

The Tucson

May/June 2022

DOG

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

Cover Story:

METEOROLOGIST

ERIN CHRISTIANSEN:

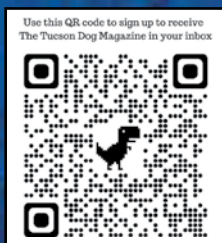
**A Force of Nature
for Animal Advocacy**

Features:

**Holistic Pet Care
is on the Rise in Tucson**

**Animal Advocate's
"Street Angels
Animal Rescues"
Helping Dogs in
Mexico Live
Better Lives**

**Southwest Oasis
Labrador Rescue
A Hub of Hope for
Labs in the Borderlands**



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of Southern Arizona



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Big Dog Charitable Foundation Presents



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The Tucson DOG

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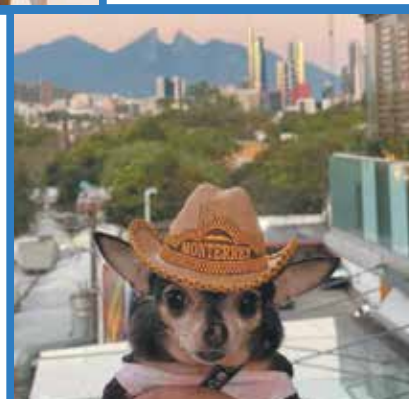


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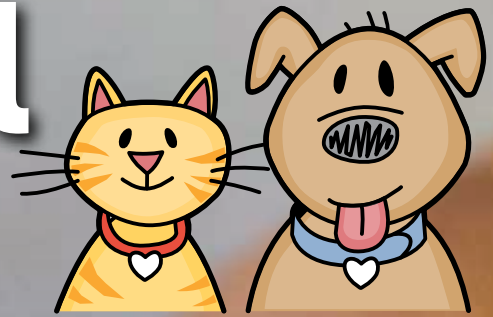
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Southwest Oasis
Labrador Rescue,
a Hub of Hope
for Labs in
the Borderlands

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13075

The Leader of the Pack Speaks

Dear Friends and Readers,

I am truly excited about our cover story with Erin Christiansen and her adorable 13-month-old puppy Roxy! We all know Erin as KOLD News 13's Chief Meteorologist but did you know that she is an active advocate for all animals? She has taken part in hundreds of pet-related events helping many local rescues and shelters and coming to the rescue of homeless pets, helping them find their forever homes.

Look for our very own **Tucson Dog Magazine** "behind the scenes" photoshoot as Roxy steals the show on KOLD News 13!

Although I can highlight only a few at a time, I'm especially proud of our county's finest and most dedicated rescue Heroes. In this issue, we share *Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue's* networking and collaboration with many shelters and volunteers. Their efforts in finding appropriate homes and nursing many Labs and Lab Mixes back to health show that their determination and dedication hold no boundaries or borders.

The *Humane Society of Southern Arizona's* "From The Director's Desk" outlines their collaboration efforts with local shelters while partnering with Cochise County and hosting the Nationwide March Muttness 2022 Tournament, all while staying busy moving animal welfare-related bills to the Senate.

"No Dogs Allowed?" New to Tucson, The *Lapan Sunshine Foundation* has dedicated their lives and talents to the education of the therapeutic effects that pets of all kinds have on, not just special needs children, but all children. *Sunshine Therapy Animals* train and certify pets for just this purpose. They also place great importance on instilling in children the value and fulfillment that comes with helping others, as well as experiencing the love of those animals who bring a new perspective to their own lives. One very important component of their success is the support of dedicated volunteers.

And then there are those special *individuals*, one of our own Tucsonans, who make a marked difference in this world. The heartwarming story of Lorna and her lifelong love of animals drive her efforts to improve the lives of Mexico's street dogs. She's responsible for changing laws, rescuing and helping find homes for pets, and, with the help of Cody's Friends, feeding starving dogs on the streets. She shows amazing strength being on the front lines of rescue all with the collaboration of tens of thousands of people and connections.

I've had the pleasure of meeting many of these unsung heroes and it's quickly become obvious that ensuring the success of saving animals in need and raising awareness of prevention is not possible to do alone. **We are all in this together** and even the smallest of us are an important part of saving our most vulnerable. Please reach out to help, get informed, share, and give what you can.

"It only takes one voice at the right pitch to start an avalanche"
Dianna Harding

Yours,
Heather McShea
Publisher & Editor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS to The Tucson Dog during these trying times. Your donation will help us to continue serving our community by continuing to promote local shelters and rescues (at no cost to them), helping homeless pets find homes, provide local resources and events and continue to share heartwarming stories about local people who give their lives to saving animals and animals saving humans.

Please send donations and your story, if you'd like to share, to:
The Tucson Dog Magazine
5151 E Broadway Blvd Ste 1600, Tucson, AZ 85711
Or call 520-345-2801



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The Tucson Dog Staff & Writers



Heather McShea - Publisher/Editor - As the owner of a local Home Health Care company, Heather often volunteers in helping find new homes for the pets of her hospice patients. She has worked closely with The Tucson Dog for over 4 years, and throughout her life has loved many rescue dogs of her own including a family therapy dog. Although she has only one dog now she 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 led her to Home Health Care and helping all animals in need. Email: heather@thetucsondog.com



Colleen Keefe - Account Executive - Colleen is a freelance writer, photographer, and third-generation Tucsonan. She's the mother of three young adults and one high schooler. Her daughter's service dog Beasty and his co-conspirator Teddy sometimes let the humans get the good spot on the family couch. Colleen has worked as a producer, written for newspapers, and online publications. She is always ready for game night and may have a problem with chocolate. Email: colleen.tucsondog@gmail.com



Alison Martin - Staff Writer/Account Executive - Alison is a compassionate Animal Communicator & Educator, Animal Energy Practitioner, and Pet Loss Grief Guide. For over 25 years, Alison has been making a positive impact in the lives of animals and their people through her professional work. She shares her life with five dogs, two horses and two goats with never a dull moment or lack of dog kisses. One of her favorite quotes is from Anatole France 'Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened' alison@animalsoulconnection.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."



Bonnie Craig - Staff Writer - Bonnie works as an educator and lives with three dogs, three cats, and a lot of plants and chickens. 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: bonniehooligan@yahoo.com



Jeremy Brown- Staff Writer - An animal lover for life, Jeremy has been a dog trainer for over 16 years. As the Area Trainer for PetSmart he trained dog trainers for years and opened The Complete Canine 7 years ago. A therapy dog evaluator for years, he founded Kienrnan's Kindness, a local therapy group that spreads kindness and also trains the Pima County Sheriff Therapy dog program. A Graduate from Indiana University and Applied Animal Behavior from University of Washington. He has four dogs; Archie, Lacey, Louis and Sabine, with the first two being therapy dogs. Email: completecaninetucson@gmail.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.dieckman@gmail.com

THE TUCSON DOG

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Special Feature

Holistic Pet Care is on the Rise in Tucson

Story by Rebecca West

People are increasingly turning to naturopathic or holistic medicine as alternatives to Western protocols. The same apparently holds true for their pets, as seen in the increasing number of service and product providers cropping up in Tucson. Today, many veterinarians agree that there is room for both paths in the field of pet health. Rather than invasive treatments, Eastern medicine generally takes a more natural approach to managing illnesses and injuries. This can take the form of herbs, common folk remedies used for thousands of years before pharmaceuticals and technological advances, and things like acupuncture, which is used frequently in large zoos.



Diatomaceous earth for natural pest control

There are a number of good reasons why you might want to start out with alternative care first. Brachycephalic breeds, for instance, have breathing issues and should avoid certain procedures. If you have concerns about the chemicals commonly used in pest control, shopping somewhere you know is going to carry a wider array of safer natural products is a huge plus. Using food-grade diatomaceous earth for fleas and bed bugs won't harm you or your pet. Saving you time and eye strain from obsessively reading all the fine print, natural products tend to have fewer ingredients and are generally listed in larger fonts.

If you embrace this, we've compiled a list of places you can receive treatments and products commonly offered in holistic circles. When it comes to veterinary care, you've got quite a lot of options. We were able to identify about a dozen entities that offer a range of services. Some are more on board with naturopathic treatment than others. A few offer a more standardized Western approach but include laser treatments, which is far less invasive than, say, surgery, so they advertise as holistic treatment providers. Regardless, the more choices, the better for everyone.



Rosemont Pet Clinic Image by Rosemont Pet Clinic

And there are, of course, times when surgery and more aggressive forms of intervention are required. We spoke with veterinarian Dr. Mark Restey at Rosemont Pet Clinic on East 5th St. (petclinetucson.com) about his practice and the thought process behind crossover care. Dr. Restey noted that cancer is a significant problem among humans and pets and that our Western lifestyles exacerbate it. A self-described "hippy at heart," he stated that many newer veterinarians are far more open-minded about naturopathic techniques while admitting that Eastern and Western medicine go hand in hand. "They have to," he stressed. "There's no other way. And it's important to be a good enough clinician to recognize that."

After a stint at Pegasus Veterinary Clinic here in Tucson, Dr. Restey took over Rosemont in January 2022 from former owner Dr. John Brett. Getting his start in traditional veterinary medicine, Restey gradually progressed into naturopathic healing, which he's integrated into his work over the last 16 years. A vigorous proponent of whole food supplements and proper diet, his office uses Chinese herbs and alternative methods like acupuncture, VOM (veterinary orthopedic manipulation), chiropractic, OrthoStim, and laser treatments. Working with Dr. Melanie Olson and a team of vet techs, they offer a full range of services.

Obviously passionate about his work, Dr. Restey emphasized the importance of the bond between client and animal, client and doctor, and doctor and animal. By incorporating these bonds into a safe, calm sanctuary, he hopes to create an atmosphere more conducive to successful treatments and animal/human interactions. Part of what drew him to Tucson was the strong animal advocacy sentiment in the community and the healing vibe of the Arizona landscape in general. That encompasses its people, spirit, and geological features.



Dr. Mark Restey

Products & Related Services

As far as animal care products and related services, there's:

- **Holistic Animal Care Shoppes** located on East Broadway Blvd. (holisticanimalcareshoppes.com)



Holistic Animal Care Shoppes
Image by Stacy Anderson

- **Azmira Holistic Animal Care** on East Outlook Dr. (azmira.com)
- **Andra's Animal Reiki**. Reiki is a Japanese method of natural healing based on channeling healing energy through the hands. It can be undertaken hands-on or at a close distance. Reiki works on the whole body and energy system rather than addressing specific symptoms. Many claim to find it beneficial. (andraewton.com/animal_reiki.htm)

Vets for Pets

For veterinarians focusing on household pets using integrative animal healing and wellness (experience in conventional and holistic medicine):

- **Animal Healing and Wellness Clinic**, a small clinic on North 1st Ave. (animalhealingandwellnessclinic.com)
- **Benarda Veterinary Hospital** on North Country Club Dr. (benardavet.com)
- **Paws Veterinary Center** on East River Rd. (pawstucson.com)
- **Sahuaro Vista Veterinary Clinic** on West Cool Dr. (sahuarovistavet.com)
- **Sunrise Pet Clinic** on North Swan Rd. (sunrisepetclinicaz.com)
- **Encanto Pet Clinic** on East Broadway Blvd. (encantopetclinic.com)



Equine hydrotherapy with Avra barn manager Augie
Image by Lori Falcon

Pets & Farm Animals

For naturopathic healers working with horses and farm animals in addition to pets:

- **Pegasus Veterinary** on East Speedway Blvd. (pegasusveterinary.com)
- **Prickly Pear Holistic Veterinary Care** mobile service (pricklypearvet.com)
- **Avra Equine Veterinary Clinic** offering ECB Equine Hydrotherapy. Rehabilitation and preventative therapies include aqua treadmill and cold saltwater spa. (avraequine.com)



Pets of Pima Parade

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to the incredible businesses that made the 1st Tucson Subaru Pets of Pima Parade possible!

TUCSON SUBARU



TEP

Tucson Electric Power



HBO max



And thank you to everyone who came to walk and watch. See you next year!

All proceeds from the Parade go to the lifesaving work of Pima Animal Care Center. See photos and videos on Friends of PACC's FB, Instagram, and on Pets of Pima Parade's FB and Instagram. Friends of PACC's FB: PACCfriends, IG: friendsofpacc. Pets of Pima Parade FB: petsofpimaparade, IG: petsofpimaparade

Calendar

MAY

Sun. May 1 thru the 15th Super Fun Shopping Fundraiser for Follow Your Heart Rescue

Shop online to benefit rescue pets! Secret Desert Soapworks & Dazzle Creations offer pet-themed soaps & other handmade merchandise. 20% of proceeds from sales between 5/1 & 5/15 go to aid FYH Rescue efforts.
etsy.com/shop/SecretDesertSoap
Facebook.com/dazzlecreations4u

Sun. May 1, 12pm-3pm Southwest Oasis Lab Rescue & Moto Sonora Meet & Greet Event

Meet SOLR staff members & volunteers accompanied by some of their cute, furry Lab friends at 1015 S. Park Ave., Tucson 85719.

Fri. May 6, 5pm-9pm Movie & a Cuddle with Bedtime Stories at HSSAZ (Kids' Event)

Children read bedtime stories to shelter pets, create crafts, enjoy pizza & popcorn, love on therapy dogs, & watch a favorite fun movie!
Cost: \$35. Location: 635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705.
Registration at: hssaz.org/movie

Sat. May 7, 12pm-3pm Southwest Oasis Lab Rescue & Hop Shop Meet & Greet Event

Meet SOLR staff members & volunteers accompanied by some of their cute, furry Lab friends at 3230 N. Dodge Blvd., Tucson 85716.

Sat. May 7, 9am Beagle Play Date at Reid Park

Hosted by Southern AZ Beagle Rescue, bring your beagles the 1st Saturday of every month to the small dog park at Reid Park in Tucson for fun in the sun beagle style!
Info at 520-247-7720
soazbeaglerescue.com

Sat. May 7, 9am-2pm Hope of Deliverance Rescue Rummage Sale & Carnival

Enjoy browsing unique finds while supporting a great cause! In addition to the sale, there will be food trucks, bounce houses, music, vendors like Gaia Provides, & adoptable dogs at St. Francis in the Foothills located at 4625 E. River Rd., Tucson 85718..
hopeofdeliverance.org.

Fri. May 13, 5pm-10pm Howling at the Moon with PACC!

A fun party is being held in Pima Animal Care Center's parking lot to celebrate finding homes for pets. There will be food trucks, a bouncy castle, vendors, face painting, & more! Admission is free. 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson 85745.

Sat. May 21, 9am-2pm Pinal County Animal Care Control Adoption Event at Home Depot

Furever homes wanted! An adoption event held at The Home Depot located at 1546 E. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande, AZ 85222, will be taking place from 9am to 2pm featuring animals under the care of PCACC. Shop there then adopt!

Mon. May 23, 6pm Sunshine Therapy Animals

Info sessions for anyone who wants to join the team & volunteer will be held at our office located at 4651 N. 1st Ave., Ste. 200, Tucson 85718. Contact info: 520-336-7124

Sat. May 28, 10am-2pm Moon & Stars Animal Rescue Feline Adoption Event

Adoptable cats will be at the Grant & Swan PetSmart location waiting for their furever homes. 520-322-5080
4740 E. Grant Rd., Tucson
85712moonandstarsanimalrescue.org

JUNE

Wed June 1st - Fri Sept 30th Dog Days of Summer

Tucson Botanical Gardens
Bring your furry friend along for garden walks, sniffs, and tasty treats from the Cafe.
For doggie admission prices visit
tucsonbotanical.org/event/dogdays
2150 N Alvernon Way
520-326-9686

Sat. June 4, 10am-2pm Hope Animal Shelter AZ & Precious Time Dogs Adoptions

Looking to adopt a pet? Come have a howlin' good time & meet your new best friend at Vista Feed the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. 2052 W. Sahuarita Rd., Vail, AZ 85641.

Sat. June 4, 9am Beagle Play Date at Reid Park

Hosted by Southern AZ Beagle Rescue, bring your beagles the 1st Saturday of every month to the small dog park at Reid Park in Tucson for fun in the sun beagle style!
Info at 520-247-7720
soazbeaglerescue.com

Sat. June 4, 11am-2pm Pups in the Plaza Adoption Event

Come meet adoptable pets under the care of the Humane Society of Southern Arizona at PAWSH Park Place located at 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson 85711.

Sun. June 5, 7am-9am Pet Food Distribution at HSSAZ

Does your pet need food? The 1st Sunday of each month the Humane Society of Southern Arizona gives away dog & cat food to those experiencing difficulties at their main campus located at 635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705. For more info, visit: hssaz.org/food

Fri. June 10, 7pm Tucson Saguaro's Baseball Game Benefitting Southwest Oasis Lab Rescue

Tickets available for \$10. If you purchase through SOLR's link, they will receive \$2 from every ticket sold. Tickets MUST be purchased through this link:
http://www.saguarosbaseball.com/tucson.asp?page=18&fundraising_id=38&cal_events_id=2529&randomizer=654546

Mon. June 13 thru 16, 9am-4pm Humane Amigos Summer Camp

The 4-day summer camp for pets & the kids who love them is a fun educational event for children ages 9-12 at HSSAZ. There will be activities, arts & crafts, games, & more. Day campers will spend a minimum of 2 hrs daily caring for different foster animals. Info at: <https://hssaz.org/event/humane-amigos-summer-camp-2022-shelter-squad/>

Wed. June 15, 4:30pm-5:30pm Drive-thru Vaccine & Microchip Clinic by Pathways for Paws

Help slow the spread of parvo & distemper with vaccines & reuniting lost dogs with microchips. Dogs can receive DAPPV vax - NO Rabies available. Microchipping is \$15/each with FREE registration provided.
2035 E. 17th St., Tucson 85719.
pathwaysforpaws.com

Sat. June 18, 1pm-2pm S. Arizona Cat Rescue Kitten Yoga

Beginner's yoga at Barefoot Studios, no experience needed! Many cute kittens to be cuddled. Tickets \$20 each & proceeds go to help SACR help more kittens. Ages 12+
7053 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson 85704.

Sat. June 25, 10am-2pm Moon & Stars Animal Rescue Feline Adoption Event

Sweet adoptable cats at the Grant & Swan PetSmart location waiting for furever homes! 520-322-5080
4740 E. Grant Rd., Tucson 85712
moonandstarsanimalrescue.org

Mon. June 27, 6pm Sunshine Therapy Animals

Info sessions for anyone who wants to join the team & volunteer will be held at our office located at 4651 N. 1st Ave., Ste. 200, Tucson 85718. Contact info: 520-336-7124



Enzo

Dog Days of Summer

June 1 - September 30



Bring your furry friend along on your garden walks to enjoy some good smells and tasty treats from the cafe!



TUCSON
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

For more information and doggie admission prices, visit
TucsonBotanical.org/event/dogdays

2150 N Alvernon Way (520)326.9686 TucsonBotanical.org

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.

Pima Animal Care Center 4000 N. Silverbell Rd.

**\$0 adoption fee. \$20 license fee
applies to adult dogs. Includes spay/neuter,
age-appropriate vaccines, microchip, & a free vet visit.**

MAX

ID# A760922

I'm a sweet 1.5 y/o boy who's housebroken & needs time to warm up to new people & other dogs, so I should meet all household members before going home to ensure a good fit. When greeting other dogs in playgroup, I was appropriate & well-behaved but generally kept to myself. Come meet me!

MEATBALL

ID# A764741

A 2 y/o distemper survivor, I'm a lowkey guy who LOVES people & does well in my foster home with 6 other large dogs. I play nicely, am crate trained, house broken & enjoy playing musical chairs with beds. Please email my foster family if you are interested in adopting me!

krayne14@gmail.com

PRINCESS

ID# A482998

I'm a sweet 9 y/o whose favorite thing in the world is a stuffed toy! I have gorgeous ears & a contagious smile. I'm currently in foster care but available for adoption. If you're interested in adopting me, email

PACC.AdoptAFoster@pima.gov.

ZEUS & LUNA

ID# A766375 & A766376

A couple of stunners, we're a closely bonded pair that are both around 2 y/o! We love people, attention, & do well with kids. Luna, a spayed Australian Cattle Dog, & Zeus, a neutered border collie mix, are friendly, outgoing, playful, social, smart, housebroken, & know how to sit for treats.

Humane Society of S. Arizona

635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705
(520) 321-3704

GROVER

ID# 911040

I'm only 2 y/o, but I'm told I play like a puppy. I like getting to know other pups who share my excitement for life, so please bring yours with you when you come to see me so we can get to know one another! Once I exhaust myself from zoomies, I mellow into a big marshmallow.

HAZEL

ID# 904061

If you're looking for a loyal girl who loves to play, it's me! A sweet 2 y/o, I recently had puppies, but I'm just as loving & playful as before, if not more. I like walking & do well on a leash. I can't wait to meet you so we can get acquainted over some time in the play yard!

The Animal League of Green Valley

Adoption fee: \$85.

TALGV (Appointments 10-2) 520-625-3170.

BONES

I'm an energetic 3 y/o Shepherd mix guy that loves car rides, playing fetch, & especially long walks. I'm still young & need a strong person in my life (no cats, please). I know several commands & am ready to learn more, especially if treats are involved! Won't you adopt me?

HARLEY

My foster mom reports that I'm a great houseguest! She says I love being around people (but not dogs), getting lots of affection, sunbathing, playing fetch, going for rides, & (if you want) I'll run by your side. I'm a six-year-old pointer mix who will obey your commands if you give me a chance.

Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary

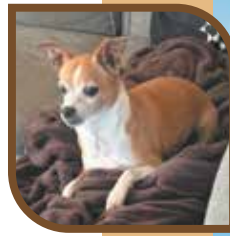
Foster-based Rescue in Marana • (520) 616-0171 Email: cherishedtails@yahoo.com

ANGEL

An easygoing, agreeable 10 y/o girl who's spayed & losing her eyesight, I could easily fit into lots of family situations. I walk on a leash & navigate well but am a bit tentative due to my near blindness. Working on 'potty system' at my foster home, I currently use pads. If interested in adoption, please submit an app at: <https://form.jotform.com/cherishedtails/dog-application>

STORMY

A healthy 9-10 y/o boy, I adore belly rubs, am a great walker, love other dogs, & I'm housebroken with a dog door & yard once I know the routine. I'm crate trained but have nice house manners so one isn't needed. I seem like I'd do ok with kids, but haven't lived with any while in rescue. App: <https://form.jotform.com/cherishedtails/dog-application>



Special Feature



Monterrey Chihuahua

its pen or cage and spend many happy hours with them. Her mom, who worked as an ad exec, rescued pets and instilled her love of animals and the importance of helping them in Lorna early on.

Originally from Argentina, the family eventually moved to Mexico City, where Lorna lived for 25 years before moving to the U.S. It was during her time there that her own odyssey into animal advocacy began to crystalize. At the age of 20, she started assisting the Mexican Humane Society. When she wasn't hitting the streets to rescue stray pets, she was translating articles into English for the organization's magazine. When she left the country many years ago, she distinctly remembers vowing on the plane as it taxied away that, one day, she'd be back to help the animals there — especially those put down by electrocution.

Yes, electrocution. It wasn't until 2015 that strays in Mexico were finally euthanized in a more humane fashion using drugs, and Lorna helped champion the cause. In 2014, the same year she moved to Tucson and started her Facebook page Angelitos Callejeros or Street Angels, Lorna reached out to animal activist Antemio Maya Pindter, the founder of Pro-Perro AC. A well-

known rescue and source of protection for street dogs in Mexico City, she spoke with him about her concerns. As it happened, Pindter was already working on legislation to change how euthanasia was approached. The following year, with their support, the law adopting the new method went into effect.

Angelitos Callejeros focuses on rescuing dogs throughout Mexico and Latin America. It is a place where anyone within the group can post dogs who are in need of homes and/or medical treatment. Consisting of some 4,000 rescuers, they're trying desperately to make a dent in the estimated 18 million strays in the



Lorna Grant-Aguilar & Amber Allen, who donated 500lbs of dogfood from Cody's Friends

country — a staggering number. So far, it's helped. In fact, it was successful enough to convince Lorna to create an offshoot page she gradually developed for Monterrey in Nuevo Leon, Mexico. It's called Monterrey Rescata, and it has nearly 24,000 group members to date.

As Lorna explains it, Monterrey is home to about 500,000 stray dogs, with around 10 dog pounds killing approximately 300 canines a month or more.

Animal Advocate's "Street Angels Animal Rescues" Helping Dogs in Mexico Live Better Lives

Story by Rebecca West, Photos provided by Lorna Grant-Aguilar

Lorna Grant-Aguilar has fond memories of Saturday mornings when her mother would lovingly line up all of the family's small pets for her to sit and play with. They ranged from a rabbit to guinea pigs, a turtle, hamsters, and birds. She would take each one out of



Stray street dog



Stray street dogs

they also transport them to adopters and provide free spay and neuter. While more funding and public education are needed, several municipalities have these centers now.

Another thing that's happening is a shift in attitude among the public on the ethical treatment of animals. People are pressuring officials for changes, and they're starting to come through. Happy to see the direction Mexico is headed in, Lorna sees the younger generation, in particular, as getting more involved, saying they truly love their dogs. She shared the story of a young woman of about 20, accompanied by two toddlers, who had stopped to sit on the sidewalk next to a dog struck by a car. A busy street with traffic whizzing by, she would not leave until animal rescue arrived, even with her young children waiting. To Lorna, these are the heroes in Mexico, everyday people trying to make a difference. But there's still a longways to go.



Street Angel Monick Moni takes on cruelty cases



Street dog

"To people outside of Mexico, especially, perhaps, in America, people think it's bad here with dogs, but they don't know the nightmare it is for them in Mexico," Lorna stated. "They don't know what dogs go through there. The extreme lengths of their suffering or the intense levels of it. You see dogs out there trying to survive on just two legs. The need is tremendous."

For more information about the two groups, visit her Facebook pages. If you'd like to help, there's a \$10-a-month club called Lorna's Angels on WhatsApp to contribute through (\$10 goes a long way there). You can also contact her directly with any amount if apps aren't your thing. Contributions are used for costs including transportation of animals, veterinary expenses, and pet food.

Contact info:

lornaanneaguilar@gmail.com

Angelitos Callejeros - facebook.com/groups/1521569331506912

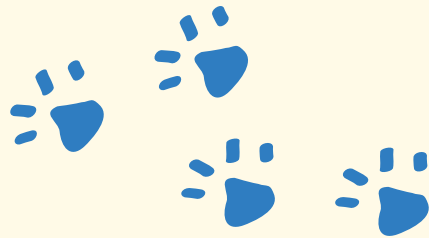
Monterrey Rescata - facebook.com/groups/1495171290792006



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.



The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary
5278 E. 21st St., Tucson 85711
www.hermitagecatshelter.org
App: <https://bit.ly/2Ws7HCG>



IVONNE

I'm a 2 y/o who came to the Hermitage in hopes of finding my forever family. It took me a little while to settle in, but if you visit, I'd love if you'd brush me, or give me chin scratches while we chat. I'll let you know when I'm "snuggled up"!



WYDMAN

I'm a shy boy who's 4-1/2 y/o looking for my new best friend! I love snuggles, and when I trust you, I love belly rubs. It's just hard to get to know people when you're a shy boy like me. I'm a sweet kitty, and just need the right home so I can blossom.

Humane Society of S. Arizona
635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705 (520)321-3704



RAPUNZEL

ID# 896115

My name was inspired by my enchanting personality, lush locks & royal demeanor. I'm a 6 y/o who'd love to snuggle up somewhere cozy together, just me, you, & a brush. Sounds fantastic to me! Let's start our happily ever after together. I'm sure it'll be love at first sight.



SPOT

ID# 912670

I am a charming 12 y/o gent. When we meet, I'll mosey up to say hello with some gentle rubs on your leg. I also have a love for burrowing! Whether a flipped bed or fluffy towel, I think it's funny to keep my head covered while I saunter about. Can't wait to share my affection & make you laugh!

Pima Animal Care Center
4000 N. Silverbell Rd.

Adoption includes spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccines, microchip, & free vet visit.



SIMBA

ID# A762194

I'm a handsome, sweet, curious 11 y/o boy who loves to chat with his person. I'm currently in foster care but am available for adoption! If you are interested in adopting me, email PACC.AdoptAFoster@pima.gov.



PATCHES

ID# A770876

Working from home? I promise to be in every Zoom call! An incredibly sweet senior boy who wants only a soft place to live out my life with love, I'm 20 y/o & currently in foster care but am available for adoption! If you are interested in me, email PACC.AdoptAFoster@pima.gov.



THOMAS

ID# A762987

I'm a 5 y/o boy looking to move into his forever home where I can show my true loveable potential. I've lived with a few of my kitty friends & would love a home where I can have other cat friends again to play with. Please come & meet me!

The Animal League of Green Valley
Adoption fee: \$45.
TALGV (Appointments 10-2) (520)625-3170.



JEROME

I'm a very handsome 12 y/o gray & white gentleman who wants to be your only pet. I'm hyperthyroid, so I need 1 pill a day. But don't worry, I come with vet care support for life to pay for them, so I'm ready for you and me to share the love if you are.



MIDNIGHT

With my shiny jet-black hair, I'm a beautiful & playful 4 y/o lady who's looking for a new home without kids. After we get to know each other, I'll share your bed, drink from the faucet, & play with your hair ties. Oh, & if you'll share your chicken, I'll love you forever!

S. Arizona Cat Rescue
(520) 200-1643
adoption@sacatrescue.org



PATRICK

About 5 y/o, I'm neutered, current on vaccines, dewormed, microchipped, & negative for FeLV. I'm good with other cats but don't like dogs & prefer older kids. I love humans that give me pets & let me sit in their lap, but tend to like things on my terms & will let you know when I've had enough. Let's meet soon!

Meteorologist Erin Christiansen A Force of Nature for Animal Advocacy



Image by josh.williams@kold.com

Smart, warm, and funny. You've seen her at the weather desk or standing in front of a glowing map outlining heavy rains over the Catalinas or a dust storm barreling across town. As the most widely recognized meteorologist in Tucson, she's likely been the face of weather in your home for years. She's KOLD News 13's Erin Christiansen, and she's a force of nature in her own right.



Erin with dogs Bailey (R) and Murray (L) Images by Arthur and Sheila Christiansen

If you're new to the area and need a recap, Erin's a long-standing member of the National Weather Association. Her career in Tucson began in 1997 with KOLD and ran to 2006 when she made the switch to Channel 9's KGUN, which lasted until 2018. That year, Erin moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, where she worked with CBS affiliate WPEC's news team. It wasn't long before she missed the desert and everything about it, however, and decided to return to the

place she calls home. In October 2020, she happily rejoined KOLD as its Chief Meteorologist.

Her bona fides include two Emmy Awards for weathercasting and an Arizona Press Award for news writing. She's also a Certified Broadcast Meteorologist with the American Meteorological Society, one of only 27 women to earn the cert when she received it. While her lengthy career may have been written in the stars, she didn't always have her eye on that particular prize. With her love of nature and the great outdoors, she knew that someday she wanted to get into public speaking. These early interests eventually led down the road to meteorology. When asked, Erin paused for a moment before admitting that she had fleetingly considered a career with animals at some point, but conceded she has the best of both worlds now.

It was actually her friend of 20 years, Bill Roemer, who suggested a feature on Erin and her work in animal rescue. Some long-time Tucson residents may recall Bill from his days as Channel 13's sportscaster and sports director. He was inducted into the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame in 2017. As it turns out, he and Erin were raised in the



Erin with pets and dad
Images by Arthur and Sheila Christiansen



Erin with Guinea pig and cat
Images by Arthur and Sheila Christiansen

These days, Erin has a Rhodesian-ridgeback mix named Roxy that she adopted from PACC. Her last dog, Murray, was also a PACC pup. A frequent collaborator with the shelter, her bio photo for KOLD was taken there in one of the play yards. The shot is typical of her enthusiasm and willingness to get down on the animals' level, no matter what she might be wearing. She also does the voiceover for their Pet of the Week segment airing Friday nights on FOX.

At this point, she's taken part in hundreds of animal events. Examples include Hug-a-Pug, painting new kennels at the Humane Society, Puttin' on the Dog, Halloween parties, and even a kissing booth for Pima Paws for Life. From fancy dress to work clothes, she's there.

"Some of the most rewarding moments for me are doing live shots showcasing animals to find them homes. I like to sit down on the ground with the dogs to get to know them a little bit before going on air because we have maybe 30 seconds to showcase them. And I've had dogs throw up on me, sneeze and pee on me, and other things during events, and I'm all good with it. I don't mind getting my hands dirty for the love of animals and finding them good homes."

A lot of her appeal and success in animal advocacy can be attributed to the fact she's very personable and approachable. Take, for instance, her involvement with Pima Paws for Life. Days away from having to close its doors due to financial difficulties in early 2016, Erin came out to broadcast and raise awareness for their

same small area and bonded over their shared backgrounds and love of dogs. Though Bill retired some years back, they keep in touch periodically and still have a lot in common.

Growing up in rural Illinois, where her family lived across from a forest preserve teeming with wildlife, Erin was surrounded by animals and points to this as the wellspring from which her advocacy partially sprung. Her parents were a major influence on her as well, recalling her dad's love of birds as an example and the fact that her mom was a dog groomer working out of their basement. Living on 5 acres, the family regularly had various critters deposited on their property that they would care for. Once, they had a nest of rabbits whose mom had died, and Erin ended up nursing the litter with her dolls' baby bottles.

"There were always animals coming into our lives, and it grew from there. We had dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and even a rescue goat we took care of," she explained.

These days, Erin has a Rhodesian-ridgeback mix named Roxy that she adopted from PACC. Her last dog, Murray, was also a PACC pup. A frequent collaborator with the shelter, her bio photo for KOLD was taken there in one of the play yards. The shot is typical of her enthusiasm and



Erin at PACC for her KOLD bio pic Image by Josh Williams

plight. The turnout was more than anyone could have imagined, and within a few hours, enough money was raised to keep the doors open and then some. On top of that, their AC died that day, and with Erin's star power, they had a heating and air company step forward to not only donate but install a brand-new unit.

"I'm blown away at different events at how people come through when there's a need. The generosity of southern Arizona is incredible, especially when it comes to animals," she marveled.

She's become so deeply entrenched in animal welfare that a few years back, a viewer approached her about putting her down as an emergency contact for his pets. He knew that if something happened to him, she'd ensure they found a good home. While initially hesitant, she agreed to do it. "It's so heartwarming," she said, reflecting on the moment. And she's regularly thanked by the public for the work she does because, as she noted, the topic resonates with people.

As Chief Meteorologist, animals aren't really her beat in the weather room, but most of her managers know it's a passion of hers and the station is pretty open to it. She does pitch story ideas about shelters, groups, and upcoming events to them. And management may come to her about a story or situation.



Erin & AJ at Halloween Party Image by Guy Atchley

Sometimes it's local citizens. But most of the work is done on the anchor's own time through her own contacts and efforts.

Which brings us to her legendary Halloween bashes. Trying to figure out a way to incorporate her love of Halloween, her passion for animals, and a career in television, Erin got the idea to ask people to make donations for a fundraiser. In 2015, she volunteered to help Pima Paws for Life locate a low-cost space to

rent downtown at La Placita Village which was a huge hit. Unfortunately, it wasn't available the following year, so she moved it to her home and raised twice the money with 400 people in attendance.

While a blessing, the snag is her home's not set up for guests on a scale of that magnitude. Including a full-blown haunted house, as she put it, work on the massive undertaking commences after the 4th of July weekend, when they start pulling everything out of storage. Erin's currently looking for another venue, either donated or low cost, where she can host it annually. If you or someone you know has or knows of a space that would be suitable, she's all ears!

In an effort to share the love with different rescue and animal welfare facilities, Erin regularly works with places like the Tucson Wildlife Center and the creatures in their care. In fact, just weeks ago, she found herself emceeing their annual spring fundraiser gala, Born to be Wild. Before the evening was over, organizers of the event had already approached her about reprising the role in 2023. She also supports and promotes awareness for equine centers when she can, but she's



Erin with horse and koala bear
Images by Arthur and Sheila Christiansen

actually quite allergic to horses and understandably doesn't do them as often.

Recently, Erin had the honor of being named the inaugural "human" grand marshal of Pima Pets on Parade running down historic 4th Ave. The emphasis on "human" is because her co-grand marshal is a canine known as Call of Duty Rex, a Belgian Malinois adopted from PACC by Tucson local Erin Switzer. Since his adoption, Rex has appeared in commercials, video games, magazines, and movies. In the hope that it becomes a long-standing tradition, the intent is to raise funds for PACC and celebrate animal families in the community. Excited to be a part of the first run, Erin called it a "fabulous way for the public to come out and support the charity and show off their pets," adding she thinks the organizers are really "on to something."

When asked what some of her favorite moments in animal advocacy were, the on-air personality stated, "Being a voice for the voiceless. They're so defenseless. Giving them a voice, working in TV with access to a mic and camera, I can be an advocate more easily because of that."

Other aspects stand out, too, like the fancy dress Puttin' on the Dog event with its fascinating juxtaposition of people dressed in ball gowns and tuxes showing off dogs and cats. Live shots, as she noted before, are rewarding because of the immense response they receive. These shelters and rescues see a significant spike in adoptions and donations whenever Erin's onboard.



Erin in fancy dress with dog
Image by Arthur and Sheila Christiansen

Responding to a question on the topic of animal awareness and what she'd like to get out there given the opportunity, she said:

"No matter your interests, animals connect us all, and

there are so many ways to help beyond the traditional ones. Some people believe that animal advocacy is primarily through adoption or donating. But not everyone can or wants to do that, and there are other ways. You might be surprised by how/where you can fit in.

"Whatever your strengths or passions are, you can use those to help. It isn't always through money. Photographers can donate their time taking pictures. The social-media-savvy can help share stories. Community members can volunteer to walk shelter dogs or help out at rescues and adoption events. If you're unsure, attend events. Find out what they do, and you might realize a skill you have could actually benefit the cause. Prep meals, get involved in any way you can."

An insightful and practical bit of advice for anyone considering getting involved in animal welfare but unsure of where to begin. As the interview came to a close, Erin laughingly wondered aloud, "Who would have thought my love of public speaking would help animals in the community?!" Tucson inhabitants are, indeed, lucky and grateful for such a gift.



Photographer Candice & Roxy

Special Feature

How To Prevent The Tragedy Of Accidental Pet Suffocation

Story by Alison Martin, Animal Soul Connection



Are you aware of the dangers of food packaging for your pets? Thanks to a helpful resource, Prevent Pet Suffocation.com, pet guardians can prevent this tragedy from happening to their beloved pets.

Chip bags and other food packaging pose serious suffocation risks. Too many pets, especially dogs, have died from suffocating in chip bags, cereal boxes, snack bags, pet treat bag liners,

and pet food bags. A lot of these bags are made from a strong mylar-like material (like a balloon) which helps keep snacks fresher. When a curious dog puts his head into the bag looking for leftover crumbs, the bag creates a vacuum-like seal around the dog's neck. As he tries to breathe, the bag tightens around his neck, cutting off the oxygen. When a dog cannot remove the bag from his head, he will usually start to panic, desperately running around until he collapses and dies from asphyxiation. This happens within minutes.

Many people falsely believe that a dog can simply remove a chip bag from his head with his front paws or tear through it with his claws. This is just not the case. Once the bag starts to seal around the dog's neck, it's extremely difficult to break the suction of the seal. All dogs are vulnerable to pet suffocation – no matter their size, breed, or age. No dog, from a tiny teacup poodle to a massive Great Dane, can win a fight with a chip bag or other plastic bag over his head once the bag seals and he starts to lose oxygen. Curious cats are at risk as well.



These are some facts presented by a survey conducted by Preventive Vet:

- At least 2–3 pets are lost each week in the U.S. to chip and other snack bag suffocation – and these are just the ones that get reported!
- Many people whose dogs have suffocated in these types of bags were only gone from the house for 20–30 minutes!
- It can take as little as 3–5 minutes for a pet to die from suffocation in these types of bags!

We can reduce the number of accidental pet deaths by educating people on the dangers of these types of bags. Most people do not know that these mylar bags are a suffocation hazard to their animals, and they often do not find out until it happens to their pet. The more people are aware of this risk, the more pet owners can do to ensure their pet is safe. Awareness is the best defense against pet suffocation!



What can you do to prevent this tragedy?

- Keep all chip/snack/pet food bags safely stored away from your pet.
- Tear or cut up all chip bags and food bags after use.
- Store chips/snacks/pet food in resealable plastic containers.
- Serve chips and snacks in glass bowls or containers instead of in bags.
- Keep all trash can lids tightly fastened, locked, or behind a cabinet.
- Keep the kitchen pantry door closed.
- Learn CPR for pets.
- Educate pet sitters and babysitters about pet suffocation prevention.
- Be extra vigilant during family and holiday gatherings.
- Watch for litter, including bags that may have blown into our yards.
- Lobby companies to add warning labels on snack/cereal/dog food bags.
- Share the resources at Prevent Pet Suffocation.com

Alison Martin is the Founder of Animal Soul Connection, email: alison@animalsoulconnection.com or visit www.animalsoulconnection.com

Summer Hours

May—September

Monday / Thursday / Saturday / Sunday
8AM—Noon

Donations Days Only :

May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7 & Sept 4
3 bags or 3 boxes



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Green Valley, AZ 85614

(520) 625-2189



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Have a great pet
who loves people?
Want to make our
community better?
Let us help you become
a therapy team!



Who we are & what we do!

We recruit, train, and place registered therapy teams, consisting of an owner and their pet in the Tucson Community. We visit various facilities that serve historically underserved or disenfranchised youth: after-school programs, domestic violence shelters, group homes, schools, libraries, residential treatment facilities, and other shelter facilities. We focus on teaching life skills children may not have not learned through traditional channels such as the humane treatment of animals.

Connect with us!



Sunshine Therapy Pets



@sunnyspetstucson

jackie@lapancollegeclub.org

4651 N. 1st Ave. STE 200

Tucson, AZ 85718

<https://lapansunshinefoundation.org/about-sunshine-therapy-animals/>

From the Director's Desk

Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Story by Steve Farley, CEO, Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Temperatures are climbing along with the demand for animal services in our community. All year long the Humane Society of Southern Arizona's (HSSA's) staff and volunteers work tirelessly to meet the needs of more than 5,000 pets who come through our doors. The summer months result in the most extreme demands.

Many pets come to us dehydrated or neglected, and some suffer from heat exhaustion. This is also the time of year when we see the fruits of kitten and puppy season – young litters are found struggling for their lives in unforgiving desert heat and brought to our safe haven.



The demand is high but that does not deter us. At HSSA we love this challenging but rewarding work, and our knowledge that we can rely on your support enables us to accomplish our lifesaving mission.

Thanks to you, we've got a lot of wonderful things to share this season. In March HSSA hosted the 2022 edition of the nationwide virtual March MuttnessSM Tournament in which 64 shelters from across the country went head-to-head to raise nearly a quarter of a million dollars for homeless pets. Over 3,000 donors participated in this fun and entertaining event.

It all came down to *The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter and Sanctuary* in Tucson, AZ versus *Oneida County Humane Society* in Rhinelander, WI, with Hermitage taking this year's title. All participating shelters benefitted – that's the best part of this collaboration. See the final brackets at MarchMuttness.org and stay tuned for updates on the even bigger and better tournament planned for March 2023!



Hermitage wins March Muttness

We're also excited to share some great news furthering our commitment to the pets and people who love them in Cochise County. On March 15th, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick announced that over \$1.1 million in federal funds have been appropriated to allow Cochise County, in coordination with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona and Friends of the Bisbee Animal



Cochise County Shelter

Shelter, to design and remodel a vacant County building into a modern animal shelter managed by HSSA, saving thousands of lives in coming years.

Partnering with Cochise County government, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona began efforts last year to aid Cochise County pets in dire need through regular transfers of animals from Douglas to HSSA's Main Campus in Tucson, AZ. While assisting the existing Cochise shelters in this and other ways, HSSA has been working toward the creation of a full-service shelter in Bisbee to serve pets throughout southeast Arizona. Now the effort moves toward raising money to match the federal funds and get the shelter built as soon as possible.

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona is grateful to be able to further our mission of serving pets and the people who love them by offering our services to the residents of Cochise County through this forthcoming state-of-the-art shelter. The new HSSA Bisbee Shelter will serve as a model for how large urban shelters can assist rural governments and animal advocates in our mutual goal of saving lives and maintaining public health. We are immensely grateful for our partners in Cochise County and the vision and action of Congresswoman Kirkpatrick, Senator Kelly, and the other members of the House and Senate for supporting this vital project. Learn how you can help, and stay tuned to progress on this important expansion at <https://hssaz.org/about-us/cochise-county/>



Steve and Pet VIP teams visit capitol for SB1270

HSSA is committed to advocacy and you helped us save animal lives across Arizona this legislative session. We put forward and led efforts to approve SB 1271 – a bill to ease our state's shortage of veterinarians, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope in partnership with our friends at the Arizona Humane Society.



Desert Pet

Your Neighborhood Pet Store
Committed to Helping
You and Your Pets.

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520.745.5158

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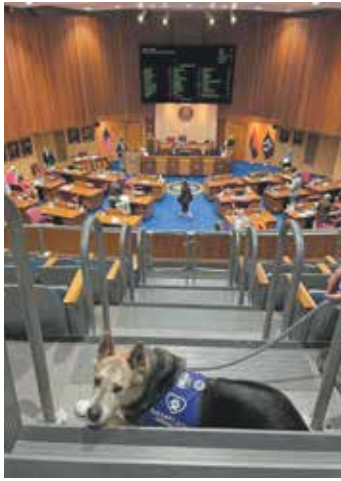


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Capitol vote SB1270

Too many pets are going without care, or having to wait too long for emergency care because there just aren't enough vets. Thousands of lives are at stake. SB1271 establishes the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Program to pay \$100,000 for each veterinarian who graduates after January 2023 and works full-time as a vet for at least four years in Arizona, with at least two of those years in an animal shelter or in agricultural practice in a rural area. The bill gained support from the agricultural community and the animal welfare community, as well as the vet schools, animal welfare agencies, and the veterinary association.

The bill passed the Senate with a final vote of 27-2, and passed both committees where it was assigned in the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. At press time, it was waiting to be included in the budget, funded sufficient to aid at least 50 new veterinarians in 2023. If advocacy holds a special place in your heart please join us and share the good news of SB1271 and other pet-related bills at www.hssaz.org/advocacy.

Lastly we want to remind you that HSSA offers a variety of classes and educational options for all members of the family during Tucson's hottest months and beyond. Whether



Rattlesnake Avoidance Training

it's a youth summer camp, a Pet VIP certification program, or our life-saving Rattlesnake and Toad Avoidance training, we are putting your pet's wellbeing first at HSSA.



HSSA's Rattlesnake and Toad Avoidance training classes are being offered now – as summer nights, monsoons and early fall weather brings some of Arizona's most dangerous critters to our yards. Venomous snakes are emerging in the warming weather and it's time to protect your four-legged friends from the potential dangers of our Southern Arizona desert. HSSA offers rattlesnake avoidance training as well as Colorado river toad avoidance training with our partners at Arizona Animal Experts, Inc. and Adobe Dog Training. This is just one more way we are working alongside you to keep your pets safe in all stages of their life. Find out more at <https://hssaz.org/services/education/pets/rattlesnake-avoidance-training>.



Becoming Real

Pop-Up Art Gallery supporting
Tucson Rescue Now
Brought to you by Civano Chiropractic

Friday May 20th 6pm-9pm
Hampton Inn Home 2 Suites
<https://ceatonphotography.com/Popupartgallery/>



Special Feature

Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue, a Hub of Hope for Labs in the Borderlands

Story by Bonnie Craig, Photographs Courtesy of Susan Krase



Lucky!

Three years ago, current SOLR president Susan Krase, along with a few friends, split off from another rescue in order to focus on a broader range of dogs, both geographically and breed-wise. They would work with predominantly Labrador retrievers, but would not be completely exclusive, and certainly would help any Lab mix in need. Through social media, their network quickly began to grow. Shelters so overcrowded that euthanasia of healthy dogs was inevitable, began to reach out. A small grassroots rescue in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico contacted SOLR and they began bringing dogs up from there. Concerned neighbors contacted them about abused or neglected dogs. Before they knew it, SOLR had rescued over 600 dogs and placed 566 of them in permanent homes.



Teva!



Lucky!

Here in Tucson we have an abundance of incredible animal rescues run by so many caring people, and one thing anyone involved with animal rescue knows is that networking is absolutely crucial to getting the animals what they need, where and when they need it. These networks, like many-spoked wheels, need a central hub to keep them connected and spinning in harmony. Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue (SOLR) is just that for shelters, groups, and individuals working to save Labs and Lab mixes throughout Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico.

Many people may remember Athena, a celebrity alum of SOLR. She had come from a farm in Mexico where her leg was caught in a bear trap and had to be amputated. Through SOLR's online network, Athena was able to be transported to Tucson and into foster care with a SOLR board member and later adopted by a disabled veteran and his wife, making headlines as she joined them in their work with other disabled vets.

Athena may be the most famous SOLR success story to date, but she is certainly not the only one who defied the odds with the help of this group. Miraculous dogs currently

under the care of SOLR fosters include Mateo, for one. A four-year-old yellow Lab from Hermosillo Mexico, Mateo was not being cared for by his owner. A concerned neighbor was able to snap a picture and send it to SOLR, who stepped in to help. Poor Mateo was down to only 20 pounds, extremely malnourished, and positive for tick fever, valley fever, and Transmissible Venereal Tumor (TVT) cancer. TVT is a sexually transmitted form of cancer that is very treatable, but also detrimental, as one would assume if left untreated. While this was a devastating diagnosis, as of this writing, Mateo is working toward recovery. He is boarded at an animal hospital undergoing treatment and has put on seven pounds.



Army when he first joined SOLR

In mid-March of 2022, another desperate case joined SOLR from Pinal County Animal Control (PCAC). This one was a seven-year-old Lab mix who came to be known as Army. He had been unable to move, even to lift his head, for a week. Initial efforts to diagnose Army's condition resulted in nothing but more questions. Although he was covered in ticks, after their removal, tick-borne illness was not found to be responsible for the paralysis. Finally, Army was able to get in to see a neurologist in Phoenix where an MRI and

Spinal Tap revealed the presence of a large blood clot in his neck, likely the result of blunt force trauma. He was quickly put on a regimen of medications and rehabilitation, the clot itself expected to dissolve on its own. In order to get him up and running again, foster parents Nicole and Steve Taylor provide around-the-clock love and care, he is visited by a physical therapist twice per week, and regularly enjoys hydrotherapy as well. After just two weeks of this, he was already able to lift his head, then roll over, and then sit up.

This level of care would be impossible without the gift of volunteers, and SOLR, like any other rescue, is always in need. Fosters, transportation, and services are just as few of the volunteer opportunities available. Applications can be found at solraz.org/volunteer. You can also donate via the site, because much as in the case of volunteers, public funding is crucial to these rescues as well.

SOLR also holds a variety of events and fundraisers throughout the year. A few upcoming ones include a meet and greet at the Hop Shop from 12-3 on May 7th and the Second Annual Walk For Sawyer on May 14th. At the June 10th Tucson Saguaros baseball game SOLR will receive \$2 per ticket purchased through the fundraising link on the team's website. They will also be holding meet and greets at the Speedway and Wilmot Bookmans from 11-3 on July 7th and August 20th. There are so many ways to get involved with this wonderful rescue, and to join a network that creates so much positive impact and will continue to help Labs and Lab mixes long into the future. Here's to 600 more rescued and beyond, SOLR!



Army as of this writing



Charlie and Max!



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Monsoons and Fireworks: How to Prepare Your Furry Family For a Stressful Season

Story by Jeremy Brown, The Complete Canine

Summertime in the desert can be a difficult time for our furry family members for many reasons. We have to deal with high temperatures, monsoons, and holiday fireworks all of which can shake and greatly stress our pets. This can manifest itself in a variety of behaviors, so we will look at ways to help deal with situations that are out of our control. From training techniques to desensitizing, we can help alleviate some stress for our canine friends.

Desensitization

Living in a town where we are more spread out and do not have the cacophony of city sounds which can generally cause stress and varying reactions in our canines. Desensitizing our friends to such noises can help them deal with that particular noise among others and can help build self-confidence. One suggestion I often give is to find a reward that your dog would take under any circumstance, such as cheese, hot dog, or freeze-dried beef liver (in moderation and only when training). These high-value rewards can help to redirect and teach them that when these noises happen they are safe. Making the noise or playing a noise on YouTube and then rewarding your pup can help prepare them for those situations that we cannot control. Some dogs may need us to start the noise at a low volume and raise it slowly, but regardless of the volume level, be sure to treat your pup with a high-value reward as the noise is playing. Consistent repetition, like what we do when we train a command like 'sit', is key and what makes this an effective technique. Many of my clients have used this method and remarked that it has made a huge difference in their dog's stress levels.

Touching to Calm

Just like in humans, the power of touch calming can help immensely with stress. There are a number of animal behaviorists that have studied touch on various species, including canines, and one method I enjoy teaching and using to help people is the Tellington Touch. When new pups and their families join our classes, both sides of the leash are under unfamiliar stress that can lead to undesired behavior. As new dog parents enter our training center, I inform them of three touching exercises that help limit stress: pressure on the chest plate in circular motions, lightly pulling the ears, and lightly pulling and bringing up the tail. Not only do these motions help alleviate stress in both the human and the canine, but the connection between the handler and canine improves as well! I always encourage clients to research ways to calm through touch. Doing this before and during storms and fireworks can limit stress and help our furry friends feel safe.

Calming Aids

These tools can help reduce stress in general and in different ways. What is best for you and your dog? Let's take a look!

- Calming Collars
- CBD Oil
- Thunder Shirts
- Calming Treats
- Liki Mat
- Weighted Blanket



Many of these items work wonders in stressful situations, but finding the correct item for you and your pup can be the tough part. Here are some things to consider: Calming treats and CBD oil, if used consistently, work well for many, however, it can be difficult for some to find the correct dosage. Do your research and ask your trainer or veterinarian the best results they've seen, to help narrow down the search. The Thunder Shirt is a way of swaddling your pup like a baby and it uses pressure to comfort. You can also achieve this effect by holding your dog with a bit of pressure. YouTube, again, has some videos on how to do this on your own without buying the shirt. For dogs that don't like wearing something, I have had great results with weighted blankets to give that little bit of pressure to calm them. Liki Mats are a relatively new product in the pet world that can help relieve stress. The act of licking can help reduce stress, I like to use cream cheese or something super high value, such as peanut butter on the silicone mat and put it in the freezer, it will be ready to enjoy before or during stressful situations. Calming collars can also be a great way to relieve everyday stress and are a great place to start for regular use. The idea of these collars is that they give off a pheromone like the mother dog and this can have a calming effect. When it comes to any calming aid, I like my clients to know that it is imperative to train and expose their dogs to the things that cause stress.

For more information contact
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Business Spotlight

“No dogs allowed in school?” — Sunshine Pet Therapy Animal Program

Story by Alan Voekel, Photos courtesy of Roni Ziemba



In a classic peanuts cartoon, Snoopy is famously offended by a sign reading “No Dogs Allowed in School.” For over ten years, Jackie Vásquez Lapan, the CEO of the Lapan Sunshine Foundation, has worked tirelessly to promote just the opposite idea: that not only should dogs be allowed, pets of all kinds have a vital role in schools helping children to relax, communicate better with others, and even boosting academic achievement

It was during her years just out of college working in a Ronald McDonald House in

Kansas City that Jackie first noticed the therapeutic effects that pets could have on children with autism. Impressed by what she was seeing, Jackie returned to school to complete her master’s degree researching the effects of pet therapy on special needs children. Her research culminated with a thesis paper documenting an eye-popping increase in communication and academic achievement among this student population.

“Over my years working with a variety of pet therapy programs nationwide I’ve come to see that pet therapy strategies are not only effective with special needs children, but with ALL children,” she noted. “It is particularly effective with students from distressed backgrounds who have trust issues.”

In 2018 Jackie brought a pet therapy program to the Lapan College and Career Club’s after-school program, whose efforts provide opportunity and resources to the youth of Southern Tucson. “I fell in love with the clubhouse and with its mission!” she said. “The pet program started with a handful of kids and is now one of the most popular offerings and serves over 60 kids twice a week.” The program is open to everyone. “The only requirement is that you like pets!” she laughed.

With demand rising for pet therapy services throughout the South Tucson community, as well as the University of Arizona, Pima College, and El Rio

Clinics, the phone is ringing off the hook at the offices of the Sunshine Therapy Animals which Jackie launched this year in response to the rising need. “We have an overwhelming demand for new volunteers and pets,” she explained. “We can train and certify the pets. What we mostly need are volunteers who have a passion for pets and for helping kids.”

Each session follows a familiar routine that is calming and designed to let the students relax and interact with the menagerie of pets in attendance along with the volunteers. Every week the visit begins with the students gathering in a circle with the dogs while the volunteer handler leads them in a centering activity built around the core behavior of STA and more specifically the context of pets and proper care for pets.

This is followed up with a lesson of the day, such as how to create nutritious dog treats which then becomes an activity that the kids can work on together in teams. STA prides itself in its training and support of its volunteer so they feel prepared for their visits.

“Another key value we have is service and giving back to the community,” noted Jackie. “It’s important for the kids to develop a heart and an appreciation of the joy that comes from helping others.” Students might then prepare gift bags of doggy treats to deliver to the humane society where they will experience the pleasure of seeing the excitement of the dogs who receive them while learning about the importance of the organization and how they might get involved.

“While the name of the program is ‘Pet Therapy, the focus and the purpose is all about the kids and the impact these ideas and interactions have on them,” noted volunteer and Lapan Program alumnus Gigi Contreras.

Jackie’s three-legged rescue therapy dog “Walter” made a big impression on one young man at the Lapan Clubhouse. “I realized that if Walter can go through life and be happy hopping along on three legs, then how much more can I choose to overcome my problems and be happy with the good things in my life,” he reflected thoughtfully.

What is abundantly clear is that some of the most eloquent truths and poignant moments in each session are found in the silent yet expressive eyes of the pets in attendance. Those eyes have guided hurting, wounded, and battered young hearts into finding meaning, purpose, inspiration, and success in overcoming their personal challenges, whatever they may be. “And that’s what it’s all about.” smiled Jackie.

If you or someone you know may be interested in volunteering, please contact Jackie at (520)336-7124 or email jackie@lapancollegeclub.org



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