

The Tucson

November/December 2020



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

And the Winner is... Anastasia!

Cody's Friends In Need of Holiday Donations

Golden Retriever Rescue Starfish Award Winner

Kids & Animals: Online Learning's Newest Additions

A Titan-Sized Success Story

Urgent: Norville Needs a Home

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The Tucson Dog 2nd Annual Holiday Cover Dog Contest



Thank you to our sponsors and all of our contestants.
We have included some of our favorite photos here and throughout the magazine.



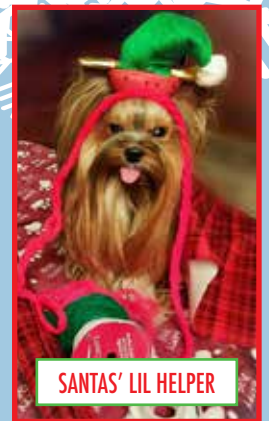
PROUD TO BE THE TREE



MOUNT BIGELOW
WINTER



THE CHRISTMAS CHARCO



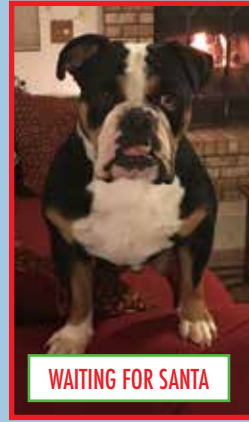
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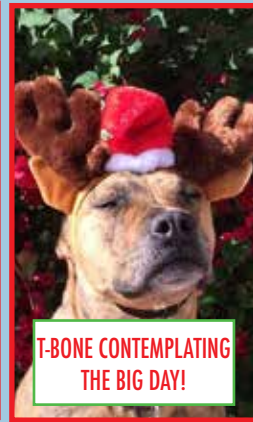
LUNA
THE PUMPKIN QUEEN



HI AND
MERRY CHRISTMAS



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FROM THE GRINCH WHO
STOLE CHRISTMAS



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
CHLOE AND ANGEL



SANTA'S MISSING
REINDEER RISKY



SPARTY THE REINDEER



HOLIDAY
WHO-BE WHAT-EE?"



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER



FESTIVE WILEY!



BENTLEY & SANTA!



SANTA, HOW ABOUT
SHARING THOSE YUMMY
COOKIES THAT MRS.
CLAUDE MADE FOR US!



"PEKE"-A-BOO AND
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



HO NO NO THIS WAS
NOT MENTION IN THE
ADOPTION AGREEMENT



MY LUNDA



DODGE



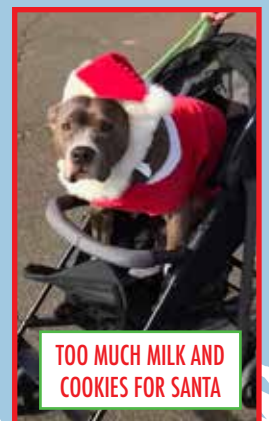
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

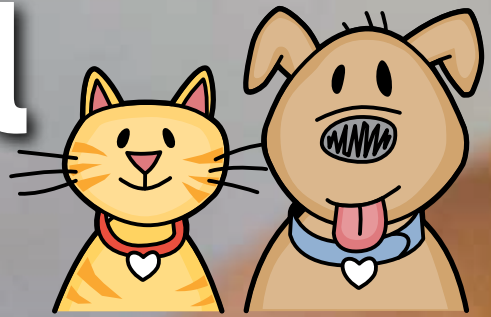


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The Tucson **DOG**

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Holiday Cover Dog Winner, Anastasia



14

COVER STORY

And the Winner is... Anastasia!
Holiday Cover Dog Contest

Cody's Friends
In Need of
Holiday Donations



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Golden Retriever
Rescue Starfish
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THIS IS THE ISSUE

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 - Sales Manager - 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



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.



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

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The Tucson Dog 2nd Annual Magazine Cover Contest

To close not to mention!



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. The Tucson Dog was established in June 2017 and is a nonpartisan publication that is published bi-monthly by Ann Herrington, Founder. Entire contents copyright 2020 by The Tucson Dog. Layout, Design and Graphics by EMI Printworks, Prescott, AZ., Linda Morris - Lead Designer, Mark Davidson - Production Manager.

The Leader of the Pack Speaks!

Dear Readers,

As we head into the holidays and the end of this unprecedented year, we, at The Tucson Dog Magazine would like to thank our readers and our advertisers who have continued to support us through this more than challenging year. YOU are the reason we are still here! And if you are a reader, please check out all of the fantastic businesses that are in our magazine and please support them and let them know you saw them in The Tucson Dog!

Life as we know it has changed for all of us and while we humans seem to be creatures of habit, we have had to make the necessary changes to get through these tough times. As a business, we are happy to still be here as we know many businesses have not survived and that breaks my heart which is why it is so important to shop local and support all the businesses you care about.

KINDNESS is something we should all be sharing as much as we can in these times. We have seen some beautiful acts of kindness and we have seen some not so good stuff as well. I think we all have to be patient and take care of each other more than ever, including all of our animal friends whom I keep hearing have been a wonderful, loving support to all of us; How lucky we are to have them!

While we had to cancel our 2nd Annual Dogtoberfest & Adopt-a-thon this year, we are scheduled for our 3rd Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-a-thon in March next year. Our hopes are that things will be better by that time and we will be able to hold this event to celebrate our "best friends" and get many shelter dogs adopted too! We will keep you posted on that one!

Although we could not have our Dogtoberfest event, we were able to have our 2nd annual Holiday Cover Dog contest and we had so many incredible entries that it was almost impossible to choose a winner as well as 2nd and 3rd place winners this time. With that said, Anastasia was the chosen winner with Chawlie in 2nd place and Cali in 3rd place. You will find out more about these adorable pups in this issue who are all rescue dogs as well and were lucky to find incredible, loving homes which is our wish for all animals!

A big thank you to our contest sponsors, The Humane Society of Southern Arizona who was our 1st place sponsor, The Complete Canine who was our 2nd place sponsor and Friends of PACC who was our 3rd place sponsor. These businesses not only sponsored this fun contest and donated great prizes but they continue to be devoted sponsors of The Tucson Dog magazine and we are sooo grateful to them for that!

In this issue, we have some wonderful stories to share with you that I know you will all enjoy. A big thank you to all of our staff and our fantastic writers for always bringing us warm-hearted, inspiring stories that are relevant today.

I am more than ready to say good-bye to 2020 and ring in the New Year. Here is wishing you and yours a happy, safe and healthy holiday season and a brighter new year! We will see you again in 2021!

Love, Light & Laughter,

Ann



Greetings from Gracie

Holiday Pet Safety

Dear Humans,

I know the Holiday season is a very special time for you humans. I know my mom loves it and is always cooking up something good with lots of people visiting but it can also create stress and hazards for us pets. I would like to share some tips with you to keep your pets safe and healthy through the holidays so everyone can have a good time!

Below are some things to watch out for so everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season.

- **Keep the feast on the table—not under it.** Eating turkey or turkey skin – sometimes even a small amount – can cause a life-threatening condition in pets known as pancreatitis. Fatty foods are hard for animals to digest, and many foods that are healthy for people are poisonous to pets – including onions, raisins, grapes and macadamia nuts. If you want to share a Holiday treat with your pet, make or buy a treat that is made just for them.
- **No pie or other desserts for your pooch.** Chocolate can be harmful for pets, even though many dogs find it tempting and will sniff it out and eat it. The artificial sweetener called xylitol – commonly used in gum and sugar-free baked goods – also can be deadly if consumed by dogs or cats. Avoid putting gifts containing food under the tree if your dog will be unsupervised there.
- **Put the trash away where your pets can't find it.** A turkey carcass sitting out on the carving table, or left in a trash container that is open or easily opened, could be deadly to your family pet. Dispose of turkey carcasses and bones – and anything used to wrap or tie the meat, such as strings, bags and packaging – in a covered, tightly secured trash bag placed in a closed trash container outdoors (or behind a closed, locked door).
- **Be careful with decorative plants.** Don't forget that some flowers and festive plants can be toxic to pets. These include amaryllis, Baby's Breath, Mistletoe, Holly, Sweet William, some ferns, hydrangeas and more. The ASPCA offers lists of plants that are toxic to both dogs and cats, but the safest route is simply to keep your pets away from all plants and table decorations.
- **Quick action can save lives.** If you believe your pet has been poisoned or eaten something it shouldn't have, call your veterinarian or local veterinary emergency clinic immediately. You may also want to call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline: 888-426-4435. Signs of pet distress include: sudden changes in behavior, depression, pain, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- **Tree lights** - The skinny cords on Christmas tree lights are not well insulated and easy for a puppy to chew into. Electrocutation can result, so safety is paramount.
- **Decorations** - Tinsel, yarn, strings, and other items with long strands can be fascinating to pets. Avoid using these products in areas where pets can get into them. Strings of popcorn and cranberries may be especially enticing, so keep these out of reach.
- **Antifreeze can kill!** Ethylene glycol, antifreeze, is highly toxic to pets. It has a sweet taste and remains liquid when other water sources are frozen. Ingestion initially will mimic alcohol consumption, but quickly leads to irreversible and fatal kidney failure. Keep antifreeze wiped up and stored in covered containers. Suspected ingestion should require a trip to the veterinarian immediately.

I hope these tips help you keep your pets safe and healthy during the holidays and I'll see you next year!

Peace, Love & Biscuits,

Gracie



Calendar

Special Feature

NOVEMBER

Sat. Nov. 14th – 7pm

Drags for Paws 2.0

The Screening Room

127 E. Congress St., Tucson

Benefitting HSSAZ

Join the Humane Society of Southern AZ for this exciting drag show and help homeless pets in need at the same time! They hope to bring nothing but laughter and fun into your life during what is sure to be a memorable event! For more information, go to www.hssaz.org/drags.

Sun. Nov. 15th, 11a-3p

Fall Fundraiser for Equine Voices

Tubac Golf Resort & Spa

There will be live music, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, a sit-down brunch, silent auction, and a live auction. This year's silent auction will have over 200 exciting items. Tickets for the event are \$75.00 per person. A For reservations or more information, please visit their website at www.equinevoices.org or call the office at 520-398-2814. You can also go directly to www.EquineVoices.home.qtego.net to register and to make a reservation.

Fri. Nov. 27th – Sun. Dec. 6th

Holiday PAWction

Location: Online

Join the Humane Society of Southern AZ for our online Holiday PAWction! Find that unique gift for everyone on your shopping list from the comfort of your home all while knowing that your winning bids will be saving pets in our community! Find all the auction details at www.hssaz.org/PAWction.

DECEMBER

Sat. Dec. 5th, 6-10p

Munchies, Music and Mutts

Benefitting HSSAZ

St. Philips Plaza

4280 N Campbell Ave. Tucson

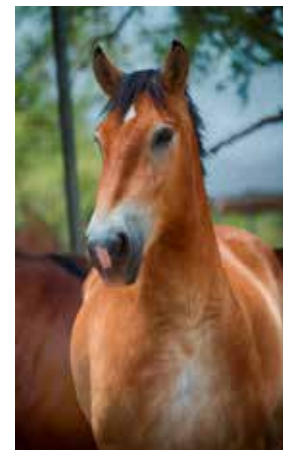
Enjoy great food, drinks and live music! 10% of proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona



GALAXY IN HER HOLIDAY FINEST!

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary Annual Fall Fundraiser: "Boots, Bandanas, & Brunch"

This year's event features a different format from previous years: an afternoon brunch instead of an evening dinner. It will be held at the Tubac Golf Resort & Spa on Sunday, November 15th from 11:00am until 3:00pm. There will be live music by David Rychener, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, a sit-down brunch, silent auction, and a live auction hosted by the dynamic Letitia Frye! This year's silent auction will have over 200 exciting items including artwork, jewelry, gift baskets, and much more. The featured live auction item is a 7-night stay at a private Caribbean beach house in Belize that sleeps 6-8 people. Tickets for the event are \$75.00 per person.



Gulliver

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary was founded in 2004 to rescue equines from neglect, abuse, abandonment, and slaughter. Additionally, they rehabilitate, adopt, and/or provide a safe and loving sanctuary to those equines who need a forever home. Over 1,200 equines have been rescued since the organization began its work. Currently, 54 horses and 4 burros call Equine Voices home. About thirty percent of the herd are seniors, over 20 years of age, resulting in significantly increased veterinary, special food, and supplement costs.

Like so many other non-profit organizations, Equine Voices has experienced a drop in donations with the onset of the pandemic. The Fall Fundraiser is their major event to provide a source of donations to help meet monthly operating expenses of \$55,000 and to continue an expansion project that began last year. The new Visitor Center, to be named "Gulliver's Guest House" in honor of our mascot, is scheduled to be completed this Fall. In the planning stages is a new barn, with expanded corrals, to provide more room for the horses.

New for this year, Equine Voices has teamed with Qtego, a fundraising technology firm, that will provide live-streaming of the event whether it's held at the Tubac Golf Resort or another location should the Resort have to be canceled due to the virus. In either case, actual guests and virtual guests can participate using a tablet or computer, as well as a mobile phone, to register and to bid on silent and live auction items. At the event there will also be an option to participate for those who do not use any of these technologies.

Although they hope to be able to host the event in-person, they are prepared to host a completely virtual event if necessary. For reservations or more information, please visit their website at www.equinevoices.org or call the office at 520-398-2814. You can also go directly to www.EquineVoices.home.qtego.net to register and to make a reservation.



The **DOG**



Big Dog Charitable Foundation, The Tucson Dog and Cody's Friends Team Up for a Holiday Pet Food and Supply Donation Event

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Biz Spotlight



Kristin's Helping Homes — Helping Local Pets While Helping People Buy Their Home

By Rebecca West Photos courtesy Kristen Breeding



Kristin Breeding

Southern Arizona, Team Integrity Tucson, has lived all over the country. Her love of realty began during a period in Texas when she and her mother frequently played the part of lookie-loos by going to open houses on weekends. In her late twenties, she would take a real estate course back in California, but the timing wasn't right for attaining her license just yet. There were other paths on the horizon for her.

As it turns out, Kristin's childhood dream had always been to be an Orca trainer. Being a Southern California girl, she had regularly visited the many animal-oriented theme parks the Golden State has to offer. Sea World had been among her favorites, and she envisioned herself becoming a trainer working with sea animals. Before that goal was realized, however, she ended up getting her business degree and pursuing a job in pharmaceutical sales.

Years later, her determination to work with aquatic life eventually paid off with a four-month unpaid internship at Dolphin Quest on Hawaii's Big Island. It was a dream come true. From there, she got another internship at Chicago's famous Shedd Aquarium for seven months working with Beluga whales and dolphins before going to the Brookfield Zoo just outside the Windy City where she continued to work with ocean mammals.

Eventually, she moved back to California and began working with Pfizer's Animal Health division and then with Royal Canin, where she specialized in nutrition. Both of these sales positions had her working directly beside veterinarians for five years. Prior to her stints at the various aquariums, she had invested eight years on the human side of pharmaceutical sales before going into the animal side of the business.

It was while working with Pfizer that she met her husband Dave, an Air Force reservist. Moves to Washington state and Louisiana would follow, where her husband went to work at Barksdale Air Force Base. There she was a stay at home mom and wanted a career that afforded her the flexibility to spend time with her now growing family, as they'd welcomed a daughter. After a positive experience with a home purchase there, she decided to pursue her real estate license, receiving it in February 2016. Kristin did, after all, enjoy working with people, as her previous sales path attests.



Daughter Lili in dad's camo duds

Any first-time buyer can tell you the experience of purchasing a home can be a bit overwhelming, if not downright intimidating. Unfamiliar terminology, the gathering of endless documents, on top of finding something you can afford *and* that you actually want to live in, are all part and parcel of the experience. It's much of the reason local realtor Kristin Breeding became a real estate agent, that and a prior career in sales.

Originally from SoCal, Kristin, who is currently an agent with Keller Williams

While she was extremely happy at her new job, her husband was given the opportunity to make the switch to Davis Montham AFB in Tucson, so they packed up, and off they went on another new adventure in late 2018.

Fortunately, her employer had offices in the area, so Kristin was able to transfer to KWSA's Team Integrity, which fit her to a T. That's because the group strongly encourages team members to volunteer and find charities that speak to them. With more than two years working with sea creatures and a background in animal husbandry, she immediately knew what hers would be.



Kristin with daughter Lili

"When I was younger, I always knew that I wanted to make a difference in the lives of animals but I didn't have the money to support any causes, but I could volunteer my time, which I had plenty of. Now that I have reestablished my career in Tucson, I am fortunate enough to be able to contribute monetarily. I don't have the same kind of time to volunteer as much, but I can afford to contribute to causes that I feel strongly about, and animal welfare is high on my list."

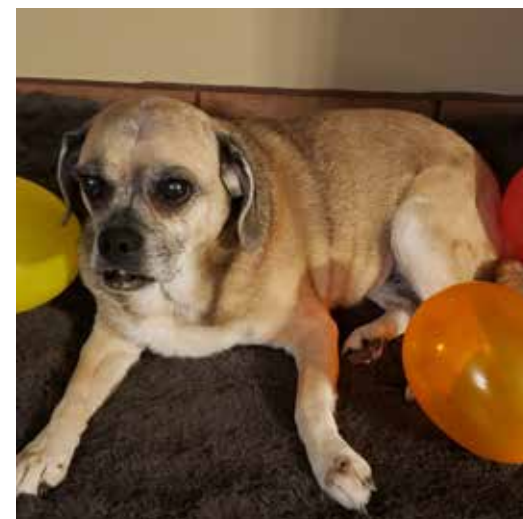
So, how is she incorporating her two passions? As a buyer specialist, Kristin came upon the clever idea of donating \$250 from each commission she receives

to the animal charity of choice for the buyers she works with. This means that in addition to being handed the title and a set of keys, buyers have a donation made in their names to an animal welfare organization they've selected per a list of nonprofits Kristin will have available to them.

As a Tucson transplant with a nine-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old puggle named Addison Grace (adopted from a no-kill shelter during her time in Chicago), Kristin couldn't be more content in her new role of helping people and pets. She loves being able to put her clients at ease while walking them through the process and knowing that in the end, she's aiding animal advocacy.

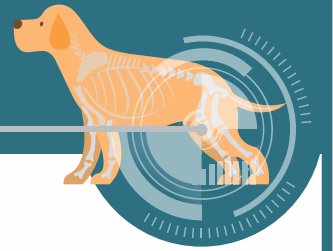
When purchasing a new home, having someone like Kristin Breeding on board can make all the difference to you and local pets.

kristin@teamintegritytucson.com
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Addison with Birthday balloons

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As a Buyer Specialist, I have worked with hundreds of people to find the right home, at a fair price, and guide them through the entire process. From contract to keys, I am there for you! All of this while having fun along the way!

Even though I am no longer an Animal Health Care Professional, I want to contribute to the well being of local animals in need. When you choose me as your Realtor, whether you are Buying, Selling, or Investing in real estate, upon the Closing of your home, I will donate \$250 to a local non-profit animal charity of your choice in your name. Buy a Home, Provide a Home.



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www.TeamIntegrityTucson.com



Biz Spotlight



AZ Home Loans Takes the Hassle Out of Homebuying

Local Arizona business helps clients find the perfect homes for themselves, their families and their furry friends.

Story by Emily Dieckman Photos Courtesy of AZ Home Loans



Jordan Davis, Adam Yeazel, Mike Wallace

Jordan Davis knows how complicated it can be to buy a house.

"It's one of life's biggest stressors," he says. "Divorce, death, public speaking, and buying a house are all some of the most difficult challenges may people face".

Along with Mike Wallace, Davis is the co-owner of

AZ Home Loans, a Scottsdale-based company that has been helping Arizonans buy homes for 20 years. Wallace founded the company back in 2000, intent on making a difference by providing clients with a personalized, caring experience that takes the terror out of the process.

Davis, a fifth-generation Arizonan, was studying business law at Arizona State University 20 years ago when the opportunity came up to join the business.

"I just found a passion for helping people and making it easy for people so they're not stressed, and educating them through the process so they know what they're getting into," he says. "We both have a passion for helping people and doing things the right way."

At AZ Home Loans, they recognize that the "right" way might look different for everyone, so they pride themselves on not taking a cookie cutter, "one-size-fits-all" approach. They are there to help, whether a client is looking to do a traditional home purchase or refinance; a reverse mortgage; or a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan, a Veterans Affairs (VA) loan or a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan. Home buyers and realtors alike agree that AZ Home Loans makes the process easy.

"I recommend every client to AZ Home Loans," says Troy Royston, a professional real estate agent based in Phoenix. "I have worked with them many times, and they always provide an exemplary service. I recently refinanced my personal home with them, and I am very satisfied with the personal service and final outcome."



Front Desk

The company's members have also adapted successfully in the face of the pandemic. Already a highly digital company, they found they didn't need to significantly change the client experience. But they've learned to train new employees and conduct quality control remotely, which requires communicating better than ever. In fact, communication is one of the company's core values, along with several others, including ownership, education, teamwork and trust. Clients are encouraged to ask questions throughout the process so that they can feel empowered and confident every step of the way.

"We're always going to look out for what the clients' needs, wants and goals are," Davis says. "Our incentive is to get the best loan for the client, in any situation, whether we're working with a reverse mortgage, first-time home buyers or investors."

Across the board, they don't charge any of the typical junk lender loan fees, which saves their clients thousands of dollars, and they even have an in-house credit specialist who can help work with you if you need to raise your credit score. They also work quickly and efficiently: Clients can pre-qualify in as little as an hour, and they can close in as little as 21 days.



Conference Room

"I received the most courteous and professional help from day one until closing," says client Pamela Sorg. "I also received a call from each team member to include me in each step of the way. I also received a call from the owner of AZ Home Loans after the process to make sure that I was comfortable with everyone and was treated like family!"



At AZ Home Loans, they also understand that buying a home often means making space for a family—including furry family members. Davis himself has a beloved 14-year-old yellow lab named Achilles, so he understands the importance of helping people purchase the perfect home not only for themselves, but for their pets and furry loved ones too.

"We can absolutely help people find homes for their friends and all of their fur babies," Davis says.

For more information about AZ Home Loans, visit azhomeloans.com, or call 480-GO-APPLY



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Yes! The owner(s) may add other family
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family automatically has ownership in the
property and equity as well.

**Will my family be
responsible for the debt?**

NO! A reverse mortgage is a non-recourse
loan, so if your value ever falls below what
you owe, your family will never have to
pay the deficiency.

Cover Story

Holiday Cover Dog Contest Winners

Story by Rebeca West

Here they are, the fabulous winners of our 2nd Annual Holiday Cover Dog Contest! This year's participation level was phenomenal, with 50 contestants entered, and we couldn't have been more excited with the amazing turnout and fantastic images everyone provided. It was extremely tough to narrow it down to just three, but here they are!

Before we get to them, it's important to note that all three of the families that made a home for these lovable rescue dogs wanted to share with readers the importance of adopting and the impact it's had not only on the boffo doggos but the families themselves, adding that the experience has changed all of their lives for the better. Their message: adopt, don't shop!



Puppy Anastasia Photo courtesy Tommy Ross

1st Place Winner Anastasia

Meet Anastasia, a beautiful 7-year-old husky/malamute mix whose pregnant mum was rescued from a notorious puppy mill back in 2013. Her pet parents Tommy and Susan Ross, adopted her shortly after she was born. Susan, who works at a local veterinarian office, came into contact with Ana, as she's often referred to, when she was brought in with her sled-dog mom and siblings for a checkup. The woman who'd adopted her mentioned that she was trying to find homes for the pups, as she'd been unaware the dog was pregnant at the time of her rescue.

A tiny little powder puff of a dog resembling a small stuffed animal, Ana got a brand-new mom and dad to dote on her and love her from that day forward. Initially introduced into a home with three cats, she gets along beautifully with other pets, including the three other rescue dogs the couple eventually adopted. Ana had some training from an animal behavioralist at Tucson's Animal Magnetism, and she's a well-adjusted girl with a lot of personality now.

Besides being fond of hiking, walks, and dog parks, she adores trips to the mountains, playing in snow, and camping. The talented Anastasia also enjoys singing an a cappella version of "I Love You" and is known for doing a mean impression of Elvis a la "Hunka Hunka Burning Love" with an uncanny facial sneer similar to that of "the king" himself. In fact, one of her favorite things to do is to run outside and stand on the edge of a raised flowerbed next to the patio wall, fling her paws on top, and serenading passersby with her own brand of music. The melodies have made her quite popular in the neighborhood.

She's super friendly with a wonderful demeanor, so it's no surprise she loves to give kisses and curl up with the family cat Marlo for naps when she's not catching 40 winks outside in the shade. Other favorite pastimes include eating roast turkey or chicken breasts from Trader Joe's, Sprouts, or Costco, but her parents try to limit her intake to healthy portions.

Another treat is going to the groomer to have her luxurious locks sorted out after staining her thick coat on the red gravel in the family's yard. While a lot of dogs merely tolerate it, Ana LOVES the royal treatment she gets at Bark Avenue Dogwash, where she's primped and pampered. As a matter of fact, Bark Avenue is where Ana went to "have her hair done" right before her parents coaxed her into modeling her holiday look for the camera. The business obviously did a terrific job, as she was voted 1st place winner.



1st place
Anastasia



2nd place
Chawlie



3rd place
Cali



Chawlie on the water Photo courtesy Jason McCoy

2nd Place Winner Chawlie

Jason McCoy, of The Real McCoy Photography, recalled the day he and his adorable wire-haired terrier rescue Chawlie first met. A photographer for Arizona Small Dog Rescue, one Saturday he and his partner were headed to work to do a photoshoot when they stopped at a red light. While idling in traffic, the car in front of them opened their door and tossed Chawlie out, "with a little force,"

McCoy added. Stunned, they were faced with the choice of either chasing the vehicle down and possibly getting involved in something that could lead to trouble, or stop and help this scared little dog that appeared to be a puppy.

So, after Chawlie they went. He was completely terrified, shaking, and filthy dirty. After backing him into a corner, Jason went to scoop him up when the dog bit him. He was estimated to be only 6-8 weeks old and his teeth were barely visible, so it didn't hurt him at all. Jason just didn't want him to run into traffic. Since he bit him, they decided to name him Chawlie (with an English accent) after the "Ouch, Charlie Bit My Finger" video.

It took the dog a minute or so to open up, but they had him checked out at the vet, where they discovered he had no microchip, and thankfully no broken bones. Just some bruising and a couple of lacerations that were treated and bandaged. The results indicated that he might have been abused. Initially, they weren't going to keep him, because they already had three other rescues, but they quickly fell in love with Chawlie and their other dogs did, too.

Nowadays, he is the perfect addition to their family and is the most loving dog ever, being described as a "cuddle bug."

3rd Place Winner Cali

Cali, short for California, where her pet parents Trissina and Dave Kear lived prior to moving to Tucson, is a cute 2 1/2-year-old rescue discovered about a year ago during a PACC special adoption event.

The sweet little pup was very shy and not coming up to anyone at their first meeting, but when Dave went to a kennel area with her, she came alive and bonded with him. Inhibited, Cali didn't even know how to play with toys when he brought her home, and the picture used in the Cover Dog contest depicts the very first time she knew she could actually play with a toy.



Sweet Cali Photo courtesy Trissina Kear

She appears to be a Doberman/Lab mix with perhaps a bit of Rottweiler thrown in, but no one knows for sure. A big fan of constant petting and attention, she loves to cuddle and drape her paw across her parents' tummies when she snuggles up to them. Now that she's coming out of her shell, she's a tad mischievous. Her favorite pastime is to wait for the garbage truck. Hearing it coming off in the distance, she dashes outside and runs in circles barking, creating a huge cloud of dust in the process.

A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

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



THE ANIMAL LEAGUE OF GREEN VALLEY: (520) 625-3170 (Appointments 10-2. \$85 Adoption Fee.) **FRY**

I'm a playful six-year-old, 55 lb. Shar Pei mix girl. I really like playing fun games with people and would love a secure yard where I could run around. It would be best for me to be adopted with Loco, so if you would like an energetic girl and a cuddling couch potato, please think of us.



LOCO

I'm a good-natured six-year-old, 95 lb. male Heeler mix who's a couch potato (could be the reason I'm a "little" overweight). In my former home Fry and I got along with small dogs and cats plus we like children. Being adopted with my bud would help me feel secure (plus we're 2 for the price of 1!)



JENNY

I'm a beautiful 9-year-old, healthy, 60 lb. senior gal completely house broken, great on a leash, very polite in the house & never will jump up on you. I enjoy a peaceful house cuz i like to lounge around on the couch all day. Perfect companion! Call 520-977-8000 or Smilingdogrescue.Com

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



ENVY

Hello, I'm Envy! I'm 9 years old and ready to start my brand new life with you. If you like leisurely walks and giving lots of belly rubs, I'm your girl. You can meet me by making an appointment at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona by calling (520) 327-6088 ext 173."



BUGSY

"Hi friend! My name is Bugsy! I'm 3 years old and love to snuggle! I have lots of energy and would love to go home to a family who has lots of time to spend with me. You can meet me by making an appointment at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona by calling (520) 327-6088 ext 173."

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.

Mon - Fri, 12p - 7p. • Sat and Sun 10a - 5p. The dogs on this page have
a \$0 adoption fee. A \$20 license fee applies to adult dogs.



DIESEL ID# A625850 Age: 12 years

I am patient, housebroken, mellow, adore people, seek affection and am easy to leash up and take on slow, leisurely walks. I could use a soft, comfy home to spend his retirement years. Every time my name is mentioned, it's always accompanied by the words nice, friendly, loving and sweet. I can be adopted or fostered.



BALISE ID# A714108 Age: 1 year

I am a gem of a pup! I can be a little shy at first, but I warm up quickly and love to give kisses! I know "sit", "shake", and "down" and am always ready to give you my paw in exchange for some tasty treats. I am easy to leash walk.



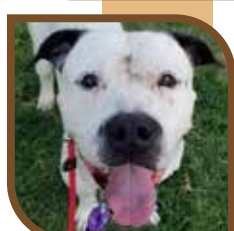
MIDNIGHT ID# A627302 Age: 3 years

I am an absolutely wonderful guy, great companion, and excellent listener. I'm kind, funny, pleasant, and happy. I like rolling in the grass, snuggles from my friends, giving the paw, and standing under the hose.



CHICO ID#A713439 Age: 1 year

I am a handsome, black-and-white cookie ready to head home today! At just a year old, I am looking for an active home where I can get plenty of playtime, attention and affection. I was playful when meeting other dogs here at the shelter, but I'd like to meet any resident dogs before going home to make sure that we'll be friends, or...furrrriends?



PORTABELLO ID#A712658

I came to the shelter in heat distress and was rushed to the clinic. They said I was in rough shape, but I am much better now! I am a little shy when first meeting someone new, but love snacks and warms up quickly if you have some tasty treats for me. I have a curious personality and enjoy exploring the play yard, and am always wagging my tail. If you are interested in adopting me, please email PACC.foster@pima.gov

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Special Feature

Sol Dog Lodge Opens Second Location

Sol Dog Lodge and Training Center opens second location in NW Tucson Oct. 1st. New site offers private/group instruction, fitness, therapy/service training and pet supplies.

September 21, 2020 - Due to the increased demand for our services from the incredible, dog-loving Southern Arizona community, we are pleased to announce the opening of our second training site at Mountain View Plaza, Thornydale and Linda Vista.

Whether your dog is a brand new or long-time member of your family, training can create a safe, healthy and long-term relationship with your dog. And with our new satellite center, Sol Dog training is even easier to access for our Northwest-area clients, both old and new.

Our NW site will offer private lessons for puppies, Canine Conditioning Fitness, Canine Good Citizen™ classes, and training and evaluation for service and therapy dog work. We'll also have retail dog items for sale: slip leads, toys, high-quality dog food, Sol Dog t-shirts and other merchandise. We will add new and expanded services in the NW as the need and demand increases.

Although all of our highly-experienced trainers will be using this site at different times, our very own Nicole Whittington— a favorite of dogs and humans alike at our original Prince Rd. location— will be based in the NW full time. Nicole— trained as a Vet Tech— has 13 years of dog behavior experience, is a certified Canine Good Citizen trainer, a

licensed Canine Conditioning Fitness Coach through Do More With Your Dog, and has extensive experience in the dog service world.

This new space is a continuation of our mission to ensure all dogs stay in their forever homes with the families they know and love.

We will not be offering overnight boarding services at the NW site and, like the Prince Road location, we will work by appointment only.

Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center will still construct our main campus at our Marana location (near I-10 and Tangerine Rd.) but until it is ready for our doggie clients, NW residents now have Sol Dog in their own neighborhood!

Sol Dog Lodge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that gives dogs – all breeds, sizes, ages, and temperaments – a place where their needs will be met with loving kindness and the highest professional standards.

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www.SolDogLodge.com
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www.friendsofpacc.org



From the Director's Desk



Farewell from PACC Director, Kristen Hassen

Story by Kristen Hasten Photos Courtesy PACC



Kristen Auerbach

In just a few weeks, I will be stepping down as the director of Pima Animal Care Center to lead the national organization, American Pets Alive!. Three-and-a-half years ago, when I packed up my belongings and moved to Pima County, I never could have imagined the challenges we'd face, the successes we'd have, and the history we'd make. Today, PACC takes in 20,000 animals annually and has one of the highest lifesaving rates of any large shelter in the nation, with fewer than 1,000 pets euthanized annually.

Just 10 years ago, the intake was much higher, and the euthanasia rate was 15,000 animals annually. If not for your tireless dedication to the animals of our community, things might have never changed. We could still be that heartbreaking pound,

where most animals didn't have a chance of getting out alive.

But because of you, PACC is a safety net, a community pet resource center, and a beacon of hope for every animal in need who comes through our doors. Because of you, every animal's life is valued. You are an incredible community that has shown the world, it IS possible.

PACC does not pick and choose the animals who come into the shelter - as your government-funded shelter, we help every animal in need, regardless of whether they are very young, very old, sick, injured, frightened or shy. Every day at PACC, we take in between 50 and 100 animals, and about 25 percent of them have urgent or emergency medical needs. We see dogs hit by cars, day-old kittens who have lost their moms, geriatric dogs and cats whose owners had to give them up, and victims of neglect. Being in the shelter can be emotionally taxing for even the toughest staff and volunteers because we see animals who have lost everything they know in the world and sometimes, we just wish more than anything we could explain it all to them. Sometimes, they look so confused and sad. All we can do in these moments is assure them, "We've got you. You're going to be okay."

Being able to say those two sentences feels pretty incredible. To be able to tell a homeless pet that they are going to get care, love, attention and everything else they need, and to really mean it is something we could not have done just a few, short years ago. Today, our PACC pets know they have us behind them all the way, along with the countless heroes who support these efforts. In 2020, we work side-by-side as volunteers, foster caregivers, staff, government leaders, rescue partners, the Friends of PACC, community partners and donors to show every pet that they are worth saving. That collaboration of an entire community working towards a singular goal is truly remarkable.

As I prepare to leave PACC in the hands of an exceptional team, I am overwhelmed with the care this community has shown our animals. Whether you simply pay local taxes or go the extra mile and support the Friends of PACC through donations, you should give yourself a hug today and know that you are making this new reality possible. You should know that your local animal welfare organization is what government can look like when we all come together, engage in hard and exciting conversations, and commit to doing better every, single day, providing extra support for the most vulnerable among us. In a moment when we may otherwise feel more isolated and divided than ever, PACC is an



Pause for Paws

example of how we can overcome division and create a brighter future and better world for animals and the people who love them.

Sometimes, in the evening, when I'm walking around PACC after a busy and bustling adoption day, I think to myself about what children must think when they come to see the pets in our shelter. When I was a little girl, I remember crying uncontrollably during my first visit to the local pound. It was a scary, sad place, full of frightened animals, bad smells, metal cages and loud barking. I told my mom I never wanted to go back there and through early adulthood, I thought of the pound as a place of sadness and despair. This was the experience of so many of us who visited these institutions in the past when killing was the norm and animals were treated as nuisances to be disposed of.

Kids who visit PACC today don't cry. They're not scared or worried. They're happy and smiling because they've come to a profoundly different place than the one of my childhood. Pima County young people head into kitty condos to read to cats. Or maybe they throw treats to bouncy, happy dogs, eager to meet their new family members. The kids who see PACC today can't wait to pick out their new best friend. They see animals with blankets, beds and toys who go on regular walks, get fed nutritious food and get whatever medical care they need. I believe PACC is more than a great shelter. As my time at PACC comes to an end, I believe PACC is actually changing our entire community for the better and building a generation of young people who see animals as family members and companions, even when those animals don't have an immediate home. Because of you, PACC is helping us build a kinder, more compassionate world.

Thank you for making PACC a model animal shelter, a safety net, a resource center, and most of all, a place where collaboration, love, and togetherness make everything possible.



Joint PACC - U of A program

Special Feature

Cody's Friends In Need of Holiday Donations

Story by Rebecca West Photos by Amber Allen



Volunteer Lowell Kaiser Unloading Donated Pet Food from GreaterGood.org

For example, Marana alone came last week and got 3,000 pet food meals. Plus, we have the 95 animal rescue groups we work with. Five months ago, Pima County came to us asking if Cody's Friends could be the official "go-to" for everyone in Pima County who is in need. Of course, we said, "yes!"

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the organization, Cody's Friends came about in 2010 when a 10-year-old Tucson boy felt compelled to make a difference to those in need. That 5th grader was Cody Allen, Amber's son and the organization's namesake, who points to a moment in school when he did a report on John F. Kennedy as the catalyst to what would become a safety net for thousands.

Cody explained, "I read his quote, 'Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country,' and started thinking about ways that I could help my country. So, I asked my mom if I could start this charity. I made flyers, passed them out in our neighborhood, and for the next 4 years, we drove around in my mom's minivan picking up donations off of people's front porches. Then, we would hand-deliver them to people in need and animal rescue groups."

Starting from scratch without a building for storage or money to pay for help, they relied on a handful of volunteers and used a garage to house donations until space ran out. It's been 10 years since the effort began and Cody is now 19. Looking back, few could have imagined the reach and impact the modest grassroots charity would eventually have on the lives of so many.

While they've come a long way, and now have a building for the supplies they receive, the challenges they face now are nearly as daunting, if not more so, than when they began.

Currently, they have more than 25 active volunteers in Tucson, but due to COVID, they can unfortunately no longer work side-by-side. Most are older adults worried about exposure to the virus, but they still want to play their part. That's forced a lot of them into working outside, which in Arizona is no simple feat during the summer months, but they're determined to keep at it because of the impact the crisis has had on so many vulnerable individuals.

A constant convoy of food banks, rescue groups, and people in need – not to mention burning through as many as 8,000 1-gallon baggies for packaging pet food each month – is pretty much the norm for Cody's Friends these days. According to director Amber Allen, with everything going on right now, the demand on the nonprofit, its volunteers, and resources are stretched to the max. But that hasn't stopped them from doing the near impossible.

"We're working almost around the clock now and the need will increase hugely, as it always does around the Holidays," Amber explained to The Tucson Dog. "Every food bank that depends on us for food has needed more pet food. For



Friends Donation Stations

Fire Department, and Youth On Their Own. They also provide for animal rescue groups and shelters, such as PACC and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

The group relies on everyday citizens for help in gathering supplies, but they also receive assistance from organizations such as Chewy.com and PetSmart for pet food distribution, giving you an idea of their influence and reach over the last decade. In a touching notation on their website, Cody noted that "In the past 10 years, I've learned that people in need will go hungry before they let their pet suffer. For some, their pet is the only family they have."

This is so true, and the feelings extend beyond meals. Many, including homeless military vets, would rather live on the streets with their furry companions than give them up.

If you've got supplies, it's important to know that all dry food must be in the original bag it came in, even if it's opened. They'll divvy it up and repackage it from there. That's where those 8,000 baggies a month come into play. But it isn't just food that's needed. Any gently used blankets, towels, toys, bedding, leashes, collars, food bowls, crates, etc., that you can part with, they'll gladly accept and distribute them as well. You'll find a list of donation stations on their website under Where to Donate.

Over the last 5-6 years, they've expanded into human services. In that vein, they recently announced that GreaterGood.org made Cody's Friends one of only 24 Rescue Bank affiliates in the United States. With their aid, an army of volunteers, and 48 donation stations throughout Pima County they're on track to distribute over one million pounds of pet food and critical supplies to more than 45 local human service agencies such as Meals on Wheels, Community Food Banks, the Tucson



Cody and donor Emmaline

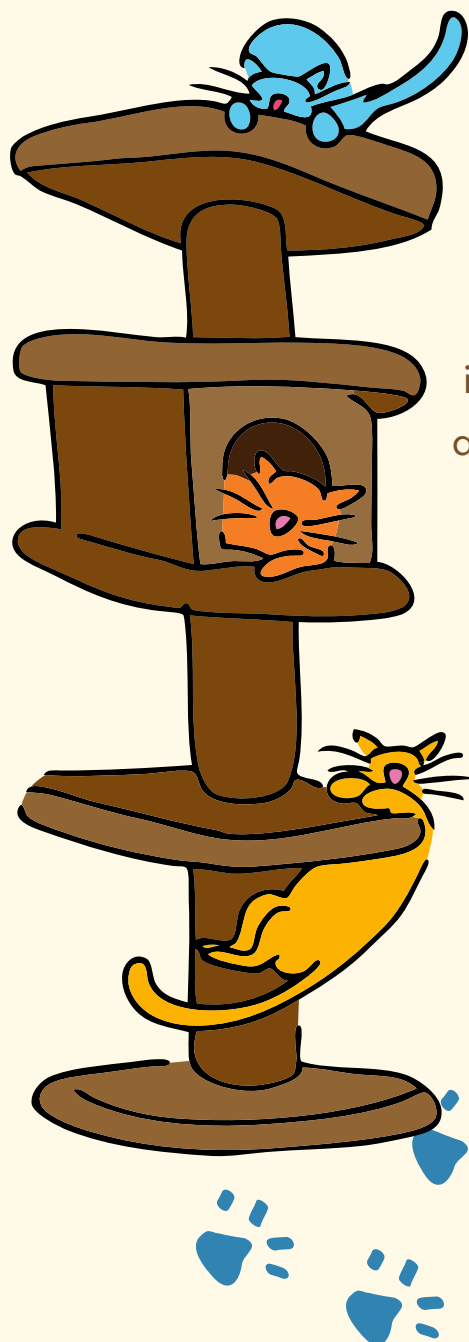


Donated Goods for Cody's Friends Charity

Striving to ensure that people never feel needy or alone, Cody's Friends is always there for people and they've never turned anyone down, even spending their own money on pet food when donations haven't met demands. You can help them meet their goals by reaching out through the sources listed below:

Codysfriends.org
helpcodysfriends@gmail.com
Facebook.com/CodysfriendsCharity/

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



GERTIE

ID# A712860 Age: 10 years

I am a sweet little lady who happens to be both blind and deaf, but it doesn't slow me down! I would love a calm, stable home where I can acclimate at her own pace.



SIMON HAROLD SNOWSHOE

ID # A712985 Age: 13

I am a very sweet guy who likes being held. I also LOVE to purrrrrrr. Staffers and volunteers say that I am easily held and handled. I also like to give gentle head bonks.



MARY

ID: A449161 Age: 7

I'm lovingly referred to as a chonk, but I would like a home that can help me slim down a bit. I am easily held and handled. I warm up to new people quickly and will greet you with gentle head bonks and some vocalization.



ARIZONA (AKA Benjamin Buttons)

ID# A709257 Age: 10

I came to the shelter with a broken jaw and an injured tongue, so I had to eat through a tube. Thanks to my caring fosters, I am MUCH better now! The shelter folks named me Arizona, but since I had buttons on my face to hold the wires, my foster mommy decided to call me Benjamin Buttons. My favorite things are: sleeping on a comfy chair, sleeping near a window, and my absolute favorite thing is sleeping on a hooman's lap. If you're interested, email PACC.foster@pima.gov

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



JERSEY

Hi, I'm Jersey. I'm a sweet kitty who likes to be the center of attention. If you're looking for a nice, sociable cat who wants to be your best friend, you should come meet me! I am 7 years old and you can take me home for no adoption fee! Meet me at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona!"



CRICKET

"Hey there. I'm Cricket, a 1.5 year old girl who is very social and talkative! I love to be picked up and brushed in someone's lap. Meet me by making an appointment with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona by calling (520) 327-6088 ext 173."

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BOBBY

I'm a two-year-old Tuxedo guy that came to TALGV with my brother last year from a family with 25 other cats. After some adjustment time, I have become fairly social but my friend, Wilder (not pictured) still needs encouragement. A home for both of us would be most welcome. You could have both of us for the price of one.

Special Feature

Golden Retriever Rescue Starfish Award Winner

Story by Rebecca West Photos by Scottie McGowan

It was recently announced that Scottie McGowan, tireless animal welfare activist, was selected by the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) and the National Rescue Committee (NRC) as this year's Starfish Award winner! This is the highest honor within the NRC, and McGowan was selected among a competitive field of exceptional nominees.

For those of you who don't know Scottie McGowan, she has been a key volunteer for many years and currently holds the position of Director of Golden Rescue. She has been the driver of the international rescue program and is responsible for saving many Golden Retrievers from certain death in places like South Korea, China, Turkey, and Mexico.

Active in rescue since 2003, McGowan has served on the Executive Board since 2011, allowing her to have an impact on the local, state, and national level. At the same time, she's also had a profound effect on the canines that she helps rescue. From authoring manuals to establishing relationships with breeders and fellow rescue groups, McGowan is truly all about the dogs. Her mantra is: "hunger, illness, and despair know no language, no culture, and no boundary."

Considered the quintessential Director of Golden Rescue, she expertly oversees the Woof Line, Home Visit, Intake, Transport Coordinator/Transport, Shelter, and International Teams comprised of 81 volunteers, which is the lion's share of the organization. Throughout, her focus stays on what's best for the dogs.

To standardize statewide operations, she developed six comprehensive team training manuals with quick reference guides and created and/or modified official forms, vastly improving the collection of crucial information on incoming canines.

At one point, the unforeseen split of Southern volunteers from the organization caused a screeching halt to all Southern operations. Instinctively, McGowan took control and started from square one to rebuild Southern resources and preserve the organization's statewide designation.

Hooked on rescue since her first adoption in 2003, she set the standard of process improvement as she rose to an appointment to the Executive Board of Directors in 2011 as the Director of Southern Rescue, and later to Director of Golden Rescue.

In 2017, amidst considerable board and membership resistance, McGowan convinced the organization that "hunger, illness, and despair know no language, no culture, and no boundary." Rescue a Golden of Arizona's (RAGofAZ) reach became global.

A champion of tyrannized Golden Retrievers, McGowan established RAGofAZ's international rescue program with promising results. To date, 86 dogs collectively have been saved from China, South Korea, Turkey, and Mexico.

Seizing an opportunity to save money, she quickly sought out flight volunteers traveling between Mexico and Arizona through social media. Since then, the organization has



Scottie and Fur Kids

saved \$2,700 in airfare and will continue to cut costs by about \$400 per trip!

Via those same platforms, she recruited local and long-distance transporters for the 1,000-mile overnight trip to LAX. Thinking outside the box, she set up group training that got the new transporters on the road in record time. And to ease the transition of families and international dogs, she authored a "Welcome" letter containing instructions on the animals' care and feeding.

McGowan's total involvement touched the lives of more than 1,040 dogs. RAGofAZ rehomes 65 dogs per year, and that will increase with the regular arrival of dogs from China in the near future.

Once, a breeder cautiously contacted her to inquire about surrendering Golden Retrievers that could no longer breed, and she established a rapport resulting in a continuous rescue of 15 medically needy dogs, saving them from a possibly tragic end.

Scottie McGowan has also developed a relationship with the Golden Retriever Rescue of El Paso. When the west Texas group becomes overwhelmed by an abundance of dogs or those with significant medical needs, she brings them to Arizona.

On another occasion the Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue needed assistance transporting a South Korean dog from LAX to Arizona. McGowan brought him back with Golden Rescue dogs, saving them a long, exhaustive trip.



Scottie and Golden Retrievers


The Bone Voyage Rescue in Mexico has few volunteers and difficulty acquiring crates. Not only has she flown there several times to assist with processing and escorting Golden Rescue incoming dogs, but due to an abundance of crates from other countries, she arranges crate transport to Mexico via flight volunteers.

To add to the laundry list of her efforts, three pending adoptable dogs from Turkey were grounded when COVID-19 flights were initially suspended. McGowan once again turned to social media to raise \$1,080 for Turkish workers to care for them until the travel ban is lifted. She's also used social media to raise more than \$1,000 to support China's dogs delayed by COVID-19.

Once you know Scottie McGowan's story it's easy to see why she was chosen for the prestigious Starfish Award, and she couldn't be more honored.

The Starfish Story


One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said... "I made a difference for that one." Author, Loren Eiseley



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Special Feature

Urgent: Norville Needs a Home

A Plea from Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue

Hello, friends,

We need a very special home for our boy Norville—he has been through so much and just wants to live his life as a loved and cherished member of a family. We are looking for an adults-only home where Norville will be the **ONLY** pet (for a unique reason—read on) and will enjoy the comforts of being a “homebody” with just his special people.

This past summer, Norville was humanely trapped by HARTT on a Native American reservation. He was emaciated and had a severely embedded collar around his neck. Norville was initially treated at the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) where he was set on the road to recovery. AHS reached out to their partners (including DLRR), realizing that being a shy boy, Norville would benefit from being in a quiet, loving foster home. We immediately said yes—how could we resist this tender, loving dog?

Norville went into his foster home where he bonded with his foster parents and their other dogs. He was so happy there! But soon, his foster mom noticed that Norville seemed to be in pain and walked a bit funny, so DLRR began the diagnostic process of finding out what was going on, even getting him an MRI to assess what was wrong. Several BBs were found lodged in his body—who would do this to such a tender, loving dog?! The MRI also showed some inflammation around the spinal cord, and so more tests were performed.

The news we received deeply saddened all of us—Norville has a bacterial infection called brucellosis (a reproductive disease) that is contagious (not easily, but still possible) to other dogs. In fact, there is no treatment that will eliminate this condition 100%. Even though he loves other dogs, Norville cannot be in a home with them or go to dog parks, etc. He can go on walks if he is kept away from contact with other dogs. (Important

note—Norville lived in the foster home with 3 other dogs, drank from communal water bowls, and played with them before the condition was diagnosed, and all the other dogs in the foster home tested negative - the risk of transmission to others is low.) The condition can also technically be transmitted to people; however, the greatest risk is to breeders and veterinarians who whelp the puppies of an infected dog. Contracting the

condition from a family pet is much less common because pet owners don't routinely deal with reproductive tract fluids or large amounts of blood.

Sandra Newbury, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Clinical Assistant Professor, states that there is little risk for other pets and members of the public. “There's a very low risk of transmission for canine brucellosis outside of breeding operations,” she says.

At the moment, Norville is housed at our veterinary clinic in isolation, but he's lonely and sad. He needs to be in a loving home. He is under treatment and getting physically better all the time, but now it's time for him to find “his person.” Could that be you? His best “person/people” would be a stable, healthy, loving family who likes to stay home and can envision spending lots of quality time with Norville in their home and yard, playing and cuddling, and who lead a quiet lifestyle with limited visitors and no other animal visitors.

DLRR and HARTT are teaming up to make sure that any necessary medical care for Norville is covered through the end of 2021, which should be more than enough to get him over the hump and on the road to stability.

If you would like to know more, and/or might consider adopting Norville, please reach out to Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue (DLRR) at 480-899-5227 or info@dlrr.org so we can tell you more about this sweet boy who deserves to know the love of a “real” home. Please allow 24 to 48 hours for a response.



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Kids and Animals

Online Learning's Newest Additions

Story by Bella Wexler

Any student or teacher who started classes again this Fall would agree, school looks quite different than it has in the past. With so many districts using some form of online learning, we've gotten used to our bedrooms becoming our classrooms. Recently, many have noticed yet another shift in the educational atmosphere: pets are becoming classmates, too!

They're not always the *most* helpful classroom companions as they walk across our keyboards and wait until we unmute ourselves to start barking. But, several Tucsonan students and instructors alike have found these new students to be the silver linings we all need while navigating life through a screen. In honor of all the snuggling, yowling, and video-bombing these new members have contributed to our academic communities, it seems high time we give a few of them some recognition.

To start us off, we have the newest of the new students: Henry! According to Maria Cazzato, a member of Henry's adoptive family and an eleventh-grade student at Catalina Foothills High School, Henry is known for being "very calm and friendly". Although he is brand new to the family, he has already made many appearances in the background of Maria's classes, even stealing the spotlight during her online club meetings! Being four years old and a rescued stray through Desert Labrador Rescue, at-home classes are definitely new to him. Luckily, Maria has found that the extra time at home makes this the ideal time to bring him into the family since "there's always someone home to make sure he's doing okay". After months of social distancing, "it's nice having company all day", she notes. Maria doesn't mind when he pops in to say hi during class, either. After all, with his shiny yellow fur and ear-to-ear grin, who could resist? As Maria puts it, "dogs are the best possible distractions!"



Henry says hello! Photo courtesy of Maria Cazzato

them off during meetings. "Sometimes they're helpful because I get to share with the class and teach them about the animals," Rowan says. Each of them has a very distinct personality that shines through in class. For example, Phantom likes to sleep all day, but Star Sparkle is quite active. She even "does a little dance" whenever she eats lunch. Gojira is one of the more shy students known for cautiously flicking out her tongue "to smell and taste at the same time"! Needless to say, this at-home class contains a myriad of unique characters that show Rowan the bright side of online learning.

But Henry isn't the only pet gaining some publicity at school. Over at Amphi Academy Online, 3rd grader, Rowan Hawkins has earned a reputation for her many furry, hairy, and scaly classmates! From Mousse the dog and Phantom the cat to Monsoon the desert hairy scorpion and Gojira the rescued savannah monitor, it's safe to say that Rowan's at-home classroom is pretty packed. Yet, those four pets barely scratch the surface. There's also Mune the Madrean alligator lizard, Star Sparkle the tarantula, Race the Kenyan sand boa, Fuego the bearded dragon, and "a bunch of others", Rowan says. Now that school is online, Rowan enjoys spending more time with her many pets and even showing



Rowan and Gojira present to the class photo courtesy of Melody Albright

Last but certainly not least, we cannot forget to recognize the four-legged friends who have literally taken over the role of "teacher's pet". One such example is Alberto Martin's cat, Luna. Mr. Martin is a statistics teacher at Catalina Foothills High School and Luna is a nine-year-old "little spaz" who has made it a habit to show off her unique meow while Mr. Martin is teaching. According to him, Luna didn't get enough vocalization practice as a kitten which has resulted in her meow sounding like "more of a mix between a chirp and a yowl". Luna is super friendly and very active in class. "She will always poke her head into view and meow at the students," Mr. Martin says. Even though her presence is more of a distraction than anything else, her frequent visits always make students smile. She keeps a strict school schedule, too. After eating, she "will zoom around the apartment and vocalize a lot" to burn off some steam before settling down "into her little nook" for a nap. She seems to be adjusting well to online learning as Mr. Martin has noticed her climb into his lap during class more when in the past she disliked being held. Playing with her between classes has helped Mr. Martin to relax as well. All around, everyone is pretty glad to have Luna's help teaching class.

The demands of teaching and learning through a screen have posed new challenges for everyone. Seeing Henry's wet nose pop into Maria's video call frame, learning from Rowan's presentations about Star Sparkle, Fuego, and countless others, and hearing Luna's quirky "meow's" interject Mr. Martin's lessons all add a bit of joy at a time when we need it most. So, thank you to all of the pets that have joined our classes and even stolen the show. We'll be sure to save you all a spot in the yearbook!



Luna mid-meow photo courtesy of Alberto Martin

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Special Feature

A Titan-Sized Success Story

Story by Brian Pettepiece Photos courtesy of Judy Beery

Sometimes it's the size of a rescue organization's network that can make all the difference in a homeless dog's life. In this case it was one of a rescue's foster volunteers that alerted the rescue to a lost dog. One of Yavapai Humane Trappers (based in Prescott) foster volunteer's mothers lives here in the Tucson area and had found a Pitbull mix that had wandered onto her property and was hiding out under her car. She immediately called her daughter, who is the foster volunteer. Katrina Karr, who operates the search-and-rescue part of the organization, answered the phone. It was this one phone call that made the difference between life and death for Titan.

It was late August when Karr got the call about the lost Pitbull mix who would soon come to be known as Titan. After calling several Tucson rescues and finding that most of them were full and unfortunately just unable to assist right then, because of Titan's terrible condition, they made the decision to immediately drive down in their search-and-rescue van to pick him up themselves.

What they found was a dog in need of immediate medical attention. Titan was in dire shape. Due to his extremely low sodium levels he was convulsing and having seizures. Additionally, his eyes were so swollen shut that he couldn't see, and his mouth was full of cactus needles. Katrina and her crew immediately took him to a local Tucson emergency vet when it became clear that he might not survive the drive back up to Prescott to their regular vet. He spent two days at the emergency animal hospital where he was treated for multiple conditions. Under this medical supervision his condition stabilized enough

that he was able to be transported back up to Prescott to their regular veterinarian where he would spend an additional nine days being treated for his wounds and injuries.

After his initial recovery at the veterinarian, Titan was placed in one of Yavapai's foster homes. Karr stated that it took about a month for him to begin wagging his tail again and it will be several more months before he's back to normal and in good enough health for adoption. He still gets regular check-ups at the vet to make sure his blood counts are normal and improving. How long animals spend in Yavapai's foster care network generally depends on the animal themselves. Sometimes,



When Titan first arrived at his foster home he was sad, forlorn, and very skinny. Photo courtesy of Judy Beery

animals are like Titan, in very bad shape and needing a lot of extra care and other times they might spend as little as a week and a half in foster care.

Yavapai Humane Trappers is an animal rescue based in Prescott. But while they may be based there, they travel far and wide picking up lost, stray, and homeless animals. For example, they recently brought in thirty-two dogs from the Navajo Nation, one of which was a mother with puppies running along the highway. Also included in that count were four other sets of litters and two dogs with broken legs. In addition to Prescott, they operate in towns such as Show Low and Winslow, and now, thanks to Titan, also here in Tucson. Their all-volunteer organization is made up of about thirty people who donate their time to search-and-rescue and transport, and up to about sixty-five foster volunteers

who foster the lost animals until they can be placed in their forever homes. Katrina Karr is the main trapper and main search-and-rescue person for the organization.

Yavapai Humane Trappers has been in operation a little over two years. They are a 100% volunteer-based organization. It's through the dedication of these volunteers that they can continue to do their important work of saving homeless and lost animals. They are also a purely donation-based organization, with all of the funding they need for their search-and-rescue operation and the continued veterinary care and food for their foster animals coming from donations.

Karr stressed the importance of fostering to their organization. They rescue many scared, sick, and injured dogs that possibly wouldn't be able to recover without the care that fostering can provide. Karr said of the scared and timid dogs they rescue that, "them being in that home type of environment around other dogs is huge. It helps them come out of their shell," a shell that may have been built up from weeks or months living without a home. Fostering allows the dogs to get used to normal life again and prepares them for living in their forever homes.

Today, Titan is doing great though he still has a long road ahead. He's gaining weight in his foster home, gaining back much of his personality, and, according to his foster mom, turning into a rascal! When he fully recovers, he'll be placed in a forever home that Yavapai Humane Trappers finds for him. The organization mainly finds forever homes for their foster pets via word of mouth and social media. They are listed on Petfinder.com and have an active Facebook page where they list dogs that are available.



Several weeks into fostering Titan has gained weight, wags his tail, and even playfully steals garden tools away from his foster mom. Photo courtesy of Judy Beery

To donate to Yavapai Humane Trappers to help them continue their work, or to even volunteer to be a foster parent, call Katrina Karr at the number below or contact them through their Facebook group page. It's the work that rescues such as Yavapai and all of their volunteers do that made all the difference for Titan.

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