of providing for them. Before they are sent to their forever homes, though, each dog is spayed or neutered, vaccinated and given any other veterinary treatments necessary for prior medical issues they may have. Then, once the dogs are at least four months old, they can be brought to their future families over the border. Barb is so grateful for the support of donors and volunteers in enabling the continuous operation of this safe haven for pets. If it weren't for this public support, thousands of Puerto Peñasco dogs would face a struggle to survive without proper food and veterinary care on the daily.

That being said, Barb is never one to be content while some animals are still suffering. In order to expand the scope of her rescue to accommodate even more dogs, Barb is looking to build up her rescue's size in the future. This would mean purchasing an additional property adjacent to the current two-acre plot of land on which the organization resides. One thing is certainly true, as long as there are dogs in need of saving, Barb will be on the frontlines doing everything she can to help. Whatever it takes, we will "just keep growing," she says. In the meantime, we can only hope that Barb's Dog Rescue may one day swell as big as the heart of its founder; then every homeless dog would have a place to be loved.

If you are interested in learning more about Barb's Dog Rescue, donating, volunteering or adopting, there are many ways to reach the rescue and stay up to date on their activities. For frequent stories about the rescue's current dogs, visit their Instagram page at https://www.instagram.com/barbsdogrescue/. For other information about the rescue including how to adopt, donate and volunteer, please visit the organization's website at https://www.barbsdogrescue.org.



A rescued chihuahua smiles bright in the Puerto Peñasco sun

Otherwise, you can always help by spreading the word, bringing food donations, and helping to transport dogs from Barb's Dog Rescue to adopters and rescues in the US.



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# From the Director's Desk

#### What is Pima Animal Care Center's Lifesaving Philosophy?

#### Story by Kristen Hassen

What should I know about **PACC?** PACC is the taxpayerfunded, open-admission animal shelter for Pima County and our jurisdictional partners, including the City of Tucson, The City of South Tucson and Oro Valley. In 2019, PACC took in 18,500 pets, including more than 2,500 pets who were victims of cruelty, neglect and hoarding. Saving lives at PACC is a community-wide effort. PACC volunteers contribute 90,000 hours of service to shelter pets annually and 5,200 pets went to foster homes last year! Local rescue partners took 2,500 pets from PACC last year, helping to save some of our most vulnerable residents.



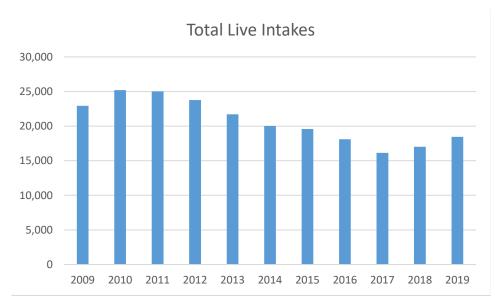
One of the most common questions we hear from members of the public

is, "Are you a No Kill shelter?" On the surface, it seems like an easy enough question to answer. But in reality, the term "No Kill" means so many different things to different people that any conversation about the subject can quickly lead to misunderstanding. One common definition, embraced by Best Friends and other national organizations, is that any animal shelter saving at least 90% of the pets who enter can be called "No Kill". Our live release rate in 2019 (calculated as live outcomes/total outcomes), was about 91.5%. This means at PACC, of every 10 pets who enter, nine will leave alive through adoption or rescue placement or by being returned to their home or community.

To put this into perspective, just a decade ago, we were forced to euthanize 15,000 pets a year, which roughly equals 41 pets per day. Today, our total euthanasia is less than 1/10th of that, with only about 1,000 pets being euthanized in 2019. Thanks to Pima County taxpayers, the leadership of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, and our incredible community of adopters, fosters, staff members, volunteers. donors. rescuers. community partners and other supporters, we've made tremendous lifesaving strides over the past few years. Today, we are at a point where we can make a commitment to each animal who enters our shelter that they'll receive urgent,

individualized treatment and care with the goal of a live outcome.

**How exactly do you answer the question** "Are you a No Kill shelter?" We simply and honestly say, "PACC is committed to giving every pet a fair



Total Live Intakes. In 2019, PACC took in 18,457 pets, an increase from PACC's all-time lowest intake in 2017 which was 16,139. Increased intake is primarily kittens and medium and large stray dogs. Both stray and owner surrender intake are rising, but owner surrender intake remains lower than in most previous years, due to interventions by the Pet Support Center and Friends of PACC 'Keeping Families Together' pet retention fund.

chance at a live outcome and we save about 90% of the pets who enter the shelter. We are always looking for fosters and adopters for special-needs pets and we rely on thousands of volunteers, foster caregivers, adopters and other supporters to help us save the lives of the nearly 20,000 pets who come through our doors each year!"

#### How does PACC lifesaving stack up to other shelters?

If you want to know how PACC is doing in lifesaving, or any other shelter that reports their data, you can check out the Best Friends Animal Society Community Data Dashboard at https://bestfriends.org/2025-goal or visit the Shelter Animals County website at https://shelteranimalscount.org/These sites can help you learn about nationwide

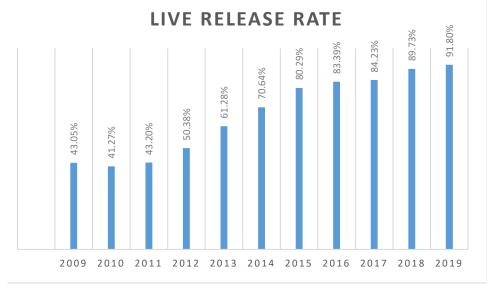
efforts to increase lifesaving efforts in shelters.

Is the biggest concern hitting a certain number or lifesaving percentage? Our commitment is to value the life of every animal who enters our shelter and to treat them with the same amount of care and love as if they were an owned pet. We treat every, single one as an individual animal with its own, unique set of needs and we explore lifesaving options for each one. This is also a commitment to the people of our community. If your pet ever shows up in our shelter for any reason, whether it's fearful, injured, sick

or old, we're going to do our very best to care for it. The residents in our county can rest assured their pet will be treated with the utmost love and care if it shows up at PACC. For medical pets, we rely on our team of four veterinarians to assess every pet and determine if it is able to be saved.

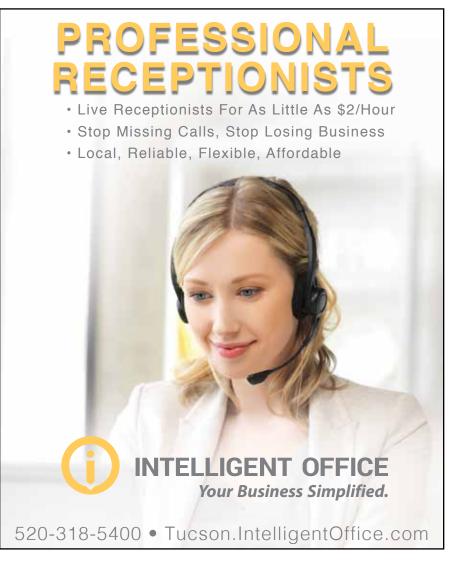
How can I help? There are several ways to help. The easiest way to help is to spread the word to tell your friends and family to adopt and foster from PACC. Without people opening their homes to PACC pets, we could never save as many as we do. Second, you can donate to the Friends of PACC to provide direct support to pets

with special medical needs and to support our many, lifesaving programs. Finally, you can sign up to volunteer at PACC to provide exercise and enrichment or even become a volunteer adoption counselor, helping make great matches between pets and people! Sign up here: https://webcms.pima.gov/government/pima\_animal\_care\_center



Live Release Rate. PACC's 2019 Live Release Rate (calculated as live outcomes/total outcomes) was 91.8%, a new record. This means roughly 9 out of 10 pets who enter PACC, regardless of the reason for their surrender or condition on intake, leave the shelter alive.









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Serving Tucson & Surrounding areas (520) 360-5026 www.campjimmydog.com Cage Free Boarding & Daycare Providing quality care and lots of love in our home since 2006

#### Central Pet Central Pet Play

1900 W. Grant Rd., Tucson (520) 975-8462 Centralpetaz.com

#### Central Pet Tucson

2420 N. Jackrabbit Ave. (520) 882-7577

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2875 E. Frontage Rd. (520) 398-8661 Indoor/Outdoor Suites with camera viewing. Outstanding Care, large indoor daycare Dog, Cat & Small animal boarding

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#### **Sabino Canyon Pet Resort**

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#### **Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center**

1895 W. Prince Rd., Tucson, AZ 85705 (520) 345-0075 Soldoglodge.com For All Dogs and the People Who Love Them!

# CHARITABLE ANIMAL NON-PROFITS

#### **Friends of PACC**

P.O. Box 85370, Tucson (520) 610-4915 friendsofpacc.org Supporting the efforts of PACC to save the lives of pets in need.

#### **No Kill Pima County**

P.O.Box 86231, Tucson (520) 477-7401 Nokillpimacounty.org Working to end the needless killing of shelter animals in Pima County

#### **Shock-Free Coalition**

(844) 462-6473 Email: support@shockfree.org Shockfree.org/chapters/arizona Engaging and educating about the care and training of pets

#### Veterinary Care Foundation-Northwest Pet Clinic

252 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ (520) 742-4148 Help Us, help them!

#### **DOGGY DAY CARE**

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9575 E. Millmar Rd., Tucson (520) 722-3162 At-home-kennels.com Your pets home away from home Boarding, Daycare, Grooming

#### **Camp Bow Wow Tucson**

16725 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson (520) 742-6476 Campbowwow.com/Tucson Boarding, Kennels, Day Care, Grooming & Training

#### Central Pet Central Pet Play

1900 W. Grant Rd., Tucson (520) 975-8462 Centralpetaz.com

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#### END OF LIFE CARE

#### **Kindred Spirits Pet Services**

3544 N Romero Rd. Ste 112, Tucson (520) 367-5222 www.kindredspirits.pet info@kindredspirits.pet Compassionate, Gentle & Respectful End-of-Life Pet Care. Hospice, Home Euthanasia, Aquamation

#### **McWhirter Veterinary**

(520) 722-6929 9066 E. 20th St., Tucson, AZ 85710 Compassionate At-Home Consultations, Euthanasia and Aftercare Services

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#### **Groomingdales Pet Salon**

4759 N. 1st. Ave., Tucson (520) 292-9436 groomingdalestucson.com Providing caring, knowledgeable grooming And day boarding for over 20 years

#### K-9 Korral

6520 E. 22nd St., Tucson (520) 777-7544 baddogkarma@gmail.com 30 Years in business Best service & lowest prices

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Eastside 520-885-7387 Southeast 520-668-1581 Northeast 520-760-8750 Mobile Grooming 520-334-8333 www.velvetbowpetgrooming.com Experienced in all breeds of dogs & cats.

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gaiaprovidesllc.com High-quality, Hemp-derived, CBD Pet Products - hancrafted in Tucson, AZ

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TheKingofFloorCare.com
Mold/Mildew/Urine/Sewage/Smoke
Fire/Floor/Aerial Dispersement

#### PET PHOTOGRAPHY

#### **CE Photography**

(520) 440-2167

Email: ceatonphotography@gmail.com ceatonphotography.com

They are not just pets. They are your family! We capture your precious memories

#### SHELTERS/RESCUES

### Humane Society of Southern AZ

635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson (520) 321-3704 HSSAZ.org Helping homeless pets for 72 years

#### **Pima Animal Care Center**

4000 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson (520) 724-5900 pimaanimalcare.org Pima County's only safety net shelter for pets in need

### Pima Animal Care Center Ajo Substation

1259 Well Rd., Ajo (520) 387-7502 pimaanimalcare.org Pima County's only safety net shelter for pets In need

#### Rescue A Golden of AZ

P.O. Box 71987, Phoenix (520) 360-4414 Golden-Retriever.org tucson@golden-Retriever Non-profit statewide Rescue Re-homimg Goldens since 1998

# The Animal League of Green Valley

1600 W. Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley (520) 625-3170 talgv.org A private, donation funded, all volunteer, 501(c)(3) non profit

#### **TRAINING**

#### **Building Bonds**

3755 E 34th Street #109, Tucson (520) 775-2663 Positive training for dogs and parrots Group and private training

#### **Camp Bow Wow Tucson**

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Want to support animal welfare in your community?

Call us to see how you can promote your business & help!

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Find out how by calling Ann Herrington at (520) 345-2801 or email: ann@thetucsondog.com



### Legacy Dog Training Academy of Tucson

(520) 303-0327 legacydogtucson.com Individualized Training Program Dog & Canine Good Citizen Training

#### The Complete Canine

4767 N. 1st. Ave., Tucson (520) 403-1401 www.completecaninetucson.com Changing Lives using Positive Methods

#### **VETERINARIANS**

#### **ABC Pet Care Clinics**

Main Office (All Services)
Phone: 520-745-4564
Address: 1114 S Craycroft
Tucson, AZ 85711
acomaanimalclinictucson.com

South Office (Wellness & Vaccination)

Phone: 520-741-7729 Address: 375 W. Ajo Way (between 6th Ave and 12th Ave) **Central Location** (Vaccinations)

Phone: 520-881-7387 Address: 3113 E. 1st Street (corner of Speedway & Country Club)

#### **Acoma Animal Clinic**

6781 N. Thornydale., Ste. 207, Tucson (520) 297-3593 acomaanimalclinictucson.com
We treat all kinds of animals
Yes, even pocket pets!

#### **Adobe Veterinary Care**

8300 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson (520) 546-8387 adobevetcenter.com Compassionate high-quality care to Cats/ Dogs, Horses & Livestock

# Humane Society of Southern AZ Clinic

635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson (520) 881-0321 HSSAZ.org Low Cost Spay-Neuter Clinic Low Cost Vaccinations and Microchipping

#### **Northwest Pet Clinic**

252 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 10825 N. Oracle Rd., Oro Valley (520) 742-4148 Primary and Urgent Care Open 7 Days a Week

#### **Pantano Animal Hospital**

8333 E. 22nd St., Tucson (520) 885-3594 Premiere Veterinary Hospital Open 6 days a week

#### **Pet Doctor RX**

6464 N. Oracle Rd. / 2661 N. 1st Ave. 520-829-5166 petdoctorx.com Affordable, Compassionate, Quality, Full-Service Care. Walk-ins/Urgent Care

# **VETERINARIANS** - **EQUINE/LIVESTOCK**

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# **VETERINARIANS** - **SPECIALTIES**

#### **Kindred Spirits Pet Services**

3544 N Romero Rd. Ste 112, Tucson (520) 367-5222 www.kindredspirits.pet info@kindredspirits.pet Compassionate, Gentle & Respectful End-of-Life Pet Care. Hospice, Home Euthanasia, Aquamation





# Special Feature



### The Incredible Journey of Athena

#### Story by Bonnie Craig, Photos courtesy of David and Margaret Powell and Christie Sanders

Tales of animals and their amazing journeys home can be harrowing, heartwarming and everything in between. They captivate and touch us, evidenced by the myriad books, films and songs that chronicle them. The story of Athena, a young golden lab, could give these sagas a run for their money, and this is only its beginning.

Athena began life on a farm in central Mexico where she enjoyed every dog's dream of running free in the country and accompanying her people in their daily work outdoors. All was well for the happy pup, until one day, she didn't come home from her adventures. The farmer became more and more worried, and frantically searched the farm and surrounding woods for his companion. Finally, to his horror, he found her with her leg caught in a bear trap.

The farmer rushed his friend to the vet, but sadly, her leg could not be saved, and was amputated below the knee. Athena made it through the surgery, but considering her previous misadventure, as well as the fact she was now a special needs dog, the farmer felt that the farm was no longer a safe place for Athena to live.



Athena with foster mom Jeanette

Because of this, he made the tough decision to turn Athena over to a group of women who dedicate themselves to helping Mexican dogs in need make their way to rescues in the US. To her good fortune, Athena landed with Southern Oasis Labrador Rescue, and Jeanette Wahl, SOLR board member with over 20 years of rescue experience, stepped up to foster

Although Athena received the best of care in her foster home, SOLR had even higher hopes for her. The fact that the leg she had lost was a front leg made it much harder for her to relearn walking than

if she had lost a rear leg, due to the heavier weight distribution of the head and shoulders. Going out on a limb, they contacted Hanger Clinic. The innovative orthotics company utilizes the latest technology to create customized prosthetics for (human) amputees. They inquired about whether the rescue might purchase a prosthetic leg for Athena, and Hanger offered to do them one better.

Hanger had never created a canine prosthesis, and jumped at the challenge, offering to make one free of charge. When they met Athena for her first fitting they fell in love, leading to a lifelong commitment to support her prosthetics and fittings pro bono. Athena then began to gain some media attention.

People were so touched by Athena's story, and many showed interest in adopting her. One such couple was David and Margaret Powell. They had lost their cocker Spaniel a few years back and felt ready for another canine companion. David, a Vietnam Veteran, is one hundred percent disabled due to Agent Orange exposure during his deployment. During treatment, he had met a Labrador, and



Athena with her prosthesis

was interested in adopting one of his own. Margaret agreed, so they called foster mom Jeanette to arrange a meet and greet.

Like everyone else who met Athena, the Powells fell immediately in love. They were surprised to find she was so young, considering her calm demeanor. Although they were ready to adopt her, Athena wasn't quite available yet, due to an upcoming prosthetic fitting. David and Margaret were disappointed, but persistent, and just before Thanksgiving, had something new to be thankful for.



David and Athena at home

When she joined the Powell family Athena brought so much joy, the three of them forming a symbiotic bond from the start, but she wasn't always a perfect angel. Despite the missing front leg, Athena did manage a little "counter surfing"; luckily, she's now crate trained. According to the Powells, Athena, "adapts

David, Margaret, and Athena at the Wreaths Accross America event December 2019

very well." This is important in her home life, just as much as in her rehabilitation and prosthesis journey.

Athena is again very lucky in this sense. In addition to her people, David and Margaret, she has her own rehab dream team. This group consists of the people at Hanger, who see Athena once per month, continuing to finetune her prosthesis, as well as Kate Titus, trainer at A Loyal

Companion, and Susan Scott of Sabino Veterinary Care. They all communicate to give Athena the most personalized holistic care possible, facilitating the mobility needed to get out into the community.

Margaret Powell has always wanted to work with therapy dogs and plans on taking Athena through obedience and then therapy dog training. "She brings happiness to people who are down. There's something innate in her," David remarked. Someone who donates his time to helping other disabled vets, David was set to speak at a local Wreaths Across America event remembering and honoring veterans and service members. Along with the Powells, Athena was in attendance, and drew quite the crowd, people asking, "Is this Athena?" As they

spoke with one veteran, he lifted a long pant leg to reveal his own prosthesis, a struggle and triumph he shares with Athena. Perhaps this foreshadows her future work with other amputees.

Athena is named for a goddess who represents many things, notably wisdom, courage, strength and inspiration, and she seems to embody



Athena enjoying her grass spot

all of them perfectly. She reflects the love and care she has been given and will go on to comfort, inspire and encourage others who have gone through a similarly traumatic loss, proving once again, how often the rescued go on to become the rescuers. We commend Athena for her bravery and thank her for her future service.



# Dogs in Blue; The K9 Beat

# Tucson PD's Updated K9 Training Facility Creates World-Class K9 Officers

#### Story and Photos by Brian Pettepiece

The Tucson Police Department recently upgraded their K9 training building to a state-of-the-art training facility replete with useful tools to train and equip their K9 officers with the knowledge and expertise that they need while working in the field. The facility now contains an obstacle course for their dogs to navigate,

several stationary cars to familiarize the dogs with real world activities involving vehicles, and a one-of-a-kind Scent Wall. The Scent Wall helps dogs become familiar with scents that they will need to identify on the job such as narcotics.

Sgt. Paul Sheldon is the Supervisor for the Tucson Police Dept's K9 unit. A twenty-year TPD veteran and former Marine, Sheldon had been a dog handler with the department for ten years before becoming Supervisor for the unit. He's been around dogs his whole life. He oversees not only the training of the new dogs brought into the unit but the budget for the unit and supervised the construction of the updated training facility. Sheldon currently oversees the Dept's nine K9 officers and their handlers, some of which are narcotics trained dogs and some of which are trained in a patrol capacity.

The upgrade to the new facility was made possible by a large donation from a private donor. These funds were allocated specifically for the TPD's K9 unit. They enabled Sheldon to realize the vision that he had been developing since his time as a handler: a facility large enough to accommodate multiple types of training that would help to create world-class working police dogs.

Something that Sheldon is proud of is the fact that the training facility uses strictly positive reinforcement techniques. They practice focused obedience training using tennis balls in a reward-based setting. Sheldon says, "when the dog wants to come back to dad and he wants to do something because dad told him to, then you get a better result." With positive, reward-based training the dogs learn in a positive environment and actually want to keep participating in what they understand simply as play. He says that for the dogs, "everything we do in our training environment is a game" for them.

The large upgraded facility has enough room for multiple dogs to train in different

areas. One of these training areas contains numerous vehicles. These cars are used to help the dogs get acquainted with real-world situations involving vehicles and are an integral part of the training process.



Sgt Paul Sheldon, Supervisor of the TPD K9 Unit in front of the Scent Wall



A barrel full of tennis balls used in their reward-based training in front of the Scent Wall



Some of the unique obstacles that the dogs-in-training must learn to traverse

The obstacle course is complete with obstacles that not only help the dogs become more agile and ready for real world encounters, but also help them to gain physical confidence. One of the more unique obstacles consists of a narrow beam that dogs must traverse. To assist the dogs in the learning process, Sheldon and his team have erected barriers on each side of the narrow beam to help teach the dogs that the goal is to traverse the entire beam. Exercises such as this encourage agility and balance, two skills that can be highly valuable when out working in the field in unpredictable terrain.

Perhaps the most unique part of the new training facility is the Scent Wall. With what might be the largest scent training wall in the nation, dogs learn to distinguish between certain smells that they need to become familiar with in the field. Sheldon says that this scent wall is a fantastic tool and creates dogs that have more focus than he's seen over his entire career working with police dogs. The wall has dozens of tubes that can contain different smells that the dog must search through to identify the correct one. How it works is narcotics and items containing other smells are placed in plastic tubes from the other side of the wall. When the dog finds the smell he is searching for, he alerts to it simply by sitting. Then as a reward, the trainer will push a tennis ball through the tube and the dog gets to play with it. According to Sheldon, this positive reinforcement technique has proved invaluable. It's not just that it helps train the dogs to recognize smells, but it makes the dogs believe that the toy actually originates from the smell. This creates dogs that are intensely focused on scents. Once a dog alerts to the scent, they stare at that spot. Sheldon says that "in the dog's brain they're not looking for narcotics, they're looking for that toy." He says that it's a simple tool, but it helps tremendously by creating a much more focused

The TPD's K9 training facility is really something special and enables the department to create and maintain expertly trained K9 officers, officers whose job it is to assist their humans in the task of keeping our community safe. Their numerous training techniques create dogs that not only love their jobs but also look forward to coming to work every single day.





#### Area Shelters

Animal League of Green Valley Onsite Adoptions 7 days a week – 10a-2p 1600 West Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley 85614 (520) 625-3170 www.talgv.org

HOPE Animal Shelter Onsite Adoptions Mon-Thurs, by appointment Fri-Sat-Sun noon-4p 8950 N. Joplin Ln. Tucson 85742 (520) 792-9200 www.hopeanimalshelter.net

Humane Society of Southern Arizona Main Campus Onsite Adoptions Mon-Sat 11a-6p Sun: noon-5p Closed Major Holidays 635 W. Roger Rd. Tucson 85705 (520) 327-6088 www.hssaz.org

HSSAZ Pawsh @ Park Place Onsite Adoptions Mon-Sat 10a-6p Sunday 11a-5p 5870 E. Broadway Blvd. Tucson 85711 (520) 881-7406

PAWSitively Cats No Kill Shelter Onsite Adoptions Mon-Sat 10a-2p 1145 N. Woodland Ave. Tucson 85712 (520) 289-2747 savecats@PAWSitivelycats.org www.PAWSitivelycats.org

Paws Patrol 750 W. Camino Casa Verde Green Valley 85614 (520) 207-4024 www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org Pima Animal Care Center Onsite Adoptions Weekdays noon-7p Weekends 10a-5p 4000 N. Silverbell Rd. Tucson 85745 (520) 724-5900

Ajo Substation Onsite Adoptions Mon-Wed-Fri 11a-1p Wed 4:30-6:30p 1259 Well Rd. Ajo 85321 (520) 387-7502 Pima Paws for Life
Onsite Adoptions
7 Days A Week
7a-11a & 3p-7p
2555 W. Zinnia Ave.
Tucson 85705
(520) 867-1193
info@pimapawsforlife.org
www.pimapawsforlife.org

The Hermitage Cat Rescue & Sanctuary
Onsite Adoptions
Tues-Sat 10a-5p
5278 E. 21st St.
Tucson 85711
(520) 571-7839
www.hermitagecatshelter.org

#### Local Rescues

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

BARK (BabyAnimal Rescue Koalition) 585 E Wetmore Rd. Tucson 85705 barkntucson@AOL.com facebook.com/BARKTucson/

Central Arizona Animal Rescue Mike@caaronline.org facebook.com/CentralArizona AnimalRescue/ www.caaronline.org

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Coalition of All Breed Rescues Arizona (CABRA) Phoenix arizonaweimaranerrescue@cox.net (623) 931-1428 www.cabra.org

Hard Luck Hounds (520) 261-7677 hardluckhounds.org info@hardluckhounds.org

In the Arms of Angels (520) 873-8135 inthearmsofangels@gmail.com

Lil' Bit Of Love Rescue lilbitofloverescue@gmail.com (520) 869-9537 https://www.facebook.com/ lilbitofloverescue/ http://www.lilbitoflove.com/ Miss Maggie May's Rescue (520) 256-3073 missmaggiemay@cox.net

RAD Rescue Inc.
Rehabbing and Advocating for Dogs
www.radrescueinc.com
radrescueinc@gmail.com

RUFF Rescue www.ruffrescuetucson.com ruffrescuetucson@gmail.com (520) 490-0401 or (520) 339-0841

SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia) (520) 349-8637 or (520) 250-5080 www.safeanimals.com

Save-A-Bull Rescue www.saveabullrescue.org

Saving at Risk Animals (520) 499-0546 www.savingatriskanimals.org

The Sanctuary Project (800) 691-9168

Tucson Cold Wet Noses info@tucsoncoldwetnoses.com www.tucsoncoldwetnoses.com

Tucson2Tails (520) 812-5682 Tucson2Tails@Gmail.com

Tucson's Cause For Canines (520) 283-3423 TucsonCFC@gmail.com facebook.com/TucsonsCFC/ www.tucsoncauseforcanines.org

Wild Hearts Rescue Ranch (520) 661-4522 wildheartsforcrow@gmail.com www.wildheartsrescue.org

#### Bird/Reptile Rescues

Tucson Parrot Rescue (520) 747-0554 tucsonparrotrescue@gmail.com

#### Cat Rescues

Hearts That Purr-Feline Guardians (520) 297-3780

The Hermitage Cat Rescue & Sanctuary 5278 E. 21st St. Tucson 85711 (520) 571-7839

PAWSitively Cats No Kill Shelter-1145 N. Woodland Ave. Tucson 85712 (520) 289-2747 savecats@PAWSitivelycats.org Paws Patrol 750 W. Camino Casa Verde Green Valley 85614 (520) 207-4024

SOS Cat Rescue AZ Cortaro 85652 (520) 445-3889 info@SOScatrescueAZ.org

#### Feral Cat Assistance

Tucson Feral Coalition (520) 256-0443 tucsonferal@gmail.com Info about TNR (Trap, Neuter Return) FREE Spay/Neuter of Feral Cats Low-Cost Spay/Neuter of owned cats

Tucson Rescue Now Adoption Store La Encantada Shopping Center 2905 E Skyline Dr. suite 28 Tucson AZ 85718 Contact John Gilbert 206-718-3309 Store 520 401-1950 and on FB

#### Specific Breed Rescues

#### **AIREDALE**

Southwest Airedale Terrier Rescue Tucson, (800) 688-1402

#### **AKITA**

Akita Advocates Relocation Team Glendale (602) 882-5482

#### **AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG/HEELER**

Arizona Cattle Dog Rescue Flagstaff (480) 442-ACDR(2237) www.ArizonaCattleDogRescue.org

#### **AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD**

Aussie & Friends Payson www.aussiefriendsrescue.com

Amazing Aussie Lethal White Rescue Mesa www.AmazingAussies.com

#### **BASSET HOUND**

AZ Basset Hound Rescue Gilbert (602) 225-7800 www.azbassetrescue.org

#### **BEAGLE**

Southern AZ Beagle Rescue Tucson (520) 247-7720 Information@soazbeaglerescue.com

#### **BELGIAN MALINOIS**

Saving Paws Rescue German Shepherd & Belgian Malinois Rescue Phoenix (480) 737-6089 www.savingpawsrescueaz.com

#### **BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG**

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

#### **BORDER COLLIE**

Arizona Border Collie Rescue (520) 906-0669 www.azbordercollierescue.com

#### **CHIHUAHUA**

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

Chiquita Chihuahua Rescue Small Breeds & Special Needs (480) 299-4349

The Chi Society thechisociety@gmail.com www.thechisociety.org

# COCKER SPANIEL & POMERANIANS

Mostly Cockers & Poms (520) 822-6411 www.mostlycockersandpoms.com

Southwest Collie Rescue www.nmcollierescue.com (520) 896-9075

#### **DACHSHUND**

Dachshunds Only Rescue Serving Statewide (602) 550-4088 www.dachshundsonlyrescue.com

#### **DOBERMAN**

Desert Harbor Doberman Rescue (602) 553-8433 www.azdoberreescue.org

#### **GERMAN SHEPHERD**

For The Love of German Shepherds Rescue Phoenix Phoenix www.4TheLoveOFGS.petfinder.com

Saving Paws Rescue AZ German Shepherd & Belgian Malinois Rescue (480) 737-6089 www.savingpawsrescueaz.com

White German Shepherd Rescue whitegsdrescue@aol.com www.WGSDR.com

#### **GOLDEN RETRIEVER**

Rescue A Golden of AZ (520) 360-4414 tucson@golden-retriever.org

Southern AZ Golden Retriever Rescue Oro Valley contact@sagrr.org (520) 792-4653 www.sagrr.org

#### **GREAT PYRENEES**

Arizona Great Pyrenees Dogs Association www.azpyrs.com

#### **GREYHOUND**

Arizona Greyhound Rescue (520) 866-7411 web@azgreyhoundrescue.org Greyhound Pets of Arizona (877) 454-DOGS (3647) www.gpa-az.com

Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption (520) 955-7421 www.sagreyhoundadoption.org

#### **GREAT DANE**

Dane Haven Inc. Mesa (602) 388-4370 www.danehaveninc.com Great Dane Rescue of AZ Alliance **Phoenix** www.greatedanerescueofazalliance.org

JACK RUSSELL Jack Russell Rescue Scottsdale www.jrtconnection.com

#### **LABRADOR RETRIEVER**

Arizona Labrador & Giant Breed Rescue **Phoenix** (602) 307-LABS www.azlabsandgiants.org

Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue facebook.com/desertlab/ (480) 899-LABS (5227) www.dlrraz.org

Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue 7739 E Broadway #212 Tucson, AZ 85970 (520) 230-2840 solraz.org

#### **MINIATURE PINCHERS**

MinPin Haven Rescue (602) 402-3273 Minpinmom@hotmail.com

#### **PITBULL**

Pittie Me Rescue Gilbert pittiemerescue@gmail.com facebook.com/PittieMeRescue www.pittiemerescue.org

Save-A-Bull Rescue www.saveabullaz.org

Smiling Dog Rescue (520) 997-8000 www.smilingdogrescue.com

Standing Proud Pill Bull Rescue (602) 791-5917 www.standingproudpitbulls.org

#### **POODLE**

Arizona Poodle Rescue (602) 325-1585 www.arizonapoodlerescue.org

Arizona Pug Adoption & Rescue Network (480) 964-3126 www.aparn.org

AZ Pug Life Rescue Society (602) 730-0107

#### ROTTWEILER

AZ Desert Rotti and Pals azdesertrottis@aol.com

#### **SAINT BERNARD**

Arizona Saint Bernard Rescue (480) 951-8495 www.saintrescue.org

#### **SCHNAUZER**

Arizona Schnauzer Rescue, Inc. Chandler www.azchnauzer.org

#### **SHARPEI**

Pei People Shar Pei Rescue Inc. Tucson Adopt@peipeople.com www.peipeople.com

Arizona Sheltie Rescue (520) 896-9075 www.azsheltierescue.com

#### **SIBERIAN HUSKY**

Arizona Siberian Husky Rescue Scottsdale (480) 498-1155 or (480) 288-1914 www.ashra.org

Paw It Forward Husky Rescue (480) 498-1155 or (480) 288-1914

#### WEIMARANER

AZ Weimaraner Rescue www.arizonaweimaranerrescue.com

#### **WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER**

Westie Rescue of Arizona (480) 488-5711

#### **WHIPPET**

WRAP (Whippet Rescue and Placement) (520) 326-2170 whippets@theriver.com

#### YORKSHIRE TERRIER

Yorkshire Terrier Rescue www.yorkiefriendsrescue.com

#### Equine Rescues & Sanctuaries

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary (520) 398-2814 www.equinevoices.org

Equine Encore Foundation (520) 349-6008 cfolch@gmail.com www.equineencorefoundation.org

**HEART** (Happy Equine Acres Rescue & Therapy) Tucson (520) 445-1510 www.heartoftucson.org

Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch & Foundation Inc. (520) 266-0236 HorsenAroundRescue@yahoo.com

Karuna Horse Rescue (520) 243-3267 karunarescue4sanctuary@gmail.com https://www.karunahorserescue.org

Wildhorse Ranch Rescue (866) 926-8007 www.wildhorseranchrescue.com

#### Pig Sanctuary

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary (520) 631-6015 www.ironwoodpigs.org

#### Therapeutic, Therapy & Service Animals

1 Veteran Foundation Service Dogs for Veterans www.1veteranfoundation.org

Handi-Dogs 75 South Montego Dr. Tucson 85710 (520) 326-3412 www.Handi-Dogs.org

Pet Partners of Southern Arizona Therapy Dog Training & Volunteering info@petpartnerssoaz.org www.therapyanimalsaz.org

Equine Assisted Therapy Programs T.R.A.K. (Therapeutic Ranch for Animals and Kids) 3250 E Állen Rd. Tucson 85718 (520) 298-9808 www.traktucson.org

Angels in Autism 4885 S. Houghton Rd. #1 Tucson 85730 (520) 820-3650 www.angelsinautismllc.com



#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

**Pima County Animal Control Services** 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson (520) 724-5900

Pima County Pet Licensing (520) 724-5969

**Town of Marana Animal** Care Services & Pet Licensing (520) 382-8020

**Town of Sahuarita Animal Care Services & Pet Licensing** 

(520) 445-7877 (520) 764-7661

If you have to give up your pet and live in the Town of Marana or Sahuarita (520) 327-6088

**Poison Control Hotline** (855) 764-7661 (24 hrs. day)





# Business Spotlight



# ABC Pet Care Clinic is a Resource Every Pet Owner in Tucson Should Know About

#### Story and Photos by Rebecca West



Receptionist Christina (L) & Office Manager Rachael (R)

How do you improve the lives of domestic animals as a whole? Get your pets fixed and vaccinated; it's as simple as that.

As more and more Americans adopt pets from rescues and shelters, rather than purchasing them from pet stores, the number of animals arriving home already fixed and vaccinated continues to rise. Hip-hip-hooray, right? The problem is that those figures are being countered

on a massive scale via private adoptions on sites like Craigslist and local community bulletin boards bursting with free and low-cost animals that haven't been inoculated or sterilized yet.

Not all, but many of the respondents to the ads are on a budget, making high veterinary bills out of the question. As a result, countless animals will go their

entire lives without the quality care they need, and many will be lucky to get the shots necessary for county tags.

We spoke with owner Shane Traugott and clinic manager Nicole Goyea of ABC (Animal Birth Control) Pet Care Clinics in Tucson about the problems facing pets and their owners and what they can do about them. A lot of it boils down to a lack of education and information regarding resources.



Owner Shane Traugott (L) & Clinic Manager Nicole Goyea (R)

Shane, who always knew she wanted

to work with animals, began her career at the age of 18 as a vet receptionist in California. She then moved to Durango, Colorado, where she assisted in establishing Bakers Bridge Veterinary Clinic. That's where she recognized the vitalness of affordable pet care services. After a stint in Las Vegas as a clinic manager for the Lied Animal Foundation, Shane made her way to Tucson, where



Pet Care Clinic Staff (left to right) Sam, Selena, Kristina, Ray, & Ramon

she fulfilled her dream of opening the first ABC Pet Care Clinic offering low-cost services to all.

The main location, near the northwest corner of Craycroft and 22nd, was established in 2003. Over the next 10 years, two more clinics were opened, one in central Tucson on E. 1st St. and the other on Ajo Way. They've been able to survive all these years without

a non-profit status by doing a brisk business built on Shane's vision to offer quality, yet affordable, medical care. Their efforts have been so successful it's

gained them a loyal following, regularly receiving 4 and 5 stars on review sites.

The Craycroft location, once a spay/neuter clinic only, is now full-service. The central location is just for shots, and the Ajo facility is primarily a wellness center, but vaccinations are available there two days a week. In addition to comprehensive healthcare checkups, wellness services include dentistry,



Exam room

lab work for things like heartworm testing, digital x-rays, various surgical procedures, microchip implants and even nail trimming services.

When asked what she thought the biggest obstacles for pet owners are, Shane immediately identified price as the culprit, reiterating that it was why she opened her clinics.

"Preventative work is super important and affordable. That's the message I'd really like to get across to people," she stated.

We also asked what words of advice she'd give new pet owners and those considering adoption. She replied by saying, "Choose wisely before picking a pet. Do research as far as behavior, exercise needs, costs associated with the

breed and any inherent medical conditions that may be associated with them. So many people don't realize what they're getting themselves into. Also, training and socialization at a young age are hugely important for a happy, well-adjusted life for both the pet and pet owner."

Cost and lack of education aren't the only reasons pet owners aren't getting their animals fixed. A measure of irresponsibility can also be blamed. A common excuse cited by men who own male breeds is that they just can't



Dr. Rice and Kristina

bear the thought of allowing their best buddy to be castrated, saying they couldn't imagine going through it themselves. This rationale is short-sighted.

According to the ASPCA, neutering male dogs prevents testicular cancer and certain prostate issues. It can also improve behavioral issues. Spaying assists in the prevention of uterine infections and breast tumors that are malignant or cancerous in roughly 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying females, before their first heat, offers the best protection from these diseases. Taken as a whole, these findings are all the more reason to get your pets fixed early.

For more information, you can visit them at AnimalBirthControlTucson.com or call the numbers below.

3113 E. 1st St. 520-881-7387 1114 S. Craycroft 520-745-4564 375 W. Ajo Way 520-741-7729



# Celebration of Life



### **Anniversaries with Puck**

#### Story and Photos by JoAnn Tongret

Anniversaries are very personal, and yet, we all can share the universal experience of observing such special moments in our lives. I will wager that you remember the time and place you adopted every dog that has shared your home. I know I do, and those moments become so evocative of the impressions and sensations which filled that chapter of our time on earth.

Years ago, when we had recently lost our old dog Snuff, we just weren't ready emotionally to get another dog. We put it off until the school year was over (we both taught in the Phoenix area) and then in early summer began to look, as we always did, in shelters. Summer wore on and we still couldn't seem to settle on one of the many wonderful dogs that we met. We began to worry we'd not



The One and Only Puck

have much time for our adoptee to become comfortable with us before school started again.

Then, at last, in a small shelter in Mesa, we found the perfect candidate. He was about eight months old and a mix of terrier, perhaps beagle, and who knows what else. He had only been in the shelter for three days. He was found wandering,

dragging a chain that cut into his neck, undernourished, and full of ticks. But now, although surely frightened, confused and recently neutered, he had a noble bearing and a hopeful wag of the tail. We spent about 30 minutes with

him inside the shelter and during that period an aide tested him out with a cat. (At the time we had a beautiful and goofy cat named Bunthorne and wanted to make sure they would get along.) Of course, he passed with flying colors—thank heaven, because my husband and I were already in love with this fellow. Since no one knew his former name, and



**Puck at Halloween** 

since he displayed such courage and humor, we called him Puck, in honor of the mischievous spirit in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream. He would remain forever a gracious, impish, and chivalrous presence.



Alan and Puck hanging out

Our large back yard became a good playground for him. He loved to play Frisbee, and the model we bought for him had an extended handle on the inside so that he carried it around like an ancient shield, rather than by the rim. We nicknamed him "Sparta Dog!"

We did a good deal of traveling within the state; then a big move

to New Jersey for several years (where he didn't mind the snow); and then ultimately back to Arizona, this time to Tucson. Puck was always patient about riding for hours. He enjoyed human company and was also good natured with other dogs. The one great love of his life was a golden Shibu Inu mix named Chloe who lived next door to us.



Puck after a long day

Puck's good nature and courage were most evident during his final illness. He had a neurological issue that eventually affected his movement. It was both painful and bewildering for him. My husband built a ramp so Puck could remain as mobile as possible. He, incredibly, never complained. I do

believe, however, that he often wondered why these tall and powerful humans who obviously cared for him so deeply, who knew when he was hungry, who shared their bed with him, were never powerful enough to help him. A difficult

lesson for us all to learn as we try to reconcile our many failures as humans.

Just as we never knew his name, we never knew his birthday. For reasons I can't recall we decided to celebrate his birthday with mine, in March. And so, a few years ago, just a week after we celebrated our mutual birthdays, our dear Puck was gifted with peace.

He remained noble for the 14 years he spent with us and his spirit is always present, especially now as I offer this poem to celebrate our March anniversary and his well-lived life.



Puck's first snow: What is this?



A Wax Pastel painting of Puck by Alan Tongret

#### VISITNG ROYALTY

Like the duke that he is, he sitsPaws folded with masculine grace,
Tail of indiscreet length tucked carefully round a sturdy haunch.
Like the prince that he is, he sitsOne ear resting near his cheek.
The other, speckled and unlike its mate, is flipped casually outward so as not to miss a responsibility or an opportunity.
Like the king that he is, he sitsBowed legs deceptively aligned in parallel peace,
chin on the sofa pillow.
His morning treat devoured, his mid-day ablutions complete,
his "happy tooth" displayed for one and all to recognize.
Like the friend that he is, he sits-

He sits and waits and dreams and graciously puts all his royal duties aside to lick my hand.

ABC Clinics	Groomingdales
Central Location (520) 881-7387 (Vaccinations) acomaanimalclinictucson.com	Humane Society of Southern Arizona
Acoma Animal Clinic	Intelligent Office
Adobe Veterinary Center	intelligentoffice.com  Kindred Spirits Pet Services
Aimee Alvira, Realtor, Tierra Antiqua Realty pg 19 (520) 834-7738 Aimeealvira@tierraantiqua.com	kindredspirits.pet  Legacy Dog Training Academypg 33
Ann Hoff, Animal Communicator	of Tucson (520) 303-0327 legacydogtucson.com
At-Home-Kennels	McWhirter Veterindary
at-home-kennels.com	No Kill Pima County
Baja Cafépg 19 Broadway (520) 495-4772	nokillpimacounty.org and savethesaveable.com
Campbell - (520) 344-7369 Ina Rd. (520) 989-9156	Northwest Pet Clinic
Barb's Dog Rescue	Old Tucson
Bed & Bagels	Pantano Animal Clinic
Building Bondspg 39 (520) 775-2663 buildingbondstraining.com	Pet Doctor RXpg 47 (520) 829-5166 www.petdoctorx.com
Camp Bow Wow Tucson	Pima Animal Care Centerpg 5 (520) 724-5900 pimaanimalcare.org
CE Photography	Rescue A Golden of Arizona
Central Pet	Sabino Canyon Pet Resort
Central Pet Amado (520) 398-8661 Centralpetaz.com	Shock-Free Coalition
Creature Comforts Pet Resorts	shockfree.org/chapters/arizona
Northwest location (520) 579-5678 creaturecomfortspetresorts.com	Sol Dog Lodge and Training Center pg 38 (520) 345-0075 soldoglodge.com
Desert Pet	Teddy's Dog House Premier Grooming pg 38 (520) 744-1965
Dr. Clean Home Care	teddysdoghouse.com
TheKingofFloorcare.com  Eclectic Cafe	The Animal League of Green Valley pg 37 (520) 625-3170 talgv.org
eclecticcafetucson.com	The Complete Canine
Friends of PACC	completecaninetucson.com
friendsofpacc.org	The Kritter Sitters
Garage Sale Clearance Centerpg 4 (520) 256-1768 garagesaleclearancecenter.com	Call or Text

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