

The
Tucson

September/October 2020

DOG



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

**How Our
Community
Fosters Love**

*This
Publication
FREE
to a
Good Home*

Fostering:
Volunteers
Saving Lives

Traveling
Miles to
Repair a Smile

Doggie News
from Around
the World

True or
False,
Is Animal
Fostering
for You?

*Are you ready to
fall in love over
the internet?*

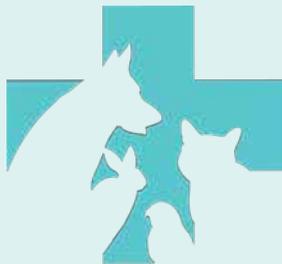


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- 2. Schedule an adoption appointment**
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The Tucson Dog is looking for a Cover Dog for our Holiday edition (Nov/Dec 2020)



Would you love to see your **ADOPTED DOG** on the cover of **The Tucson Dog Magazine!**

So would we! Join the Tucson Dog Magazine for our 2nd Annual Cover Dog Contest.

HERE IS HOW TO ENTER:

1. Dress your dog up in Holiday attire and take a photo.
2. Upload the photo onto our website at thetucsondog.com from September 5th through September 30th.
3. Our panel of judges will choose a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner and prizes will be awarded for each place.
4. The winners will be announced on our website and our facebook page on October 5th. The winner will receive a private photo shoot with with Tucson Dog Magazine cover photographer, Candice Eaton. All entries must be available for photo shoot for the cover picture by appointment between Oct. 6th through the 11th.

For more info go to: www.thetucsondog.com or call (520) 345-2801

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2nd place prize:

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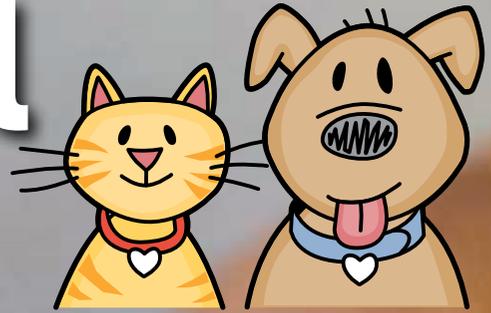


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The Tucson **DOG**

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"Bo" Looking for a foster or forever home.



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COVER STORY
How Our Community Fosters Love

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Volunteers
Saving Lives



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Traveling Miles
to Repair a Smile



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Around the World



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True or False,
Is Animal Fostering
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The Tucson Dog Staff & Writers



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



Heather McShea - Account Executive - Heather is the owner of a local Home Health Care company and often volunteers in helping find new homes for the pets of her hospice patients. She has three rescue dogs of her own but has a constant flow of neighbor dogs stopping by all the time; She calls her house the neighborhood dog park. Heather's love of our most vulnerable populations has lead her to Home Health Care and helping all animals in need. Email: heather@thetucsondog.com



Rebecca West - Staff Writer - Rebecca is a freelance writer and editor for print and digital who loves to travel the globe. A life-long pet owner, she adores animals and has taken part in fostering dogs for military members during deployment. She has given many rescued and surrendered dogs the forever home they always wanted, and her two favorite canine quotes are, "Be the kind of person your dog thinks you are," and "My dog rescued me." Email: nomadshighway@gmail.com



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



Brian W Pettepiece - Staff Writer - Brian has a life-long affection for dogs and has been lucky enough to utilize his passion for canines in his professional life, operating a pet photography studio and participating on the board of animal related charities. Brian is attending the University of Arizona and loves to camp, hike, and generally spend as much time with as many dogs as he can. Email: brian@thetucsondog.com



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 is honored to write 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 4 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 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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THE TUCSON DOG

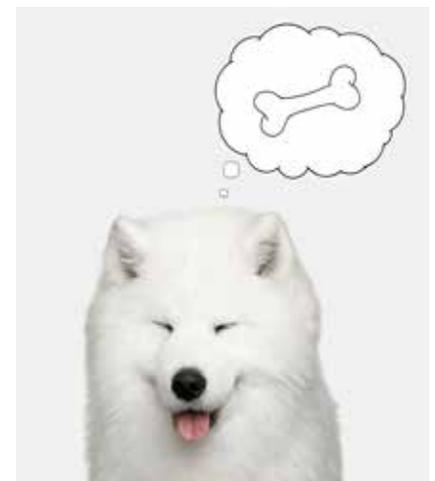
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please send it to
ann@thetucsondog.com**



The Leader of the Pack Speaks!

Dearest Readers,

As we continue with the extreme changes in "life as we know it" I find solace in my beloved Tucson Dog Magazine. It is a source of positive stories of love, hope and compassion and more than ever, I need this right now and I'm guessing you do as well.

The good news of so many animals being fostered and adopted made me think of having a theme for this issue since October is "Adopt A Shelter Dog Month." I thought it appropriate to talk about all the good news and share stories about people doing good things in our community in relation to helping animals get out of the shelter environment into homes through fostering. Many people end up being "foster failures" (yes, I've done it too...lol) and fall in love with their fosters and decide to adopt them! It's a wonderful thing that makes my heart sing every time I hear about it. A shelter (as good as many of them are, filled with loving people who care) is not a place for an animal to live their lives out. They are sentient beings that we brought into our caves many, many years ago and domesticated them. They are precious gifts who have become our "best friends" and they want nothing more than to be part of our family and we need to protect the most vulnerable of them.

And talking about the most vulnerable, in our cover story, we share stories about animals in need and the people who have stepped up to help them find their way into foster care and ultimately loving homes. Our cover dog is "Bo" who has had a very rough start in life and our hope is that Bo will find either a foster or fur-ever home who can give him all the love he deserves. Special thanks to Linda Grissom and Frank Ribeiro who have become Bo's guardian angels and are devoted to his enrichment and care while he waits for that special home. You are amazing humans!

In other stories this issue, we feature more wonderful people who are helping animals through foster care and we hope to inspire some of you who may have the time, space and love to share with more animals in need. On our Shelters, Rescues and Resources page, you will find a listing of many organizations who have dogs and cats for adoption or are available for foster care as well. Please feel free to contact them to get more information and please let us know if we have inspired you to foster or adopt as we may want to do a story about it!

We are very excited to present our 2nd Annual Holiday Cover Dog Contest to you and hope you will all participate. With the current climate in our state, we will be doing it a little bit different than last year and it is very simple to enter your dog. A big thank goes out to our sponsors of the contest, The Humane Society of Southern Arizona, The Complete Canine and Friends of PACC.

See all the information and how to enter on page 4 in this issue. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our 2nd Annual Dogtoberfest & Adopt-a-thon due to COVID in October of this year. This saddens us deeply, but we do have our 3rd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon booked for March of 2021 so we will keep you posted on that situation.

In closing, I would just like to say thank you to all the amazing people who are helping animals during these challenging times. All the shelter and rescue workers, volunteers, fosters and those who can adopt. You are all heroes and our inspiration for continuing to do what we do! And thank you to our advertisers for continuing to support The Tucson Dog and to you, our amazing readers; Please stay healthy and safe!

Love, Light & Laughter,

Ann



Greetings from Gracie

What is Your Dog Saying to You?

Dear Humans,

We dogs are very good communicators if you just watch and listen. In the book, *"What Do Dogs Dream About?"* author, Tom Kuncl looks into the mind of "mankind's best friend." Although he talks about dreams and the history of dogs, he gives some basic information you should know of how your dog is talking to you.

Below are some of the things your dog is saying to you:

"Hi, I'm glad to see you!" – This bark is high-pitched, repeated and followed with lots of tail-wagging and grinning. You probably already know this greeting. It's the one your pet uses when you come home from work or some other outing you have taken.

"Will you play with me?" – When your pup wants to play, he'll lower his two front paws, put his chest down to the ground, flatten his ears and lift his rear in the air. Dog behaviorists call this the "play bow." No one who sees it is able to resist it.

"Stay away!" – A dog warns you of possible danger with a series of low-pitched, frenzied barks that should have you up and investigating immediately.

"I'm scared?" – A scared dog crouches low to the floor, with his head down and ears flat. If he barks at all, it will be an odd sounding howl.

"Something's wrong!" – This type of warning bark is usually accompanied by growling, raised hair on the neck and flattened ears.

"I'm very sad." – We've all heard the expression "puppy dog eyes." There's nothing more heart-wrenching than the sight of those downcast eyes and drooping ears that a dog demonstrates when he's not happy. If your dog is feeling especially unhappy, he may howl. This dog needs attention and a big hug!

"I love you!" – This is the type of "dog-talk" all dog lovers live for. You know it's puppy love when you're greeted with lots of face-licking and tail-wagging. Wolves in packs use face-licking as a sign of affection and trust. When your dog drags his tongue across your face, take it as a compliment and consider yourself one lucky person!

And have you ever seen a dog smile? We do! We grin by pulling back the corners of our lips and baring our teeth. (Please don't make the mistake of confusing a grin with a snarl. If a dog has his mouth pulled back, but is showing his incisor and back teeth, he is most likely snarling.)

I hope you have been enjoying spending quality time with your dogs these days and I'll be back with more tips next time!

Peace, Love & Biscuits

Gracie 

Source: Tom Kuncl, *What Dogs Dream About*

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Now – Sat. Sept., 19th HSSA 50/50 Raffle

Location: Online

Starting August 1st at 9am, HSSA will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for all of the amazing pets in our care! The most exciting part is that by purchasing a raffle ticket, you will be entered to win half of the Cash Jackpot! You read that right! Half of the proceeds will support homeless pets in your community and the other half will go directly into the pockets of one lucky winner! Raffle tickets can be purchased online, at the Thrift Store, Park Place adoption center, and HSSA main campus adoption lobby. For more details go to www.hssaz.org/raffle

Sat. Sept. 19th 12-5p

Family Fun Day

Location: HSSA Main Campus, 635. W. Roger Rd.

Join in for a Family Fun Day at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Enjoy live music by Mr. Nature and Bruce Phillips as well as balloon animals, reading to shelter pets, raffle prizes and more! This is a FREE event is open to you and your family. Pre-registration required! For more information and to register, please visit www.hssaz.org/FamilyFun



OCTOBER

Sat., Oct. 10th and 11th HSSA Puttin' on the Dog Fundraiser

Location: Virtually!

This amazing event is called HSSA's Tail-a-thon and will have all the elements you've come to expect from them - music to dance to, fantastic auction items, and heartwarming stories. But this time, they will bring it to you via your television, computer, tablet or phone. The Tail-a-thon will air on Fox 11 on October 10th at 11a and on KVOA on October 10th at 4pm. It will also be on their social media sites and YouTube channel. So dress up or stay in your pj's, grab your dog, cat or lizard and help raise money for HSSA! For more details go to www.hssaz.org/pod



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A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

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THE ANIMAL LEAGUE OF GREEN VALLEY:
(520) 625-3170 (open daily 10-2)



DOZER

I'm a happy-go-lucky, five-year-old, 65-pound Staffie mix boy who loves people and is always eager to please my humans. I'm leash trained and crate trained and know all basic commands. I'm not destructive when left alone and rarely bark. I crave an active lifestyle with lots of adventures, and I'm ready to be your attentive, loyal companion. Adoption fee: \$85. TALGV (Appointments 10-2) 520-625-3170.



CISCO

I'm a ten-year-old male Mastiff mix who loves to play in water and will fetch my toys for you. I know the commands: sit, lay down, wait, and outside. I'm leash and crate trained, am house trained, and ask to go out. I'm a love-bug, but please no cats! My adoption comes with vet care support for life. Adoption fee: \$85. TALGV (Appointments 10-2) 520-625-3170

Smiling Dog Rescue



ROSCOE

Hi there, I'm a 4 year old, handsome, healthy, boy that would love to be your best hiking buddy! I love to play and will keep you entertained for the rest of my life? I am a real cuddle bug and great with kids and happiest as the only pet. Please fill out an adoption application at smilingdogrescue.com



BABY

"Hi, I'm Baby! I'm 2 years old and I know we're going to be great friends. I'm sweet, easy-going, but I also have a lot of energy to play! Squeaky toys are my favorite!

PACC is currently doing appointment-based scheduling for people interested in adoption. To be contacted for an adoption appointment: pima.gov/adopt or sign up to foster at: pima.gov/foster Pima Animal Care Center, 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900. Monday - Friday, 12pm - 7pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am - 5pm. The dogs on this page have a \$0 adoption fee. A \$20 license fee applies to adult dogs.

SAVANNAH ID# A710622

I am a beautiful 2 yr-old young lady who appreciates human companionship from the people I know. I love my walks and exploring all the smells. I'm a graduate of the Decompression Program for shy and fearful dogs. I'm a sweet little low-rider who has learned a great deal of trust and I am looking forward to meeting my new family. To learn more about Savannah, please email decomfosters@gmail.com

JACK RABBIT ID# A712389

I am joyful, sweet, and ready to brighten someone's day. I am a 10 month old puppy - playful, happy, and bouncy. I'm friendly and eager to explore the world and would love to go to an active family where I can get lots of play time. I'm affectionate and love scratches and pets from my favorite people. I also love to chase a ball and will play fetch with you all day long.



Humane Society of Southern AZ (HSSAZ):
Schedule Apt. by calling (520) 327-6088 ext. 173

TINA

"Hiya! My name is Tina and I'm a fun, wiggly gal who loves to do the zoomies! I love meeting new people, and am friendly with dogs as well!



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Too many items to list - new items come in every day.

The Animal League of Green Valley

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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.

PACC, 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900.

Mon - Fri, 12pm - 7pm. Sat and Sun 10am - 5pm.

The cats for adoption here have a \$0 adoption fee. Adoption includes spay or neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip, and a free vet visit. PACC is currently doing appointment-based scheduling for people interested in adoption. To be contacted for an adoption appointment: pima.gov/adopt or sign up to foster at: pima.gov/foster



JEROME - DSH ID# A708125

I am a laid back 8 yr-old guy who was living in a foster home with cats, dogs, and children. I loved to hang out on the bed and sleep with my foster parents at night. I'm a little bundle of joy who enjoys being petted and catching an afternoon sun puddle near a window.



HOOK - DMH ID# A694906

I am 8 yrs-old and am always calm, cool, and collected. No matter the situation, you'll find me cruising around my surroundings or stretched out on a rug or table pretending to be asleep. I'm a chatty guy and will chirp at you when I want to talk. I have the softest fur and the deepest purr and love to rest on your chest so you can give me scratches! I have diabetes, but I take my insulin like a champ and love my low-carb food.



GERTIE ID# A712860

I am a 10-yr-old sweet little lady who happens to be both blind and deaf. I'm learning to recognize when someone is visiting with the vibrations from taps on my kennel. I would love a calm, stable home where I can acclimate at my own pace.

Humane Society of Southern AZ (HSSAZ). To meet these cats, make an appointment by calling (520) 327-6088 ext 173.



BOO BOO KITTY

Hello friend, my name is Boo Boo Kitty. I'm a pretty laid back girl who really likes to chill in my warm snuggly spots. I'm cute as a button and love being paid attention to.



NASCHA

Hey, I'm Nascha. I'm a bit of a drama queen. Are you a drama queen too? If you're introverted, moody, and a little bit sassy, but also really cool, I think we'd make the best of friends.

THE ANIMAL LEAGUE OF GREEN VALLEY: (520) 625-3170 (open daily 10-2)



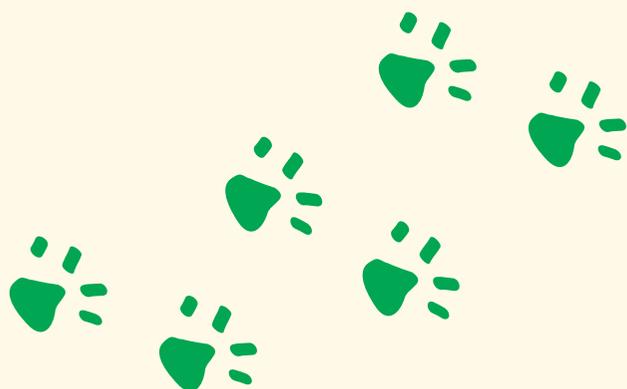
CARLEY

I'm a six-year-old calico lady that needs a nice quiet one-pet home. After dad died, someone thought they were doing a good deed by leaving me outside and feeding me there, but when that didn't work out, I was brought to TALGV. After 18 months at the shelter I'm ready for a new home! Adoption fee: \$45.



GRANOLA

I'm a four-year-old shorthaired tabby lady that likes other felines. A kind lady once adopted me and another shy cat, but since we had each other to "lean on," we didn't make an effort to be the kind of social companions she wanted. If you are an understanding "cat person," would you please give me another chance. Adoption fee: \$45.





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Special Feature

Fostering: Volunteers Saving Lives

Story by Brian Pettepiece Photos by Stacy Vandyke



Santa Cruz County Animal Control Officers found this pup as a stray in Nogales and hoped that someone would claim him but no one did.

It's an unfortunate reality that there are a lot of homeless dogs out there. But it doesn't have to be that way. With the work of local volunteers, dogs in need of homes all around Tucson are getting the break they deserve thanks to a network of dedicated volunteers both in Tucson and the surrounding areas.

Foster programs are all-important when it comes to finding homes for homeless

dogs according to Stacy Vandyke. Vandyke is a volunteer who works with numerous shelters and rescues both in the city and the surrounding rural areas. She helps to transport dogs to and from shelters and rescues and also fosters dogs, personally fostering over 700 over the years. She described the process of finding dogs forever homes as a system of "shelter to foster to adoption". Each of three components are important but fostering makes up a large portion of the process. Because shelters have limited space, foster homes make up the difference, giving the dog more time to find their forever home, sometimes saving their lives.

It's important to delineate the difference between a "shelter" and a "rescue". Shelters typically have a physical space to hold dogs, with a building and kennels, and, in the case of some larger shelters, grants or public funding. Rescues are different. They typically aren't staffed by paid employees but volunteers who have other full-time jobs and operate their rescue out of the goodness of their hearts and their love of animals.

Here in Tucson there are a myriad of shelters and rescues doing important work such as locating homeless dogs, relocating dogs from overcrowded shelters, and placing dogs in temporary foster homes. One such organization is RAD Rescue. RAD doesn't have a physical location, rather they are a network of people who work at the logistics of getting homeless dogs in need into foster homes.

Haley Clauges is one of three members operating RAD. They currently have a regular network of about fifteen to twenty volunteers who foster dogs that need a temporary home for a few weeks to a few months. Because there are so many animals in need, Clauges said that "we're always networking for new fosters." She said that even having a few extra volunteers can make a huge difference and can literally mean the difference between life and death for some dogs. Emphasizing the importance of fostering, Clauges stated that "what dogs we



He was accepted by Hope of Deliverance, received medical care, and settled into his new foster home.

can save is solely dependent on if we have a foster for them or not."

During the pandemic and shutdown, you may have heard that many shelters were emptying out of dogs. That's good news and there were a lot of adoptions happening during that time. But according to Clauges, other factors were at play as well. She said that there aren't actually less dogs on the streets during the pandemic. But a lot of shelters are limiting their intake during this time. With some shelters unable to accept more dogs because of staffing or limited hours, some of them have increased their outsourcing of dogs to smaller rescues. This makes the work that rescues do and fostering in general so important right now.

Fostering has so many benefits. Not only does it get the dog out of the shelter where, in the case of smaller shelters, they may not have access to adequate veterinary care or may be euthanized, but it allows the dogs' foster caregivers to observe them and learn about any health or behavior issues they may have. That's what makes fostering so crucial according to Bree Kishman of Hope of Deliverance, another local rescue helping dogs in the Tucson area. You can really get to know the dog and learn about any idiosyncrasies that need to be worked on, like learning if the dog is good with kids or cats or does better in a multiple or single dog home. These are things that may not be known while a dog is in a possibly chaotic shelter environment. With fostering, the personality traits of each dog can be understood and that's important when it comes to placing dogs in their forever homes. Through foster care, the best type of home for each dog can be identified and this increases the chances of them settling in nicely into their new forever home.

Small rescues such as RAD don't receive public funding but operate purely on donations. These donations go toward paying for medical care and food in their network of foster homes. To learn more about becoming a foster dog parent or even just to make a donation, here are just a few local organizations who are making a huge difference in dogs' lives:

RAD Rescue – www.radrescueinc.org
The Big Mutt Network – www.thebigmuttnetwork.org – (520) 348-6100
Hope of Deliverance – hopeofdeliverance.org – (330) 647-9963



Despite not having a vet on staff, they shaved him and checked for wounds.



His foster family named him Seamus and actually ended up adopting him after falling in love with him.



Give the Gift of Life

Your gift to Friends of Pima Animal Care Center saves lives. Make a donation to homeless pets, today!



www.friendsofpacc.org

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How Our Community Fosters Love

Story by Bella Wexler Photos by Candice Eaton

It's not easy to open your home to a stranger, especially during a global pandemic. But these days, many are finding it harder to resist—at least when those strangers walk in on four legs with wagging tails and soulful, “puppy-dog” eyes. In a time when receding into our houses for months is not only socially acceptable, but conditionally mandated, people across the country are rising to the occasion by taking homeless pets with them. Animal rescues are seeing unprecedented waves of foster applications, teenagers are trying their hands at temporary pet parenting, and once overflowing shelter kennels are bare for the very first time.

But why flock to take on the responsibility of a foster pet during such a stressful time? For one thing, animals can provide some much needed comfort in the face of uncertainty. There has undoubtedly been significant societal upheaval as a result of COVID-19, landing much distress on the shoulders of Arizonans these past few months. Teenagers confined to their homes by school closures have found fostering to be an excellent means of combatting boredom and isolation.

This is the case for Shira Dubin, a University High School student who recently took in a foster dog named Luna for three weeks. Shira chose to see her time at



Shira holds her foster dog, Luna.
Photo courtesy of Shira Dubin

home as an opportunity to “be able to take care of a dog’s every want and need”. Having fostered three puppies with her family a few years ago, she was thrilled to spend her extra free time at home caring for Luna. “By fostering and adopting out a dog, you are able to help someone who is maybe going through a hard time or someone who just wants a friend,” Shira notes. It is sad for Shira to watch her foster pets leave once they have been adopted, “but the happiness shines so brightly that it makes you want to do it over and over again,” she says. It is an incredibly rewarding experience on both ends.

Shira Dubin isn't the only teen with her hands full of Summer foster pets. Lily

Wexler is a 19-year-old University of Arizona student who has been fostering pets since she was very young. When the COVID-19 pandemic made it too dangerous for her to return to her Summer job as an advocate for campers with special needs at the Jewish Community Center, Lily chose to take on a new job from her bedroom. Lily welcomed a pregnant foster dog named Olive through the local In the Arms of Angels pet rescue. Within a few weeks, Olive had given birth to six puppies that Lily had been caring for until they were eight weeks old and ready to find a forever home. “It’s a lot of work and it’s stressful,” Lily admits, “but having this responsibility definitely helps me learn and grow as a person”. Lily also struggles with anxiety and finds that devoting herself to foster care during this pandemic has really lightened her mood.

Many others have applied to foster at this time to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on shelter and rescue systems. Animals in foster care through The



Lily cuddles foster pup named Cow.
Photo courtesy of Lily Wexler

Animal League of Green Valley used to make up a very small portion of the shelter’s pets. Only a handful of dogs and very few cats (excluding the occasional young litter) were ever fostered before being adopted according to organization president, Kim Eisele.

Once the pandemic hit, however, the shelter was swarmed with two to three times the number of foster applications that they normally saw. These offers from concerned members of the community came in addition to those of regular shelter volunteers. In fact, the attention was so overwhelming that TALGV found themselves

turning people away. “Unfortunately, we did not have enough dogs to fit all of their desires,” says Eisele, “but the outpouring of love to help our animals was very exciting”.

As an avid foster parent herself, Kim Eisele knows firsthand how significant the benefits of lending one’s home to an animal in need can be. On the one hand, “it is extremely gratifying”. She and her husband fostered a litter of kittens for eight weeks once, finding the experience to be a true highlight of their marriage. “Watching them grow and learn and play was so much fun!” she recalls. Her tendency to fall in love with her foster pets and ultimately adopt them has made her somewhat of a “foster failure”, though. To date, she has adopted five of her prior fosters: two dogs and three kittens.

Besides the irresistible affection that fostering brings to the human caregivers, there are also many benefits for the pets, too. Kim Eisele mentions that fostering has been known to have “a very positive impact on the pet’s adoptability”. Spending time in someone’s home provides excellent insight into the animal’s personality, behavioral qualities, and compatibility with different environments, pets, and people.

Take Bo, for example. Bo is a six-year-old, brown spotted pit bull terrier who loves nothing more than a good run, trip to the mall, and eager belly rub. After being returned to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona by his first adopters for not getting along with their other pets, it became clear that Bo would need to find a home wherein he could be the only dog.

Bo was originally brought to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona towards the end of 2019. After receiving some medical care to remedy his injuries from past abuse, Bo met Frank Ribeiro, a volunteer who would become one of his most loyal devotees. Frank immediately fell in love with Bo’s affectionate, energetic demeanor.

Bo faced significant trauma in his life before being rescued, triggering his fear-driven apprehension towards other dogs.

However, compassionate humans in his life have never been the targets of these reactions. Bo was even brought to Ruff House Training and Behavioral Modification to assess his ability to be a thriving and safe household pet. He quickly won over the business owners, Crystal and Michael Blaker. Without other dogs around, Bo was known for happily flopping over at the sight of the Blakers' six-year-old daughter, Lauren, to allow her to smother him with cuddles and pets on his freckled belly. Needless to say, Bo passed the Ruff House Training exams with flying colors.



Bo with 6-year-old Lauren Photo by Crystal Blaker

It was while he was training in this facility that Bo stole the heart of Linda Grissom, his next guardian angel. "I was amazed," Linda said of her first meeting with Bo; "he warmed up to me right away". Linda and her husband Tom are Humane Society donors and all-around animal lovers. She and Frank connected over their shared love of Bo and have since joined forces to advocate on his behalf.

In the absence of any forthcoming foster families who don't already have other dogs at home, Linda and Frank have been working tirelessly to sustain Bo's boarding at Sol Dog Lodge and Training Center.

"He actually has a fan club," Linda says in reference to the many Humane Society of Southern Arizona volunteers who pay Bo frequent visits. At Sol Dog, Bo's visitors treat him to some well-needed socialization, long walks, and windowshopping!

Every week, Linda brings him along for a walk at the Tucson Mall to gain more public exposure. Aptly named "Bo's shopping day", Tuesdays are a great time for Bo's curiosity and approachability to shine through. The added exercise has also proven to be a good way to make up for his strong appetite. When Frank brought a steak as a special treat for him, Bo gobbled it up in fifteen seconds flat! Bo is now at a healthy weight, though, thanks to his long walks, playful running, and an occasional visit to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona New Beginnings agility yard!

Bo is an affectionate, energetic dog in need of a full-time foster family or adopter in a one dog household. As shelters and rescues are flooded with eager fosters with specific requests, we must remember the animals in our community who are most desperate, just as Linda and Frank have been doing to provide for Bo this year. Bo is still waiting to be someone's perfect dog and qualifying fosters/adopters should not be deterred by his past trauma and resulting intolerance



Frank gives Bo a belly rub



Bo on the run

for other dogs. At the end of the day, Bo has proven to be very loving and deserving of a forever home; it's up to our community to find one for him.

Over the past few months, we have been forced to find unity six feet apart and emotional connectivity through surgical masks. Rather than use social distancing as an excuse to dissociate from others in need, Arizonan animal lovers have used it as an opportunity to connect. We have offered sanctuary to homeless pets at record high rates despite the uncertainties of our own futures; teens like Shira and Lily have remedied anxiety and boredom with volunteer care for animals in need; shelter volunteers such as those at The Animal League of Green Valley have worked tirelessly to continue adoptions and pair foster families with ideal foster pets; and community members like Frank and Linda have refused to allow vulnerable dogs like Bo to be left behind over time.

Social distancing has drawn community values into focus for Arizonans, and at the forefront of these are empathy and patience. We've come a long way to support homeless animals during this time of unprecedented need. But there's still a long way to go. Loving pets like Bo are still waiting for an ideal foster family and forever home. If you haven't already, please open your home to a stranger on four legs. You may be surprised by the life altering connections you can build even while social distancing.



Bo still needs a home, see contact info for Frank Ribeiro to volunteer

For more information about applying to foster or adopt Bo, please text Frank Ribeiro at 520-309-1634

For information about volunteering, fostering, and/or adopting pets through The Animal League of Green Valley, please visit <http://www.talgv.org>

From the Director's Desk

Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Story by Steve Farley Photos Courtesy of HSSAZ

Here in Tucson it may be nearly autumn but it still feels like the dog days. I don't have to tell you it's been a rough summer in a lot of ways. But no matter how much we are dealing with as a society right now, the good news is that our community has stepped up to support homeless pets like never before.

At the Humane Society of Southern Arizona we take our mission seriously to protect pets and the people who love them, accordingly adjusting how we do business to carry out that mission while keeping everyone safe during the pandemic. We require face coverings for everyone who works at and visits our facilities, limit the numbers of people in our indoor spaces at any given time, sanitize everything, and have moved to adoptions by appointment only at our Roger Road campus.

One might think that would decrease the numbers of pets and people we can serve, but thanks to the creativity and dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the generosity and passion of our donors and the public, **we actually found forever homes for more homeless pets in June than in any other June since 2016.**

If you would like to provide a loving home for an amazing companion for life, please check out who's waiting for you at [HSSAZ.org/adoptions](https://www.hssaz.org/adoptions) and make an appointment to meet your new best friend by calling 520-327-6088, ext. 173.

Foster Volunteers

Speaking of dedication, our Foster Care volunteers have been coming through for pets big time throughout puppy and kitten season. We've consistently cared for around 150 companion animals in foster care at any given time over the last couple of months, assuring the wellbeing of our most vulnerable pets.

Ariel was found on the streets of Tucson and upon examination we found that she was ready to go into labor at any moment. She gave birth to 6 puppies that night in comfort and safety. This proud mama dog is currently being cared for by a loving HSSA foster family. We couldn't continue to save lives like those of Ariel and her pups without our first-rate fosters. Won't you consider the rewards of hosting a vulnerable dog in your home? For more info on becoming a foster, visit [HSSAZ.org/volunteer](https://www.hssaz.org/volunteer)

Wellness Clinic

Our Wellness Clinic is also working hard to make sure that every pet in our community can get excellent health care, even if their family has fallen on hard times. If you have seen a drop in your income and would like to make an appointment, please call 520-881-0321. We also are continuing to offer low-cost

vaccinations and are rolling out our new low-cost dental care for your pet. For more information on those and other services, visit [HSSAZ.org/clinic](https://www.hssaz.org/clinic).

Puttin' On the Dog

I know many of you each year look forward to our "Best of Tucson" award-winning annual gala Puttin' On the Dog, the only gala in town where you can bring your dog to share in the fun. You may be aware that the pandemic forced us to initially postpone from April to October. Well, COVID hasn't been fully defeated yet, so in order to assure the safety of our supporters we have made the sad decision to cancel the live event entirely this year.

But don't be too sad - in place of the live event we are planning a fantastic and entertaining socially distant alternative about which we are really excited: an hour-long TV program featuring HSSA and our programs, inspirational pet stories, an amazing auction, celebrity surprise appearances, and great performances from local musicians!

HSSA's "Tail-a-thon" will be broadcast on multiple local TV stations on October 10th and 11th. Based on my knowledge of what's in store, this is really going to be fun, and hopefully will help us recover some of the financial losses our core programs have sustained due to the cancellation of our major annual fundraiser. Mark it in your calendar TODAY and be sure to visit [HSSAZ.org/TailAThon](https://www.hssaz.org/TailAThon) for all the details.

Proceeds will benefit HSSA's general operations and the lifesaving Second Chance Medical Fund which really needs our help now more than ever. To learn more and to become a Tail-a-thon program sponsor as a business, please email Christophe at cvalton@hssaz.org. And if you'd like to donate right now to help us in advance, please visit [HSSAZ.org/donate](https://www.hssaz.org/donate)

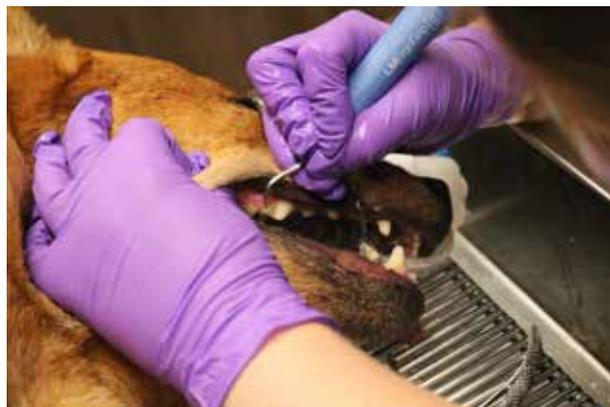
50/50 Raffle

HSSA's first ever 50/50 raffle is happening now, and if you buy a ticket before September 19th, YOU could walk away with a bunch of cash while helping homeless pets. That's right - one lucky winner will split the entire pot with HSSA.

The winner will be announced on September 19th at 4pm. Our generous sponsor Orange Paws started us off with \$1,000 and people have been buying a whole lot of tickets already, so the winner will receive thousands! This is a win-win for all. To see how much the total jackpot is right now and to buy tickets, visit [HSSAZ.org/raffle](https://www.hssaz.org/raffle) before it's too late!



It's kitten season and HSSA needs fosters like you



HSSA's Wellness Clinic now offering dental appointments and more



Support is needed for HSSA's Second Chance Medical Fund

—

Thanks again for reading our Director's Report and all the support you offer for our vital services - we look forward to seeing you at our shelter one of these days!

Shelters, Rescues & Resources

SEE FULL LIST ON WEBSITE
TheTucsonDog.com

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

Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
(520) 616-0171
Cherishedtails@yahoo.com
Visit us on Facebook

Cochise Canine Rescue
Pomerene 85627
(520) 212-1718
info@cochisecaninerescue.org
www.cochisecaninerescue.org

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
missmaggimay@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/TucsonCFC/
www.tucsoncauseforcanines.org

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

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

Bird/Reptile Rescues

Forever Wild Avian Sanctuary
8605 S. Craycroft Rd., Tucson
(520) 574-3579

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

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
Gilbert
(866) 926-8007
www.wildhorseranchrescue.com

Pig Sanctuary

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

Traveling Miles to Repair a Smile

After five months and three major dental surgeries, and thanks to the help of Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary, Lilly finds a home.

Story by Emily Dieckman



Lilly was in poor condition when she first came to Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary (Photo courtesy of Leticia Reyna)

Leticia Reyna's heart broke when she first saw a photo of Lilly, a dog staying at an animal shelter in Hermosillo, Mexico. Lilly was so thin that you could count her ribs, she had worms, and it looked like she had a broken nose. The shelter found her on the street, crying, and it seemed to them her puppies had been taken away from her. Their guess was she was about 8 years old.

Reyna turned to Pauline Haas-Vaughn, the director of Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary, a Tucson rescue that provides homes for senior dogs and middle-aged dogs with medical conditions, founded in 2017. Pauline agreed to sponsor Lilly's medical bills if Reyna fostered her until she found a permanent home.

Once she made it to the United States, Lilly's situation turned out to be even more complicated than they expected. She was a survivor of distemper, a highly contagious, often fatal viral disease that affects multiple organs. She also had tick fever. The first veterinarian they met took a look at her teeth, and said she was probably only 5 or 6 years old but looked older because of her health issues. But her teeth were also in poor condition, so they did an x-ray.

"What we found out was she basically had no hard palette, and she had all these big huge holes between her nasal cavity and her mouth, so bacteria was getting in and food was getting back and forth," Haas-Vaughn explained. "It was probably the result of the distemper. The distemper really eats away at their teeth and their bones."

They turned to Rocco Mele, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at VCA Valley Animal Hospital and Emergency Center, who agreed to take care of Lilly, by removing her teeth and performing surgery to close up the holes in her mouth. Her skin was so fragile and sensitive that one of the holes reopened, so, after she'd healed from her first surgery, she had a second one. Haas-Vaughn said that, while there were times Lilly had less energy than others, she always had a sweet temperament, and got along with other animals and people of all ages.

"She was so sweet through the entire time," Reyna agreed. "It seems like she knew she was in a better place, and she was very grateful. She was nothing but love."



Lilly loved playing with the puppies staying at her foster home (Photo courtesy of Leticia Reyna)

The surgery brought Lilly one step closer to healing, but some of the sutures still weren't closing. Mele, who co-authored the book "Dental Implants for Small Animals" and has spent many years devoted to advanced veterinary dentistry, offered to try out a new kind of dental surgery that he believed would help. The third time was the charm: after five months, three major dental surgeries and about \$5,000, Lilly's mouth was healed.

A Garden of Lillys

In the midst of all this, Tucson resident Karen Johnson saw Lilly on PetFinder and fell in love. She and her husband Bob had lost their dog about a year and a half earlier, and they were starting to think they might be ready for a new one. Karen



Lilly getting comfortable in her new fur-ever home (Photo courtesy of Karen Johnson)

knew exactly which dog she wanted to check out first when they did commit to getting a new one. At their meet and greet with Lilly, Bob fell even harder than Karen did.

"Once we met her, we thought, 'This is our dog,'" Karen said.

Lilly was in between her second and third surgery when they first met her, but they agreed to adopt her, and took her home in late July after her last surgery.

Lilly fit right in at the Johnson's house. In fact, there are several other dogs in their neighborhood named Lilly, so they augmented her name to "Lilly Girl" to avoid confusion. Karen has developed a special method

for feeding Lilly: forming her wet food into little balls, like cookie dough, and arranging it around the edges of a plate. This helps Lilly get her narrow muzzle around individual bites and not mush her nose into the food.

Bob loves the way she's become so comfortable around them so quickly, and how she follows Karen around like a shadow. Karen loves waking up in the morning and hearing Bob in the kitchen, making coffee and talking to Lilly Girl.

"I just heard that and thought life is normal. Life is the way it should be. We have our Lilly Girl, and she's part of the family," Karen said. "I wake up and there's just pure joy because we have her."



Lilly was a trooper throughout the recovery of her surgeries (Photo courtesy of Leticia Reyna)



Lilly at home with one of her new owners, Bob Johnson (photo courtesy of Karen Johnson)

Welcome to Rainbow Bridge

In Memorandum: Many of you have read the story of Rainbow Bridge. It tells the story of where our pets go when they die and how they will be waiting for us to arrive when it is our time. A while ago, we found another version of this story as it relates to the tragedy of September 11th 2001. Welcome at Rainbow Bridge is the true epitome of the loving, forgiving nature of our beloved pets. In Memorandum of all that was lost on 9/11. May we never forget!

Story by Alexander Theodore Bovier

On the morning of September 11, 2001, there was an unprecedented amount of activity at the Rainbow Bridge. Decisions had to be made. They had to be made quickly, and, they were.

An issue, not often addressed here, is the fact that many residents really have no loved one for whom to wait. Think of the pups that lived and died in hideous puppy mills. No one on earth loved or protected them. What about the many who spend unhappy lives tied in backyards? And, ones who were abused. Who are they to wait for?

We don't talk about that much up here. We share our loved ones as they arrive, happy to do so. But we all know there is nothing like having your very own person who thinks you are the most special pup in the Heavens.



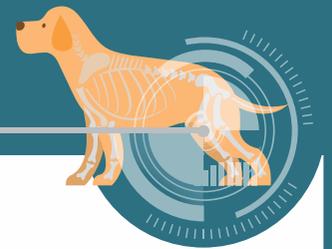
Last Tuesday morning a request rang out for pups not waiting for specific persons to volunteer for special assignment... An eager, curious crowd surged excitedly forward, each pup wondering what the assignment would be.

They were told by a solemn voice that unexpectedly, all at once, thousands of loving people had left earth long before they were ready. All the pups, as all pups do, felt the humans' pain deep in their own hearts. Without hearing more, there was a clamoring among them- "May I have one to comfort?" "I'll take two, I have a big heart." "I have been saving kisses forever."

One after another they came forward begging for assignment. One cozy-looking fluffy pup hesitantly asked. "Are there any children coming? I would be very comforting for a child 'cause I'm soft and squishy and I always wanted to be hugged." A group of Dalmatians came forward asking to meet the Firefighters and be their friends. The larger working breeds offered to greet the Police Officers and make them feel at home. Little dogs volunteered to do what they do best, cuddle and kiss. Dogs who on Earth had never had a kind work or a pat on the head, stepped forward and said, "I will love any human who needs love."

Then all the dogs, wherever on Earth they originally came from, rushed to the Rainbow Bridge and stood waiting, overflowing with love to share-each tail wagging an American Flag.

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Doggie News

From Around the World

Story by Barbara Berlier

Caught Red Pawed

(facebook)

You cannot blame a dog for trying—and certainly not when they sound super cute. “My significant other and I had been trying to teach our dog to make less of a mess in our house—specifically, to not pull toilet paper off the roll,” wrote Reddit user ringofstones. “We weren’t sure we’d been making any headway until one day we came home to find that while we’d been out, about two feet of toilet paper had been unrolled...and then somehow rolled back up sloppily. All I can imagine is her playing with it happily, hearing us at the door, thinking, ‘Oh, crap!’ and trying to fix her mess. It was actually pretty impressive.”



“As soon as it started, I went outside to call him in. ... He ran around for the entirety of the hailstorm trying to dodge the hail, not listening to my command to come inside. He just ran around for 10 minutes and yelped every now and again when a hailstone caught him the right way. Even after it was over, he would not come inside. I didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.”

Embarrassed’ St. Bernard Rescued by Team Of 16 From England’s Tallest Mountain

(AZ Family)

The 121-pound pooch feels “a bit guilty” for letting down the image of her St. Bernard cousins, her rescuers joked.

Daisy the St. Bernard is apparently feeling a little “embarrassed” after she was the subject of a five-hour rescue mission during her descent from England’s highest peak, according to her rescuers.

The 121-pound pooch comes from a working breed that has, for centuries, been known for its prowess in alpine rescues. But on this occasion, it was Daisy who needed saving, after she collapsed while descending from the summit of Scafell Pike in England’s northwest on Friday during a hike with her owners. She was displaying signs of pain in her rear legs and refusing to move, the Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team said in a Facebook post about the mission. After Daisy’s owners contacted authorities, a 16-person rescue team was mobilized to help bring her to safety, armed with medical guidance from local veterinarians.

Walking on Water

(facebook)

“I had a dog that liked to lick the built-up ice in the freezer every time we opened the door,” Reddit user Pondglow wrote. “Got his tongue stuck regularly. Always went back for more.” But that’s is not even the hilarious part.



“The first time we took him to a lake, he got so excited that he just ran in without knowing what it was. ‘Oh, water!’ Okay, not phased. Keeps running toward the middle. We thought he would start to swim. Or at least float. Still, don’t understand how he didn’t. But he ran along the bottom of that lake and just disappeared under the water. ... My dad had to go in and carry him out.”



“On reaching their location, team members carefully introduced themselves to Daisy so as not to cause any additional distress, and with the help of a treat or two members were able to assess her condition and administer analgesia for the pain,” the group wrote.

After “a little persuasion,” some more treats and rearrangement of a stretcher to be more dog-friendly, the rescue team said they were able to carry the St. Bernard down the mountain on a rescue litter, similar to the typical evacuation of an adult person.

Thanks to the cooperation of Daisy, who was “so well behaved” throughout the process, the rescue went smoothly. She “has since been reported to have had a good night’s sleep, snoring a little louder than normal, but back to her usual high spirits this morning,” the rescue group said.

“She apparently feels a bit guilty and slightly embarrassed about letting down the image of her cousins bouncing across the Alpine snows with barrels of brandy around their necks”

A Very Punctual Puppy

(facebook)

When Reddit user opkc changed her afternoon routine once, her dog was not having it. “My dog, Libby, rides with me to pick up my kids from school, and she knows exactly what time we leave. The kids had an after-school activity, so I needed to pick them up an hour later than usual. When we didn’t leave at the normal time, she started whining at me. Then barking. Then she swatted my shoe with her paw, hard, so it flew and hit me. She threw my shoe at me!” Libby sounds like a Real Dogwife of New Jersey.



One Hail of a Puppy

(facebook)

Most dogs would do absolutely anything to avoid the hail, but not Reddit user choirboy17’s pup. “The first month I had my dog, Howie, we had a pretty bad hailstorm,” Howie’s owner wrote.



True or False, Is Animal Fostering for You?

Story by Rebecca West Photos by Candice Eaton



Hook 8 y/o PACC A#694906

Have you considered animal fostering but you're not quite sure if it's suitable for your particular circumstances? There are a lot of inaccuracies and misconceptions when it comes to the subject, so we've put together a quick quiz to help you sort through the truths and falsehoods behind it. You might be surprised at the results, and hopefully, it leads to your ability to open your humble abode to a deserving animal that desperately needs your help until a forever home comes along.

1. Animal fostering isn't suited for everyone.

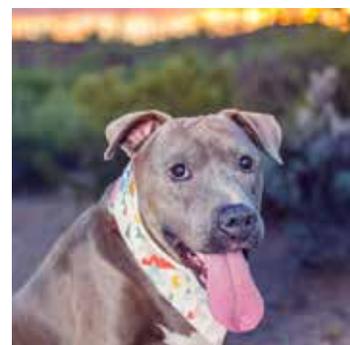
The answer is **True**. You have to be an animal lover for it to work for both you and the pet.

2. Fostering pets is difficult and time-consuming.

The answer to the first part is **False**, it's really not hard at all. Your biggest output in time and energy is love, and as a pet lover, you'll likely enjoy it. As to the second part, it's only time-consuming if you decide to make it complex, or you choose a special needs pet that frequently requires scheduled medications or complicated feedings. If you're retired or work from home, it shouldn't be an obstacle. If your time is limited, you can still foster an animal without health or behavioral issues.

3. Fostering is expensive and I wouldn't be able to afford it.

False, unless you want to go overboard on fancy toys, bedding, treats, etc. That's up to you, but in general, the basic supplies you'll need to properly care for the animal are provided by many rescue groups, but not all. If finances are a concern, it's vital that you inquire with the group you're debating fostering through. With PACC, for instance, you are responsible for providing food, toys, and a safe environment.



Seline 10 y/o PACC A#635596

4. You'll be paired with whichever animal needs fostering.

False. If puppies or kittens careening around with mom is out of the question, that's not a problem. When you apply to foster you will be asked what your situation is and you can opt to care for an adult animal, or even a senior if you prefer to house a less active pet.

5. A lot of room is required for fostering pets.

Nope, that's **False**, too. Sure, if you want to take on a Great Dane or an English sheepdog, you'll need a yard to play in and the time to walk the animal. But very often rescue groups need help with smaller pets, those that require a quiet safe space, or senior pets that just want a comfy pillow tucked in a corner to curl up and nap on. Additionally, cats aren't fostered or adopted at near the rate canines are, and they don't require hardly any room at all.

6. Home inspections are rigid and many people don't pass/qualify.

That is predominantly **False**. While home inspections for fostering and adoptions are thorough, the purpose is to make sure everything you've represented to them in the application is accurate for the sake of the animal and a successful fostering experience. They're not coming out to check your bathrooms or kitchen for cleanliness. They just want to get a feel for you and the atmosphere the pet will be cared for in.



Cozi 5 y/o PACC A#695900

7. Homes with young children are ideal for younger pets.

That is actually **False** more often than not, but it largely depends on just how young your kids are and their maturity levels. Very small children should not be left alone with pets who are juveniles themselves, for they may inadvertently harm them without intending to. Oftentimes older pets are much more suited to kids for the fact that they're usually more patient and gentler with children, but even they shouldn't be left alone with tots. The rescue you're working with will advise you if your particular situation is a good fit or not.

8. Fostering pets requiring medical attention is on your dime.

Again, that is **False**. If you're willing to be a caregiver to an animal who is recuperating from an illness or injury and in need of treatment or medications the foster group should be providing that at no charge to you.



Sweet 3 y/o HSSA ID#891064
Needs Fostering

9. Foster parents are responsible for finding adoptive parents.

False. While the facility you're working with will regularly search for ideal candidates, they will also intermittently hold adoption events, where the animals have the best chance of being placed in forever homes. In most cases, you are responsible for transporting them to and from such events, but you're not obligated to attend. Bear in mind that it could take a lot longer to permanently home the animal if you don't.

10. Current household pets must be up to date on vaccines and spayed/neutered.

That's absolutely **True**. If you have pets and are considering fostering, your household pets must be current on their vaccinations and fixed before you're able to bring a foster animal into the home. This is for everyone's safety.

Be sure to get all of the facts from the groups you're contemplating working with, as guidelines can vary.

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