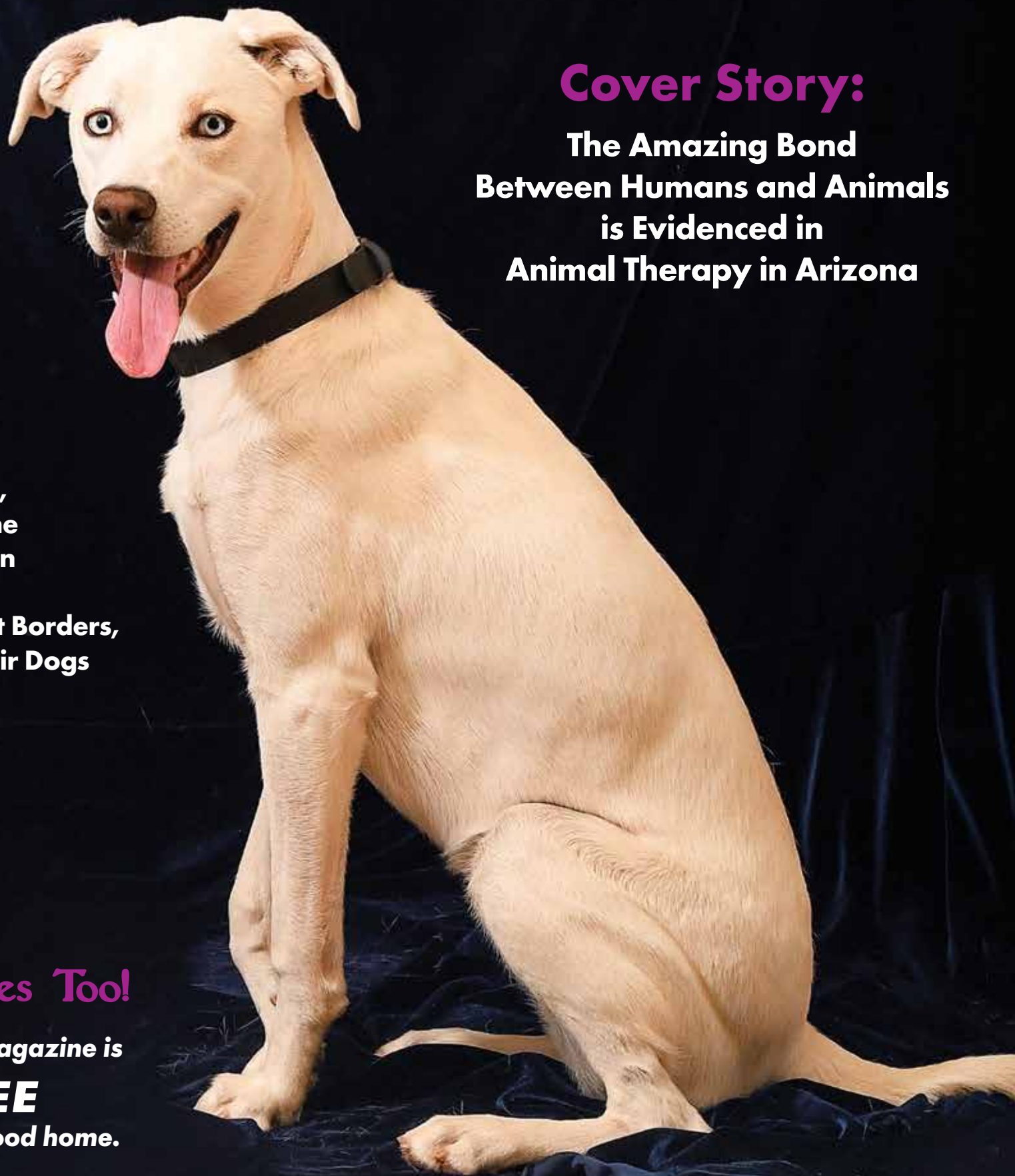


The Tucson

January/February 2023



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



Cover Story:

**The Amazing Bond
Between Humans and Animals
is Evidenced in
Animal Therapy in Arizona**

Features:

**Ninjas of the Forest,
The Relocation of the
Grand Canyon Bison**

**Meet Paws Without Borders,
Rescuing Wheelchair Dogs**

**Is Your Pet Packing
On The Pounds?**

Cats & Horses Too!



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The Tucson DOG

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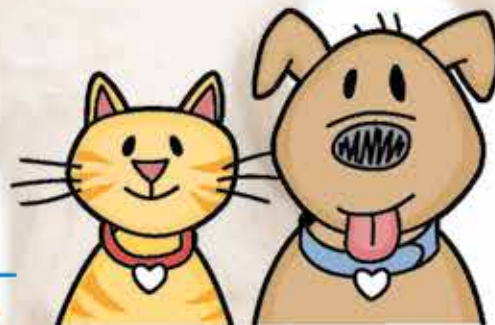


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pima.gov/animalcare



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PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER



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Photo by M. Kloth

The Leader of the Pack Speaks

Dear Friends and Readers,

WELCOME TO 2023!! I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope your holidays were filled with joy and love. I want to express how grateful I am for your continuing support and to our advertisers whom without, we would not be here. Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in The Tucson Dog. We are so grateful to all of you, and I could not be happier with the outpouring of love we receive from you about our publication. If you have a business or would like to sponsor a non-profit, please consider advertising in The Tucson Dog. Ask us how! Contact heather@thetucsondog.com. If you feel the desire to get involved in saving lives, contact any of our rescues and shelters listed in the animal resource guide on page 31 and ask how you can help. In this New Year, make some resolutions to help animals in our community in any way that you can. It's a way anyone can contribute and feel great doing it!

HOWlentine's Day is coming up and if you're one of the many who celebrate the day of Love with your pets, make the day special for them. Our furry Valentines only want one thing, **YOU**, so take them for a special ride, hike or walk, they will especially love a day spent playing with a new toy, chewing a new treat and sharing some snuggle time. I'm sure they will repay you in kind with plenty of free wet kisses!

We are happy to announce our 5th Annual **WOOFSTOCK** Cover Dog Contest in February, 2023. So, dress up your dog in his/her best WOOFstock costume and join in the fun! Look for our FaceBook Cover Dog Contest coming soon. The winner will receive a free pet portrait sitting and will be on the cover of the March/April Woofstock edition.

SAVE THE DATE! **WOOFSTOCK Adopt-A-Thon 2023** will be held Sunday, March 26th at Trail Dust Town. Check out the details on page 3. I am so thrilled about our cover story in this issue, it is a great way to start the year! Arizona is a special place when it comes to Animal Therapy, on page 16 we learn about the different local organizations who help better our lives using animals for therapy and education. NEVER underestimate the power of animals, especially our beloved dogs who are truly amazing! Our pets have brought us through the toughest 3 years we've endured in generations. Take a few lessons from our furry friends; Express Gratitude, Don't hold a grudge, Love without condition, Live in the moment, Be loyal, Enjoy life, Greet everybody with enthusiasm, Love deeply and Play hard.

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to an amazing 2023 for everyone!

Peace, Love, Biscuits and Happy New Year!

Yours,
Heather McShea
Owner, Publisher & Editor In Chief



LOTPS



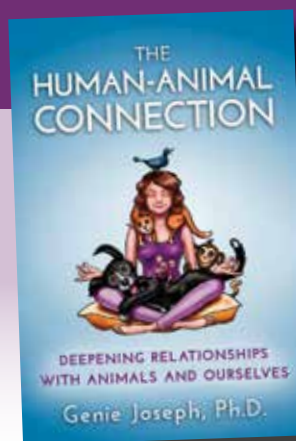
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS to The Tucson Dog during these trying times. Your donation will help us to continue serving our community by continuing to promote local shelters and rescues (at no cost to them), helping homeless pets find homes, provide local resources and events and continue 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

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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



Shiloh Walkosak - Account Executive - Shiloh is a midwestern girl who spent her early years roaming the wheat fields of Kansas with two great danes. If you ask her if she was raised by wolves she'll tell you "Kind of" At thirteen she started volunteering at Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita and was instantly hooked. She has spent more than three decades dedicated to wildlife conservative, pet rescue and animal advocacy. In 1999 while teaching wildlife rehabilitation at El Dorado Correctional Facility Shiloh attended a conference in Arizona and it was love at first hike. A year later she moved to Tucson. She shares her home with her boyfriend, his daughter, a jack russell, a cockatoo, a tortoise and three millipedes. shiloh.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



Melissa Barrow - Staff Writer - Melissa is a freelance writer, photographer, and life enthusiast. She holds a Master in Sustainable Enterprise and is a devoted advocate for the natural world. Melissa has lived with all sorts of animals; currently she resides with her cat friend Freyja (who rules the household like the goddess she is), and way too many (but never enough) books! When not writing on behalf of animals, Melissa thinks and writes obsessively about music, books, and films, loves dancing madly to live music, and is just as happy cozying up at home with a warm mug of homemade cold brew.

THE TUCSON DOG

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The Tucson Dog reserves the right to editorial control of all articles, stories and Letters to the Editor. The Tucson Dog assumes no responsibility for errors within its publication. The views herein do not necessarily represent the policies of The Tucson Dog and should not be construed as endorsements. The Tucson Dog was established in June 2017 and is a nonpartisan publication that is published bi-monthly by Heather McShea, Publisher/Editor. Entire contents copyright 2022 by The Tucson Dog. Layout, Design and Graphics by Prescott Design Pro, LLC – Linda Morris, Owner & Designer (928) 642-2609.

THANK YOU
LINDA

Thank you Linda for your donation. Your generosity through this holiday season is gratefully appreciated. Happy New Year!

The Relocation of the Grand Canyon Bison, Ninjas of the Forest

Story by Rebecca West



Many people have no idea there are herds of bison living in Arizona, much less in the Grand Canyon National Park. Known as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, it is one of the most frequently photographed locales on the planet. Stretching some 227 miles in length and more than 10 miles across in spots, it draws visitors from all over the globe, but seldom (if ever) are bison part of the backdrop to vacationers' travel pix.

After all, they're plains creatures known for munching tall, swaying grasses in places like South Dakota and slowly making their way across long, winding roadways in parks and preserves while dozens of tourists wait patiently in their vehicles as they meander by. Once roaming in vast herds with populations in excess of 60 million in the late 1700s, the species was culled down to just 541 animals by 1889.

With that picture planted firmly in our minds, one might wonder how they got to the Grand Canyon in the early 1900s. The story goes that entrepreneur Charles "Buffalo" Jones introduced approximately 100 bison to the area as part of a crossbreeding experiment with cattle. Bison, incidentally, are not buffalo, which is a common misconception. They are, however, part of the bovid family.

Since their initial introduction to the canyon, their numbers have steadily grown. Much like wild horses, the animals can wreak havoc on fragile



ecosystems, so their continued presence has caused a certain amount of consternation on the part of biologists. When herds of either species get too large, they must be thinned, often ending with death.

Sometimes, if they're lucky, they're relocated, which is exactly what is happening with the bison that call the Grand Canyon home. Thriving in the forests, biologists there are concerned that if they're left unchecked, their numbers could swell to between 1,200 to 1,500 from the more than 600 living there today. So where are they going? The answer is pure genius.

The park's wildlife managers have determined that 200 bison would be more in line with the health of the landscape. Without the threat of natural predators to keep the population down, like wolves, mountain lions, or even grizzly bears,



relocation is the answer they've arrived at.

The solution was to partner with the InterTribal Buffalo Council. As it turns out, they've been working together since 2018 when wildlife officials transferred 182 bison to eight different tribes across the nation. Just recently, the park service announced the transfer of 58 bison from the canyon's North Rim to Native American tribes. They included the Cheyenne River Sioux of South Dakota and the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

Thanks to tribes across the nation, the animals are making a huge comeback in North America. They are destined for places like Minnesota and Wisconsin, with shipments of 50-some to roughly 200 bison crisscrossing the country between the park services and the tribes who gladly accept them.

Viewed by them more as wildlife than commercial livestock, 82 tribes across the U.S. now have more than 20,000 bison in 65 herds under their stewardship. After all, they were a huge part of their ancestors' lives and culture for thousands of years.

But here in Arizona, the bison at the Grand Canyon have evolved out of necessity. In fact, they've been referred to as ninjas of the forest due to their stealthy movements as they soundlessly traverse the landscape, presumably to avoid drawing unwanted attention to themselves.



According to Grand Canyon wildlife biologist Miranda Terwilliger, they can pass through extremely dense, dead, and downed wood without making a sound. As the park's bison project lead, she noted that even so much as a whiff of a human in the air is enough to make them disappear like so many specters evaporating into the forest mist.

In addition to the stealth factor, the evolving bison living within the Grand Canyon National Park appear to have worked out for themselves just where the park's boundaries begin and end. Knowing those borders is important if you're trying to dodge hunters hungry for a head to mount and a hide to turn into a rug.

According to numerous sightings, the bison there have been observed crossing those boundaries in search of water and then hightailing it back to the relative safety of the park at an accelerated pace, as compared to their usual unhurried mosey. Like most creatures we deem as less intelligent than ourselves, they are far more aware than humans give them credit for.

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Calendar OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Sun. Jan. 1st thru 31st

Cody's Friends Pet Food Drive

Tucson is experiencing critical lows in pet food supplies for those in need. Bring your pet food donations, any day, to one of our Cody's Donation Station locations. We also take open bags of pet food as long as it's in the original bag. For locations, visit: codysfriends.org/wheretodonate/.

Sun. Jan. 1st thru 5th

**Humane Society of S. Arizona
50/50 Raffle Grand Prize Drawing**

From January 1st to the 5th HSSAZ is holding a virtual raffle event online culminating with an exciting grand prize drawing on the 5th! Visit www.hssaz5050.org/ for more info.

Sat. Jan. 7, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

The 1st Saturday of each month we will be at the PetSmart at Orange Grove & River with adoptable pets. 3850 W. River Rd, Tucson 85741

Sat. Jan. 7, 10am-12pm

**Southern Arizona Beagle Rescue
Playdate in the Park**

We have a 'beagle play date' the first Saturday of each month at the small dog park inside of Reid Park. Bring your beagles & have some fun in the sun beagle style! Info at 520-247-7720 or soazbeaglerescue.com.

Sat. Jan. 7, 11am-2pm

**Humane Society of S. Arizona
Pups in the Plaza Adoption Event**

Visit PAWSH Park Place at 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson 85711 to meet your new best friend.

Sat. Jan. 7, 2pm-4:30pm

**The Human-Animal Connection - Power of Presence
Workshop with Horses**

Join us for this live event being held at the nonprofit Equinimity Ranch, located at 3742 N. Edith Blvd., Tucson 85719. Contact Genie Joseph at lightwave7@hotmail.com to register.

Sat. Jan. 14, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

Every 2nd Saturday of the month we will be at the PetSmart at Grant & Swan with adoptable pets. 4740 E. Grant Rd., Tucson 85712

Sat. Jan. 14

**Brave Paws AZ Shelter Dogs Virtual
Adoption Event**

Join us on our IG page for a virtual adoption event and come meet your next new best friend! @bravepaws_az_shelter_dogs

Sat. Jan. 21, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

Every 3rd Saturday of the month we will be at the PetSmart at Wetmore & Oracle with adoptable pets. 4374 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson 85705

Sat. Jan. 28, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

On the 4th Saturday of each month, you can find your new best friend at the PetSmart located at 7727 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson 85710. Come meet our rescues today!

Sun. Jan. 29, 11am-1pm

**Southern Arizona Beagle Rescue
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

SABR will have dogs available for adoption at the PetSmart located at Orange Grove & Thornydale. 3850 W. River Rd., Tucson 85741 soazbeaglerescue.com

Sat. Feb. 11, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

Every 2nd Saturday of the month we will be at the PetSmart at Grant & Swan with adoptable pets. 4740 E. Grant Rd., Tucson 85712

Sun. Feb. 12,

**The Human-Animal Connection Launch
Party for "Deepening Relationships
with Animals and Ourselves"**

Held at Equinimity Ranch, this fundraiser "4 The Love of Animals" will feature educational seminars on natural healing methods for animals, demonstrations on soothing touch, & provide a chance to meet our team of horses, dogs, & other therapy animals.

Sat. Feb. 18, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

Every 3rd Saturday of the month we will be at the PetSmart at Wetmore & Oracle with adoptable pets. 4374 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson 85705

Sun. Feb. 19, 10am-11:30am

2023 Subaru Pets of Pima Parade

Come strut your stuff down 4th Ave during the 2nd Annual Pets of Pima Parade! You can walk on your own, with family, a group of friends, or in a team with coworkers. Individual participants & pets are asked to raise or donate at least \$50 to support the lifesaving work at Pima Animal Care Center. Info: petsofpimaparade.com

Fri. Feb. 24, 5pm - 9pm

Design for Dogs Fundraiser

A family-friendly event featuring a custom "design & build" doghouse competition with silent auction benefitting the Arizona Animal Welfare League & the SPCA. For more info, visit designfordogs.org. 16421 N. 90th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Sat. Feb. 25, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

On the 4th Saturday of each month, you can find your new best friend at the PetSmart located at 7727 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson 85710. Come meet our rescues today!

Sat. Feb. 25

**Brave Paws AZ Shelter Dogs Virtual
Adoption Event**

Join us on our IG page for a virtual adoption event and come meet your next new best friend. @bravepaws_az_shelter_dogs

Sun. Feb. 26, 11am-1pm

**Southern Arizona Beagle Rescue
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

SABR will have dogs available for adoption at the PetSmart located at Orange Grove & Thornydale. 3850 W. River Rd., Tucson 85741 soazbeaglerescue.com
PetSmart located at 4374 N. Oracle Rd. Visit

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1st thru 28th

Cody's Friends Pet Food Drive

Tucson is experiencing critical lows in pet food supplies for those in need. Bring your pet food donations, any day, to one of our Cody's Donation Station locations. We also take open bags of pet food as long as it's in the original bag. For locations, see codysfriends.org/wheretodonate/.

Sat. Feb. 4, 10:30am-2pm

**Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary
Adoption Event at PetSmart**

The 1st Saturday of each month we will be at the PetSmart at Orange Grove & River with adoptable pets. 3850 W. River Rd, Tucson 85741

Sat. Feb. 4, 10am-12pm

**Southern Arizona Beagle Rescue
Playdate in the Park**

We have a 'beagle play date' the first Saturday of each month at the small dog park inside of Reid Park. Bring your beagles & have some fun in the sun beagle style! Info at 520-247-7720 or soazbeaglerescue.com

Sat. Feb. 4

**Brave Paws AZ Shelter Dogs Virtual
Adoption Event**

Join us on our IG page for a virtual adoption event and come meet your next new best friend! @bravepaws_az_shelter_dogs



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A VISIT TO THE



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Mon-Fri, 12pm-7pm. Sat & Sun 10am-5pm. \$0 adoption fee.

\$20 license fee applies to adult dogs. Adoption includes spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip, & a free vet visit.



JETHRO ID#A788554

Hi there, I'm Jethro! I'm 3 y/o & came into PACC as a stray in September. I'm a total lover & have shelter staff & volunteers wrapped around my paw. They say I'm well-behaved & very easy to handle. I share my kennel with another dog here at PACC & have done well in playgroups. I have Valley Fever, but it is being treated with medication.



ARGO ID#A790894

I'm a handsome 6 y/o boy who's sure to make you smile! I've gone to several offsite events since I arrived at PACC in October & never fail to charm everyone I meet. Volunteers say I'm easy to handle & social & that I'm quite the cuddler! I have been easygoing with other dogs here at the shelter & would love to meet any potential roommates before I go home.



RASCAL ID#A669306

I'm a senior at 10 y/o, but you'd never know it given my bubbly personality & love for play! I arrived at PACC all the way back in June, & everyone keeps telling me they don't know why I'm still here! I have a passion for toys & brisk walks & I love to cuddle! I would love to be your one & only pet, but I promise to give you all the love & snuggles you'll ever need!

The Animal League of Green Valley

Adoption fee: \$85.

Appointments 10-2, daily (520) 625-3170.



GOLDIE

I'm an energetic & friendly five-month-old Shepherd mix girl that loves to run & play. I guess I don't know much yet, but I'm available & ready to learn stuff like sit, stay, & more. Could you teach me? Please come meet me!!!



KACIE

I'm an affectionate & energetic 2 y/o Rottweiler mix girl who loves being with people. I was found & no one claimed me, so I'm looking for a companion to love. I know several commands, love walking with you, & I get along with other dogs.

Humane Society of S. Arizona

635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705

520.327.6088 Ext. 173

hssaz.org

MOONA ID#919958

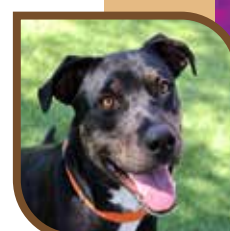
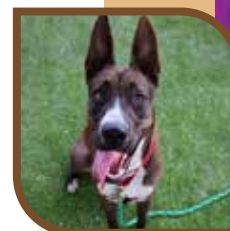
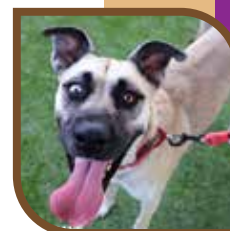
My name is Moona! I'm an active girl who loves going on adventures with my friends & I'm eager to be yours! I'm 1.5 y/o, so you can expect me to be high energy. I love walks & I would love to be your running partner. Do I sound like the one for you? Please call an adoptions matchmaker at (520) 327-6088 Ext. 173 before coming to meet me!

ZORO ID#920307

I'm Zoro, a 1 y/o Australian Kelpie. I enjoy most things other dogs do but what's unique about me is that I love the rain! Being in it & running around is when I'm happiest. I'd also like to snuggle up by your side & enjoy the monsoons from the comfort of a cozy couch. I'm looking for my forever family & maybe even a doggie brother or sis. Please bring your whole family to meet me first!

SAGUARO ID#917384

My name is Saguaro. I'm a 1 y/o shepherd mix ready to bring happiness & lots of snuggles into your home. As a people person I prefer being an only dog. Some of my favorite activities include going on long walks & playing with the humans in my life. I especially love tennis balls! If I sound like the perfect edition to your family, please schedule an appointment with my friends in adoptions.



Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary

<https://cherishedtails.weebly.com>

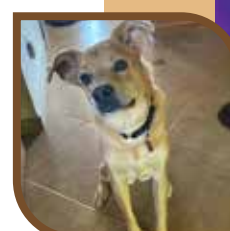
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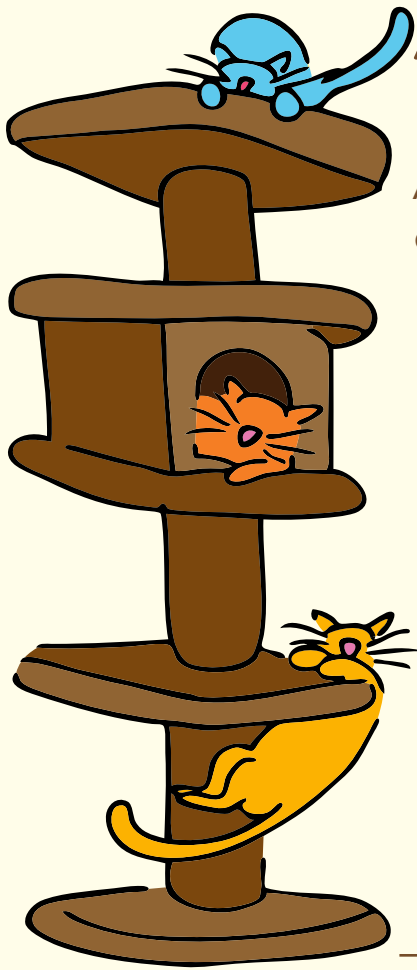
BENSON

I'm a sweet & well socialized 7 m/o puppy who's still learning all my lessons to be the best boy. I'm doing well on a leash & house training with a dog door & being crated. I'm vaxed, dewormed, microchipped & neutered. I'm ready for my family & expected to be 50lbs full grown. He is ready for his own family!

NALA

I'm a sweet 5-6 y/o girl weighing about 50lbs. I'm great on a leash, though a little reactive when walking by other dogs. I'd be best in a home with dogs my size or larger or as an only dog. Strong, I need a capable handler. I'm completely housebroken & friendly with everyone I've met, but I haven't been with young kids or cats yet.





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 at
5278 E. 21st St., Tucson, 85711
www.hermitagecatshelter.org.
Adoption application: <https://bit.ly/2Ws7HCG>



ENAMPURRED

I'm Enampurred & I'd love to spend my first birthday with a family of my own! I'm a good boy & I even wash my face without being told! I'm part of the "Love" litter, & all my siblings found their families, so can you help me find mine? I'm affectionate, laid-back, & sweet!



JELLYBEAN

Hi! I'm Jellybean, & I just turned 1! After a jaunt on the streets, I was rescued & am looking for my forever family. The staff says my heart is "10 times too big" because I'm a little kitty but think people are great! I have FeLV, but am healthy. Come meet me, please.

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



MACY

I'm a 2 m/o girl with short black & white hair. I love to play with toys or the other kittens here. When I have to slow down, I like to sleep on you. My legs are all white but I have one black toe bean... you should see it! I'm ready to go home with you now.



WILLOW

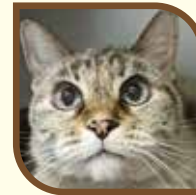
I'm a 14 y/o dilute calico lady that likes to snuggle & purr you to sleep at night. I am very friendly & love being petted & brushed. I'd prefer a peaceful, loving home where I can sleep on your bed, & I come with vet care support for life.

PACC - Pima Animal Care Center
4000 N. Silverbell Rd., (520) 724-55900.
Mon-Fri, 12pm-7pm. Sat & Sun 10am-5pm.
\$0 adoption fee. Adoption includes spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip, & a free vet visit.



ABBY ID#A790724

I'm Abby & I'm a feisty 12 y/o! I've been living in our director's office, & I'm a bit of a celebrity; everyone around the shelter knows me! I'm very social & affectionate & I'll make you laugh with my silly antics. I have diabetes, but staff say I'm a champ when it comes to taking my insulin. Come meet me & see why everyone loves me!



GABBY ID#A790724

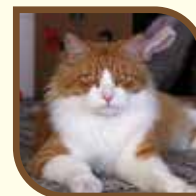
I am a 15 y/o girl looking for a soft place to land for the best years of my life! I'm a sweet but somewhat shy girl, so I'd love a quiet family with a lot of love, snuggles & treats to share. Come meet me at PACC today!



LILITH ID#A795791

I'm Lilith, & I might be the most gorgeous gal around! I'm an energetic 1.5 y/o looking for a new home who loves to play. My other greatest passion? TREATS! The folks here at PACC are great, but I deserve to have a whole house to play in. I have a whole lot of love to give & I can't wait to meet you!

Humane Society of S. Arizona
635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705
520.327.6088 Ext. 173 hssaz.org



TANGO ID#921640

I'm a handsome orange tabby who's looking for a special living arrangement. You see, I used to be an outdoor boy who would enjoy hanging out on a patio. At HSSAZ, I live in a screened-in area that I love! If you have a screened porch you'll let me prowl in from time to time, we may be a match. In return, I'll keep you company with head rubs, lap sits, & hopefully some time spent playing with toys!



CANELLA ID# 871618

I'm Canella, a regal, spunky girl who's ready to find my person. Being a queen bee, I'd prefer a home where I'm the only cat! Treats are the way to my heart & I know a few cool tricks, too. While I do enjoy being petted, I prefer it to be on my terms & would like a human who respects my boundaries. I'm available by appointment only, so call (520)-327-6088 Ext.173 to meet.



MAPLE ID#921906

Hi there, I'm Maple! I'm an 11 m/o tabby kitty that loves sleeping in boxes & people watching. I can be bashful at first, but a few good pets are the way to my heart! Once I come out of my shell, you'll know that I'm sweet like maple syrup. Ask to meet me today.

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Meet Paws Without Borders: The New Cross-Culture 501c3 Rescuing Wheelchair Dogs

Story By Melissa Barrow



Kim Kelly

Kim Kelly has always been into helping animals. She found Tucson's rescue community after returning from post-doctorate work. It was their social media alerts that acquainted her with the plight of abandoned special needs dogs in Mexico. Deeply affected, her compassion and determination united to make a difference. Now, her newly official 501c3 is the US arm of a cross-border rescue collaboration with Mexico and Canada to rehabilitate and rehome mobility-challenged dogs.

dedication given to their 100+ rescues. "I felt like they were my people, and I just could not turn my back on them." She dove in wholeheartedly, helping to gather funds, and even fostering Jazmin briefly. Paws Without Borders US (PWBUS) was born! Multiple surgeries later, Jazmin is alive and spunky in Kingston, North Ontario.

Miguel and Susie don't take in easily-adopted dogs; they take in the dogs that need them - the abandoned ones with broken spines and more broken spirits.

These are incredibly difficult medical cases requiring thousands of dollars worth of treatment, including multiple surgeries and blood transfusions. Even in Mexico, major medical procedures are costly, and so is the cross-border transport to rehome these dogs, which is all done strictly by the book. PWB pays for USDA paperwork, spaying/neutering, and all vaccines. In mid-November, they'd just accomplished that for 14 incoming Mexican dogs dropped at Kim's house for a night before heading to Oregon!



Miguel & Susie

When people become paralyzed, there are established resources to help them adapt and rehabilitate, but in low-resource regions, canine victims of spinal injury are typically abandoned to die in the streets by those ill-equipped for the financial challenges of a special needs pet. Without someone to tell these stories, people never become aware. The creation of Paws Without Borders US is a story that began with stories: an action-adventure love tale sparked by hearing about – and falling in love with – 3 amazing dogs in need:

Gil, Diego, and Jazmin

It all started with a video about Gil, a partially paralyzed dog on the San Carlos Reservation Northeast of Tucson, who'd be put down if no one could take him. "Something about that dog, something about that moment" Kim recalls, "I just knew I had to help." Thanks to that impulse, lots of networking, and relay fostering, Gil now lives with a wonderful family in Durango, Colorado.



Gil

In the Spring of 2021, Kim heard about an immobilized dog in Mexico needing a home. With no clue what they were doing, she and a friend drove down to meet Diego, who charmed them immediately, prompting them to launch their first-ever, daring cross-border rescue! Initially adopted here in Tucson, Diego later developed life-threatening complications needing more expert care. Thanks to another rescue group, and the phenomenal efforts of a transporter who braved pandemic travel and closed borders, he's now frolicking with other wheelchair dogs near Montreal.



Diego

Sweet-tempered Jazmin was found with multiple injuries, dragging herself through the Hermosillo streets. She was rescued by Lupita, who works with Vidas Con Causa, aka Paws without Borders Mexico (PWBMX), an established dog rescue run by founders Miguel and Susie, from their home. Kim is frequently challenged, 'Why Mexico, with so many needy animals here in Tucson?!' She responds firmly, "This is the work I was called to do." That calling, first seeded by love for the dogs, blossomed by meeting Miguel and Susie. She tears up reliving her first visit to them, witnessing the depth of love and selfless

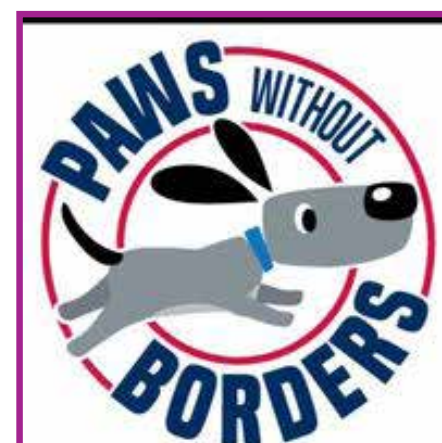


Jazmin

Currently, the main goal of PWBUS is to support PWBMX by securing funding and supplies. Hermosillo is the hub filtering requirements to PWBUS, which works with multiple partner groups through cost and labor sharing to get it done. It's a mighty network of cross-border neighbors collaborating to help distressed dogs. Kim makes it all happen despite a full-time job, so PWBUS would welcome more volunteers!

Funds, and basic supplies, especially food, are urgently needed. Dog food is more expensive in Mexico than in the US! You can help by donating, shopping their Amazon or Chewie wish lists, following them on social media, and most of all, adopting! Mexican street dogs have learned to befriend humans and other dogs to survive, so they make wonderful, adaptable companions. If interested, DM Kim on Instagram or Facebook, or email pawswithoutbordersus@gmail.com.

Learn more and see profiles of adoptable dogs at <https://www.pawswithoutborders.org/>



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10 a.m. Parade / 11:30 a.m. Festival

Segments & Checkpoints



**Raising Cane's Pro-
cesión de los Perros:**
Dogs rule during this
Parade segment. Hun-

dreds of canines—cool, cuddly and cute—will strut their stuff down 4th Avenue. Some will be all dressed up, and some will just be the adorable way nature made them. Among the highlights of the procession will be the march of the PACC Fosters and the ride of the wheelie dogs from A Loyal Companion.

Cat Convoy: Cats are king during the Cat Convoy. There will be cats on leashes and cats in strollers, and cats in carriers riding this special cat conveyance. There will even be Wildcats. We love our cats and want the whole world to see them.

Pet Pride: All other companion animals take center stage during the Pet Pride segment of the Parade. Ever seen a turkey on a leash? Or a chicken in a trailer? Do you know what a group of goats is called? See and discover for yourself at this one-of-kind experience.



boarding grooming training daycare

Central Pet Prize

Packs: Register for the Parade and raise money to support PACC to win amazing prizes for you and your pets, courtesy of Central Pet. The more money you raise, the cooler the prizes!

1. Nonstop for Tucson Staging Area. Participants will start here with check-in from 8:30am to 10:00am.

2. 4 Legs on 4th Festival & Vendor Fair: Stay after the parade for more free fun. Featuring entertainment, activities, and adoptions, as well as dozens of vendors with pet-themed arts and crafts.



3. a new
Which will you take home? We got you covered! Join us immediately after the Parade for this diverse and fun adoption event. Of course there are always more pets to choose from at Pima Animal Care Center.

HSL Properties Adoption Extravaganza: Looking for family member?



4. TUCSON FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TFCU Stage: Great live entertainment, courtesy of Arizona Music Connection, along with Pinups for PACC pageant, contests, and prizes can be found on the TFCU stage, immediately after the Parade.

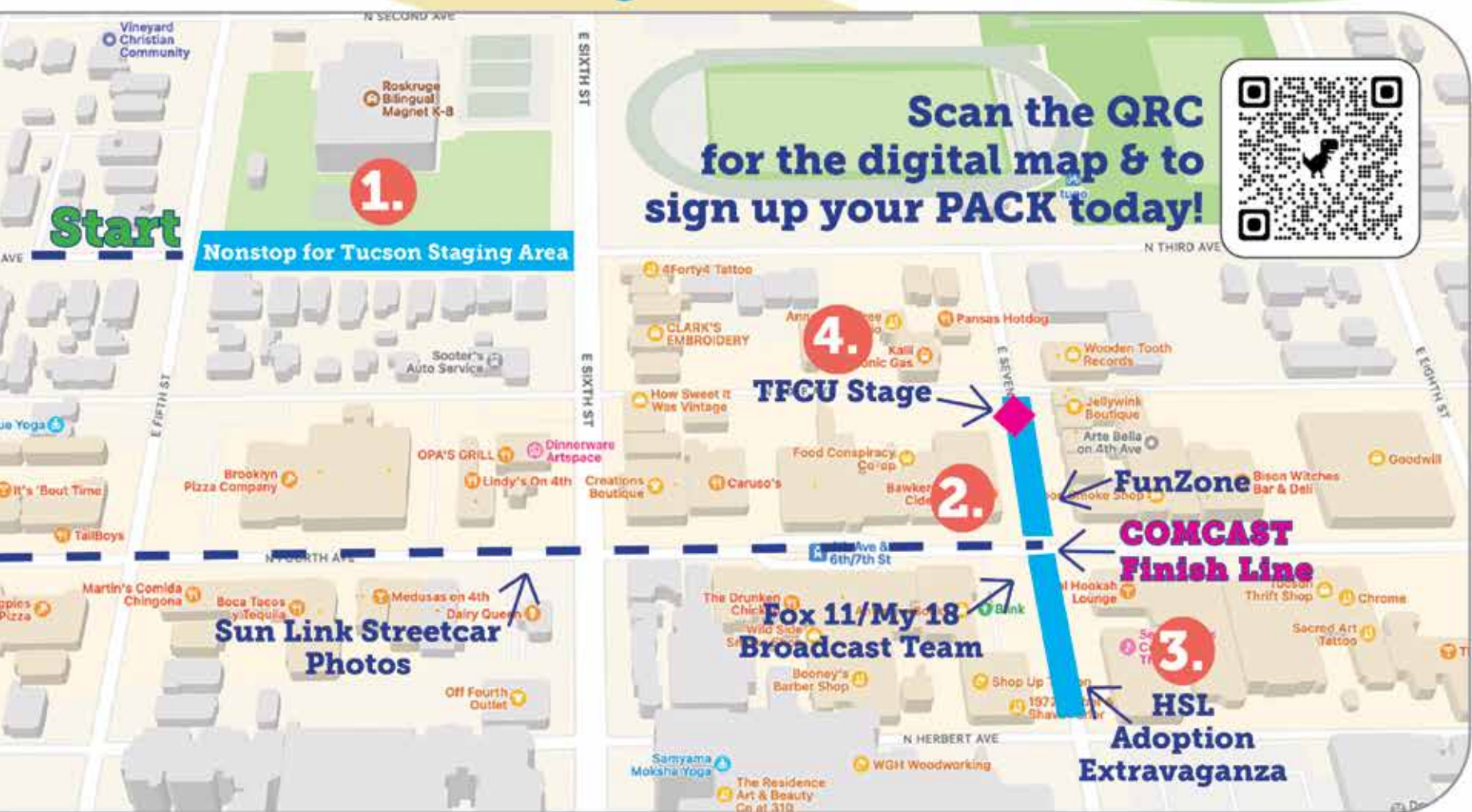
Form Your Pack!

Individual - Raise or donate \$50+ to support PACC.

Chihuahua Pack - \$250, small but fierce! Up to Five Participants, Team Banner, Program Listing, and Parade PA Announcement.

Pima Parade

h Ave. • Sunday, Feb 19, 2023



Beagle Pack - \$500,
Overachievers! Up to Ten
Participants, 2 Team Ban-
ners, Program Listing, and
Parade PA Announcement.

Great Dane Pack - \$1000,
Big and Beautiful! Up to 20
Participants, Parade Float
(trailer included), 2 Team
Banners, Ad in Program, and
Parade PA Announcement.

**Don't think your
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Parade but concerned your
pet can't handle the fanfare?

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resentation, aka a "Petsicle,"
of your pet to carry in the
Parade! To get your Petsicle,
follow the registration in-
structions to submit your pet
pic(s) (Examples of Petsicles
below.)



**Event also made possible
by these community
partners:**



Cover Story:

The Amazing Bond Between Humans and Animals is Evidenced in Animal Therapy in Arizona

Story by Rebecca West

There's archaeological evidence dogs were the first animals domesticated by humans between 20,000 and 30,000 years ago. This is far earlier than the domestication of donkeys, horses, and ruminant animals.

We initially started bringing animals into the folds of our daily lives because of what they could do for us. Cats kept vermin down and dogs could stand guard, herd livestock, and play a role in hunting, among other jobs. Eventually, it grew into a companion situation. To this day, these creatures play roles in our physical and emotional wellbeing.

Rather interestingly, early practitioners of animal husbandry may have passed their genes down to those of us who love animals. According to best-selling author of *In Defence of Dogs* and visiting fellow in anthrozoology at the University of Bristol, John Bradshaw, the reason some of us are predisposed to responding to animals is this:

"Groups which included people with empathy for animals and an understanding of animal husbandry would have flourished at the expense of those without," and that "The very same genes that today predispose some people to take on their first cat or dog would have spread among those early farmers."



Genie Joseph and therapy dog (image via HAC)

So, in his view, it seemingly boils down to the hypothesis that, as we've evolved over the centuries, we have subtly divided into two groups: those that feel an affinity for animals and those who are seemingly indifferent. The question could be asked if this is why some people respond so well to emotional support animals (ESA) and the therapy benefits they provide.

Because, young or old, there's no doubt we do. Researchers have proven time and again that we benefit both physically and mentally from these relationships.

They ease our anxiety, comfort us, keep

loneliness at bay, lower our blood pressure, and add years to our lives, just to name a few of the perks they provide us.

Some of the physical benefits of animal-assisted therapy include improved fine motor skills and improved balance. Mentally, ESA therapy among children is shown to increase self-esteem, improve focus, attention, and motivation, which in turn lead to improved reading and social skills. It also improves self-control while increasing trust, empathy, and teamwork.

Here in Tucson, we are blessed to have one of the largest ESA communities in the entire country. We also have one of the most diverse that includes farm animals and domestic therapy pets. We've profiled many of the groups involved here within the pages of *The Tucson Dog Magazine* over the years, and we'll continue to do so as they continue to evolve and expand.

One that we haven't covered in the past is The Human-Animal Connection. A Tucson-based non-profit organization, The Human-Animal Connection (HAC)

offers a unique initiative called Canines Teach Compassion that's free of charge to teens.

A weekly program held at Rincon High School, HAC brings certified therapy animals — including dogs, cats, and horses — into school classrooms to teach social skills, increase resilience, and decrease stress. The program runs from September through April and serves teens that have been referred to counseling. Those that attend have seen huge strides since attending.

It's no secret that high school is a difficult time for kids in general. Currently, in the U.S., students are experiencing tremendous stress and trauma. These stresses greatly affect their academic performance and ability to connect with others. But, as HAC notes, after just one hour of interaction with animals, students consistently report a more than 50 percent reduction in stress levels.

Last year, they offered a special program for teens who suffered the loss of a parent to COVID. In addition to the benefits of calming, joyful interactions with the dogs, their curriculum also teaches how to increase resilience, emotional coping, and social skills.



Students with dogs and Sunshine Therapy handler (image via HAC)

HAC's Genie Joseph shared that the first step to compassion towards others is to stop judging yourself. She also explained that having a range of breeds, sizes, and colors of dogs in the program affirms how we are all different, and yet in some fundamental way we come to see how we are the same. If all dogs are good dogs, can we also begin to see the goodness in each other?

HAC's strategy is unique in that the students teach the dogs, whereas with most programs the dogs are put through the paces for eligibility and registered with their handlers through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs or Pet Partners, another group that performs same or similar work. Students are taught how to evaluate stress levels in dogs as well as learn basic dog training methods. You can follow these links to learn more: youtu.be/UcKQRdC6Cl0 or thehumananimalconnection.org/post/canines-teach-compassion-1.

Because stress interferes with academic performance, HAC has begun tracking positive grade trends with the students who participate in their plan.



Dogs Are Healers



Presidential Award (image via HAC)

They announced a recent graduate of theirs is applying to the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Arizona.

HAC also works with veterans and active-duty military, where they train pets at Davis-Monthan

Air Force Base to become morale dogs to support mental health. They've presented versions of their program to over 4,000 service members and their families. In addition to receiving a Presidential Volunteer Service Award at Tripler Army Medical Center, their team was also given a national award from The American Psychological Association for Resilience in the Workplace.

And their ESAs aren't just limited to dogs, cats, and horses. HAC works with pigs, goats, donkeys, and even chickens. Their working model includes joining forces with several trainers, like Jeremey Brown's Complete Canine and Cindy Morgan at Oh, Behave for therapy dog training classes, and they frequently invite other therapy groups to participate, such as the aforementioned Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Pet Partners, and Gabriel's Angels.

Gabriel's Angels does similar work with kids at Title One schools and afterschool programs, but with much younger children. We covered their amazing efforts in the last issue of *The Tucson Dog* where we discussed the fact that they work with 75+ facilities around the state, including crisis shelters, domestic violence groups, and homeless shelters.



Policeman with Pet Partners therapy dog
(image via Pet Partners)

Pet Partners of Southern Arizona (PPSAZ) covers Pima, Pinal, and Cochise counties. In addition to uplifting and comforting patients in hospitals, teams visit crisis centers, memory care and assisted living facilities, police stations, reading programs, at-risk youth programs, and community outreach activities, including the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, and Davis-Monthan Airforce Base.

"One of our favorite group events is visits to the University of Arizona during exam weeks," Diane Alexander

of PPSAZ shared. Library visits started in 2012 at the U of A Law Library and soon went to their main library. The main library now organizes the visits for the five on-campus libraries that the teams frequent.

Other ESA-oriented organizations benefitting southern Arizona residents of all ages include Sunshine Therapy Animals Tucson/Lapan Sunshine Foundation, Handi-Dogs, and Therapy Dogs of Southern Arizona. The Tucson Medical Center, Keirnan's Kindness, and the Humane Society of S. Arizona also offer pet therapy visitation services/programs. And these are just the groups that predominantly work with canines — not that some of them don't also work with horses.

Speaking of which, you can't live in the Southwest without horses playing a prominent role. In fact, equine therapy here in Arizona is second only to canine therapy, with a number of options for folks here to choose from. There's TROT, which stands for Therapeutic Riding of Tucson, Equinimity Ranch, Heart of Tucson Happy Equines, Step Up into TLC Equine Therapy, and Therapeutic Ranch for Animals and Kids, aka TRAK.

Established in 2007, TRAK is a wonderful organization that, like the rest of these groups, celebrates the incredible human-animal bond. Located at the River Bend Ranch along the Rillito River, this sanctuary of sorts has more than just equines to interact with. Sure, many of the others include a donkey or burro or two, and even, perhaps, a few goats or other farm animals. But TRAK is home to dogs, cats, goats, rabbits, burros, a small pig named Wilson, and, of course, horses Bravo and Tinka.

Their therapeutic services include Eagala, Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy for families and individuals, Equine-Assisted Learning, and Small Animal



Wild Horse Haven Rescue (image via Duane Whitmer)

Therapy. But there's so much more going on there with field trips, camp experiences, trail rides, birthday parties, and ranch projects for little buckaroos to take part in.

Wild Horse Haven Rescue is a marvelous 501c3 non-profit in Safford that utilizes horses and other fuzzy friends for the implementation and

continuation of programs for kids, veterans, and other survivors of PTSD and related anxiety/stress disorders. The founder and president, Afton "Duane" Whitmer, is a former Deputy Sheriff, world adventurer, and mustang trainer who turned his ranch into a haven and began rescuing mustangs and other horses about seven years ago.

Whitmer noted that horses and other animals often experience PTSD, just as humans do, and that the programs he's implemented are specifically designed to provide support for them through structured interactions. The end result is that it's good therapy for everyone involved.

With regards to kids, the rescue provides youth programs, such as its Wild Horse Camp, which is committed to educating children in the quest to respect animals (and all life), and to actively support responsible care and understanding of animals and nature. Resources for veterans include Wild Horses for Heroes, where vets suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues have a safe haven to escape to and work towards reclaiming their lives.

And then there's Soldier's Best Friend up in Peoria. A terrific program designed to give service members improved wellbeing and quality of life through relationships with service animals, the group behind it is dedicated to bringing about positive change for veterans diagnosed with PTSD. So far, the impact they've had in veteran's lives has been life-changing.



Oscar with soldier (image via HAC)



The one thing that each and every one of these remarkable facilities has in common, besides ESA therapy, is the need for volunteers and, in many cases, donations to continue their important work. Most of them are completely staffed by volunteers, but they could still use the extra help. If you'd like to

become a part of any of them or look into the fantastic services they provide, check out their websites below.

equinimitytucson.com, petpartnerssoaz.org, gabrielsangels.org, trotarizona.org, handi-dogs.org, wildhorsehaven.com, soldiersbestfriend.org, traktucson.org, heartoftucson.org, therapydogsa.org, stepuptlc.org, hssaz.org/services/outreach/petvip-therapy-and-visitation, kiernanskindness.org, tmcaz.com/staff-and-volunteers/volunteering/areas-of-volunteering/pet-therapy-volunteering, lapansunshinefoundation.org/about-sunshine-therapy-animals

Training

Therapy Dogs, The Inside Scoop!

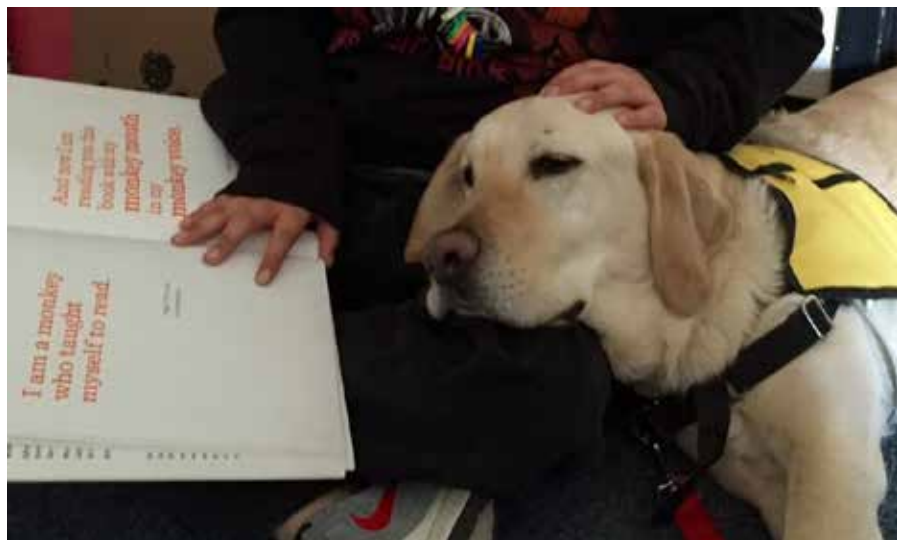
Story by Jeremy Brown, The Complete Canine

Therapy Dog vs Service Dog

Many people confuse Service Dogs with Therapy Dogs yet their jobs are in fact vastly different. A service dog is not considered a pet but a trained partner to help mitigate disabilities. Their roles and tasks performed are related specifically to the handler's needs which include Guide Dogs, who guide and protect the sight impaired, Medical Alert Dogs who will detect and notify their handler of an oncoming seizure or changes in blood sugar levels, Psychiatric Service Dogs who help with shielding in crowds, waking from nightmares and grounding from panic attacks and several more. In short, Service Dogs provide their handlers greater confidence and independence in helping navigate their daily routines, foster social relationships, and enter the workforce with confidence. "No Pets Allowed" by law, *working dogs* are exempt from general restrictions that apply to *pets*. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), businesses that serve the public, such as restaurants, hotels, retail stores, taxicabs, theaters, concert halls, and sports facilities, are prohibited from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The ADA requires these businesses to allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals onto business premises in whatever areas customers are generally allowed. [ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/#where-service-animals-are-allowed](https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/#where-service-animals-are-allowed)

What is a Therapy Dog?

Therapy Dogs are pets who are trained to share their love and attention with others in a variety of situations and locations and have that unique ability to reach people in ways that humans cannot. I have been privileged with the opportunity to see pet therapy work from multiple perspectives; as a handler with three of my own therapy dogs, as a therapy dog evaluator for *Pet Partners* for many years, and as a Therapy Dog trainer.



Archie the Therapy Dog

These special pups are able to provide comfort, affection and stress relief to strangers in environments that most dogs may not be as comfortable. Most often they will be in hospitals, schools, nursing homes and even courtrooms. Obedience training helps guide much of the evaluations needed to become a certified therapy dog, but these companions have a unique disposition and temperament that will allow breakthroughs with people and an emotional release rather than provide specific tasks.

Emotional Support animals, not all being dogs, provide comfort and emotional support to one individual and unlike Therapy Dogs and Service Dogs they

do not have specific training or certifications. According to the ADA, Therapy Dogs and Emotional Support Dogs do not have the same rights as people with disabilities and their service dogs. They are only allowed to enter businesses and public places with permission.

What Jobs Do Therapy Dogs Do?

Therapy dogs assist in many ways to help humans, such as Community Read to a Dog programs which helps instill confidence, visiting patients at hospitals for comfort and healing, working with students at schools and universities to bring stress relief and provide mental health relief with those who suffer anxiety.



Archie enjoying a good book

Could Your Dog Be A Therapy Dog?

Certified Therapy Dogs have calm temperaments, good manners, learn quickly and are obedient. They are gentle, patient, confident and friendly with all humans. A good candidate for a therapy dog should be a dog who enjoys human contact. They must be comfortable being petted and handled by unfamiliar adults and children and feel at ease in all situations and locations. There are no breed restrictions but some are more commonly used than others. Labs seem to be the most popular due to their relaxed disposition and smaller dog breeds also make fantastic therapy dogs because they often give people the feeling of a childhood teddy bear and beg for cuddles and attention. Therapy dogs are comfortable in strangers' arms and sitting in many different laps. Many pups are good little listeners, tilt their heads, perk their ears and gaze up with their soulful eyes and listen intently to all of life's woes. Some breeds may even be hypo-allergenic and don't shed, which can be valuable to those with allergies.

There are three ways to become certified as a therapy dog team in Southern Arizona. Pet Partners, Alliance of Therapy Dogs, and Pet VIP Therapy through the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. All three require different amounts of training, and all three have their individual ways of evaluating the human/canine teams and providing insurance to do so.

There are many different opportunities and populations that therapy dog assistance can serve, so you can find your area or areas of passion. Check out and research each group to see which best fits your goals and passions! For more information contact The Complete Canine completecaninetucson@gmail.com

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Is Your Pet Packing On The Pounds?

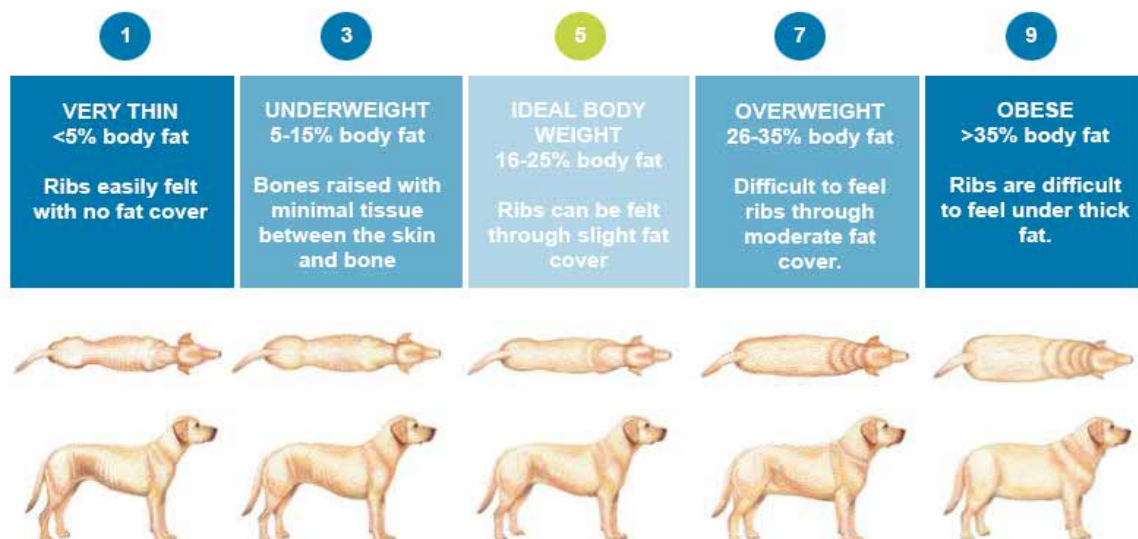
Story by Alison Martin, Animal Soul Connection

Did you know that 52% of dogs and 58% of cats are overweight or obese? Did you know that pet obesity is totally preventable? Did you also know that most pet parents don't even know their cat or dog is overweight?

Take a look at this simple chart to see how your dog's body compares to the healthy weight example. This chart applies to cats as well. Plan for your pet to achieve the Ideal Body Score of #5 on the chart.

breed dog is the equivalent of about 20 extra pounds on a human! So, what can you do to prevent or treat your pet's obesity problem?

For starters, you should never put your dog on a diet without the assistance of your veterinary healthcare team. This is due to the fact that there may be a medical condition that is causing your dog's excess weight. Some common diseases associated with weight gain include hypothyroidism and



There are many health risks involved in pet obesity including arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, certain cancers, heart and respiratory disease, and other problems. According to the Purina Lifespan Study, obesity takes almost two years off a dog's life. Five pounds of extra weight on your large breed dog is about the same as you packing around 10 extra pounds. Even more shocking? Those same 5 extra pounds on a small

hyperadrenocorticism or Cushing's disease. These diseases, along with others, should be eliminated as possible causes or contributors to your dog's weight issue prior to beginning a diet. Too many dogs start on a diet and fail to lose weight simply because the diet wasn't the problem – a disease was.

Feed them on a schedule. Many people equate food with love. If you leave food down "free-choice"

for your dog (or cat), you are likely overfeeding them. You should have set meal times, and use an accurate measuring cup to ration out your pet's food. You should check the chart on the back of their feed bag for suggested amounts. Keep in mind that every dog is an individual. Your dog may need less or more food than is suggested, so adjust the amounts as necessary. If your dog doesn't finish their meal within 15 minutes, remove the food and feed it again at dinner time.

Get them active! Just like humans, in order for your dog to lose weight and get in shape, they need to exercise! Swimming is a great exercise for dogs who are very obese and have trouble getting around. It is much better for their joints, too! Walking, hiking and jogging can be great for your dog, too. Just be sure to keep the running to a minimum. All those extra pounds put a real strain on your dog's joints, ligaments, and heart. Fetch and other active games can be fun, but remember to keep them short!

Weigh Your Dog Regularly. Almost all vet offices, and even some pet stores, will allow you to use their dog scales free of charge. Knowing exactly what your dog weighs can help you judge how effective your plan for their weight loss is. For smaller dogs, you can figure out your dog's weight by holding them as you step on the scale. Then, put them down and measure your weight without them. Subtract that from your combined weight, and you have your dog's weight.

Find the right chew. Dogs love to chew. If you can provide them with the right, healthy, edible chew, you can meet their biological needs and keep them happy and satisfied. Dried tendons, steer sticks, and similar chews work well unless they're small enough for the dog to swallow. Fresh, raw (not cooked!) bones, antlers, and No Hides chews are also great options. Some dogs go crazy for roasted sweet potatoes. Whatever you do, don't give them rawhide. Rawhide is very toxic and should be avoided at all costs.

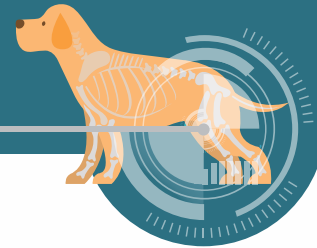
So, how does your dog's weight stack up? What changes can you make to their lifestyle to help them live a happier, healthier, longer life?

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

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From the Director's Desk

Progress! Improving the Well-Being of Pets in Southeastern Arizona

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

We hope you and your pets had a restful and festive holiday season. We were thrilled that so many of you stepped up to provide a homeless pet a forever home in 2022. Now we look ahead into the new year and to the big moves HSSA is making to help even more pets – and the people who love them.

Big moves to support those around us

We at HSSA consider as our responsibility all Southern Arizona pets, even if they are sheltered at the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC). Pets in trouble need quality care, no matter where they end up, and we are always ready to help. For the last few months, PACC's kennels have been filling up to extreme levels, and we have responded to help them reduce overcrowding by transferring PACC pets weekly into HSSA so we can help them find their forever families more quickly.



Pets of all shapes and sizes need intake services at HSSA

We are also excited about HSSA playing a central role in a new program from Best Friends Animal Society called the Shelter Collaborative. Over the next year, we are mentoring four rural shelters in Southern Arizona – Douglas, Benson, Nogales, and Willcox. The goal is to reduce euthanasia at those four shelters by 820 lives in the next 12 months.

Our tools will include vaccinations and treatments upon intake, training in proper cleaning and disinfection technique, enrichment in kennels, marketing consulting to assist in adoptions, volunteers, fosters, the transfer of pets to HSSA and other shelters and rescues, infrastructure improvements, and any other interventions that might help.

As part of these efforts to improve the well-being of pets in southeastern Arizona, we are working with Cochise College in Douglas to assist in establishing a Vet Tech program and helping to organize a monthly spay-neuter clinic in Douglas in advance of our opening a new HSSA Bisbee shelter and public clinic by 2024.



Stephen Szostek Adoptions and Enrichment Supervisor

Making sure no pet falls through the cracks

A dog and cat should be in a loving home, preferably snuggled up on a cozy couch. No matter how good the shelter, we just can't replicate that wonderful experience of home. And the longer pets go without that cozy couch life, the worse the possible outcomes. In our efforts to reduce the negative effects of extended shelter stays, HSSA rolled out a new set of standard policies to help improve outcomes for dogs and cats defined as being in crisis – primarily those at risk of decline after staying in the shelter for extended periods of time without being adopted.

Our Adoptions and Enrichment Supervisor Stephen Szostek and dedicated dog walking volunteer Monica Body (who is also a retired international business consultant) developed detailed steps to be taken with the assistance

of both staff and volunteers at each stage in a dog's or cat's shelter stay to assess progress or decline and institute measures aimed at arresting decline, publicizing the pet in more prominent ways, obtaining foster or rescue assistance, and ultimately finding that forever family.

Only in place for a few months, we are already seeing progress with several long-term residents finding permanent homes and a renewed sense of mission among staff and volunteers. We will continue rigorous assessment of the program's results and will present these findings periodically to the board, the public, and to other shelters, with the hope that we can spread this innovative program nationwide to save lives everywhere. If you want to volunteer to help with this program, visit HSSAZ.org/volunteer



Steve Farley with Monica

Freeman Education and Behavior Center Grand Opening HSSA



Join us on February 3rd at 9am for the much-anticipated ribbon-cutting celebration for our new Freeman Education and Behavioral Center. We are deeply grateful to all of the donors and supporters who have made this innovative space a reality. We listened to the needs of our community and are proud to offer new training classes and tools to help pets and pet owners solve their pet's behavior issues so that we can reduce surrenders of pets to the shelter.

One of the many things we are proud to introduce with the Freeman Center is **HSSA's Good Dog Academy**, your one-stop resource for compassionate training for pets and the people who love them. Starting in January our first training classes will be offered and each following semester new courses will be added. You and your dog are sure to be A+ students after graduation day!

Each course will be tailored to your specific dog and the training issues or enrichment goals you're facing. We have always been here for you and your pet throughout your pet's life with affordable veterinary and wellness services. Now we can offer ongoing training and socialization opportunities.



Many of these classes will have scholarship opportunities to serve our active-duty military, retired veterans, and lower-income families. This is just one more way HSSA is working to keep pets in loving homes and reduce barriers to high quality care. RSVP for our ribbon-cutting ceremony at www.HSSAZ.org/FEBC



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The B.A.A.R.K program aims to improve a child's confidence, trust, empathy, and emotional development by reading to a dog. The program operates in schools that serve at-risk children. Therapy teams visit a school weekly, seeing three to four children individually during a one-hour session - to improve reading skills, comprehension and speed, as well as help develop core social behaviors. The sessions have a 12-16 week duration. Therapy teams receive Sunshine Animal training, materials and support specific to this program.

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Activities to Challenge Your Dog During Winter Months

Story by Meganne Carpenter, Camp Bow Wow, Tucson East

During the winter time while the days are short and chilly, it can be difficult to keep your dog active. Enrichment can be a great way to stimulate their brains and challenge their senses. Especially if your pup is food motivated, enrichment is an easy thing you can do at home to allow your animal to express their natural behaviors like smelling, digging, scavenging, and problem solving. During winter months, there are many different enrichment activities you can provide to your dog indoors to keep them healthy and happy, especially if outdoor exercise isn't as frequent.

If you feed your dog using a bowl, try using a Kong wobbler, slow feeder, snuffle mat or a puzzle toy. Puzzle toys are a great way to mentally stimulate your dogs while feeding! There is a large variety of different puzzle toys you can find online and inside pet stores. If you already feed your dog with a regular puzzle toy, consider offering your dog a new challenge with a different puzzle toy or a puzzle toy made from home.

Some easy homemade puzzle toys you to do with your pup are;

- Using toilet paper or paper towel rolls stuffed with a few treats or toys (make sure your pup doesn't ingest the whole cardboard tube!)
- Play the foraging game inside by tossing a handful of your dog's favorite treats in one room of the house and letting your dog sniff around to find them.
- Try a scavenger hunt inside! Start small by hiding treats in plain sight in one room, and then increase the challenge by hiding treats at different levels, under toys, blankets, or pillows, or spreading out the hiding locations.

Some dogs might need you to help them while looking, you can point to the treats, let them see where you hid one, and use verbal encouragement

to urge them along and make sure to praise them when they find the treat. Keep in mind all these activities can be done with training treats or with your dog's meal.

Want to try something more active inside? Create your own home obstacle course using plain old cardboard boxes or other random items from around your house. If you have a larger dog, you might consider using furniture and larger boxes.

Try creating a tunnel, a jump, something to weave through and more!

These are all fun activities you can do with your dog in the winter months to help stimulate your dog and wear out their minds.

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Checking in with Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Story By Melissa Barrow, images courtesy of Ironwood



Señor Piggles, Anderson, Teddy & Dudley

I recently chatted with Mary Schanz, Ironwood's co-founder, and president, to get the latest news from their Marana pig community. She patiently gave this pig welfare newbie a crash course on why we need Ironwood, and why pigs need us.

Originally imported here from Vietnam, potbellied pigs are overpopulated due to the resurgence of a mini-pig craze. Driven by the marketing scams of eager sellers, social media is flooded with cute videos of cavorting micro pigs enticing viewers to acquire an adorable pet.

The hard truth: there's no such thing as a "Miniature" or "Teacup" breed. While potbellied pigs are considered small against normal farm pigs (100-200 lbs. vs. 800-1000), mini pigs are the product of unethical inbreeding or underfeeding to keep them stunted. This widespread practice causes lifelong suffering to the pigs who develop severe skeletal problems from undernourishment and endless complications for the unwitting purchasers who wind up in over their heads. Opportunistic breeders mislead clients with flat-out disinformation about future size, with photos of "parents" who are actually piglets, feeding instructions that perpetuate undernourishment, and claims that pigs are just like dogs.

Approximately 90% of "pet" pigs end up returned or worse, abandoned. While this can be due to issues outside people's control, such as temporary hardship, or moving to places that outlaw pigs as pets, it's mostly due to owner overwhelm from lack of education. Mary laments that impulse buyers don't research proper care of their new pets. Nobody's prepared for what happens when that adorable micro piglet grows to be 200 pounds!

Failure to provide adequate space is one of the first problems of pig care. Highly intelligent and sociable, pigs need constant diversion and are easily bored. They can destroy property and gardens just by seeking adventure or play. Also, pigs are nothing like dogs. Mature pigs can be bullying heads of household, territorial, and overprotective of their humans. Without another pig, they'll seek to dominate a child or pet. This is especially true of unneutered



Dave and Mrs. Butterworth

males and females in heat. Breeders claim they're delightful companions for children and other pets, but like any species, pigs need their own kind to be happy.

Pigs can also be the target of bullying, especially by dogs. Dogs are predators;

pigs are prey. Cohabiting is stressful for the pigs, and, unless they grew up together, violence is likely. Many Ironwood pigs arrive with damaged or missing ears along with PTSD from dog attacks. Despite the heartbreaking problems of this unregulated industry, commercial breeders keep advertising micro pigs and shoppers keep falling for it.

Surely, there must be pending legislation banning these inhumane practices. Mary explained that there should be but there is not. Far from being a legislative priority, it's not even on most governments' radar. The biggest breeder in Phoenix has never been shut down despite endless complaints! Pigs are considered livestock so animal welfare laws don't apply to them. Conversely, breeders market pigs as pets so it's a conundrum: are they livestock or pets?

She asserts that the best legal way to reduce neglect and abandonment is to ban the breeding of exotics like pigs. Next, owning pigs as pets should be illegal - it's too fraught with risks to pig welfare. Even if Tucson had more than four exotic animal vets, a mature pig is too heavy for the average owner to transport. To compound things, neither the Humane Society nor PACC accepts pigs - their facilities aren't equipped for such large animals.

After 21 years, Ironwood remains the only shelter in the Tucson area for pigs in distress, while the pig abandonment crisis has worsened. Today, Ironwood is at capacity with over 660! They get dozens of calls per day from people wanting to rehome pigs but are forced to turn most down to prioritize those in dire situations of neglect or abuse.

On the positive side, they have wonderful donors, willing adopters, and foster folks, plus Ironwood's amazing volunteers who keep it all going! They enjoy local and national support thanks to their excellent community outreach. Ironwood offers many valuable services including boarding, adoptions, full advice on proper care and housing, rescues, and spaying/neutering. They've got an upcoming neuter clinic in Phoenix in two months. Such clinics are crucial for preventing the overbreeding that leads to neglect.

If you're contemplating adding pigs to your family, here are a few of Mary's tips:

- **Check your zoning laws.** Make sure pig ownership is lawful
- **Don't buy, adopt.** Especially avoid pigs sold as micro or mini!
- **Always spay and neuter!** Too few shelters and too many homeless make breeding unnecessary.
- **Adopt a pair.** If you don't, be prepared for complications
- **Place pigs in dogless homes** unless you can keep them far apart.
- **Spend a day at Ironwood,** or better, volunteer for a spell, to get a feel for daily pig care.

In conclusion, I asked Mary what folks would be most surprised to learn about potbellied pigs? "That they're extremely sensitive and emotional. They love affection and belly rubs! "

For more information, to donate, or to volunteer on behalf of the 4th most intelligent animal on Earth, visit www.ironwoodpigs.org, or call (520) 579-8847.



Cheese!

Animal RESOURCE GUIDE

Area Shelters

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pima Animal Care Center
Onsite Adoptions
Weekdays noon-7p, Weekends 10a-5p
4000 N. Silverbell Rd.
Tucson 85745
(520) 724-5900

Ajo Substation
Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Wed-Fri 11a-1p, Wed 4:30-6:30p
1259 Well Rd.
Ajo 85321
(520) 387-7502

Pima Paws for Life
Onsite Adoptions
7 Days A Week, 7a-11a & 3p-7p
2555 W. Zinnia Ave.
Tucson 85705
(520) 867-1193
info@pimapawsforlife.org
www.pimapawsforlife.org

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

Local Rescues

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

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

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

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

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

Hope of Deliverance
Hope of Deliverance is dedicated to being
the voice for the voiceless
hopeofdeliverance.org
hopeofdeliverancerescue@gmail.com
330-647-9963

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

Lil' Bit Of Love Rescue
lilbitofloverescue@gmail.com
(520) 869-9537
<https://www.facebook.com/lilbitofloverescue/>
<http://www.lilbitoflove.com/>

Miss Maggie May's Rescue
(520) 256-3073
missmaggiemay@cox.net

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

Regal Dane Rescue
602-491-7358
www.regaldanerescue.com
www.regaldanerescue@gmail.com
Helping Great Danes in Arizona
and New Mexico

Rescue Me Marana
Tucson Premium Outlets
6401 W. Marana Blvd, Suite 902
Marana 85742
(520) 261-1616
rescuemetucson.org

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

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

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

Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue (SOLR)
501c3 volunteer organization dedicated
to the rescue and adoption of
homeless Labrador Retrievers.
We are a virtual animal rescue
organization without a physical shelter
(520) 554-0911
SouthwestOasisLabRescue@gmail.com
www.solraz.org

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

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

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

Tucson Rescue Now Adoption Store
La Encantada Shopping Center
2905 E Skyline Dr. suite 28
Tucson AZ 85718
(520) 490-7508

Bird/Reptile Rescues

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

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

Cat Rescues

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

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

PAWSitively Cats No Kill Shelter-
1145 N. Woodland Ave.
Tucson 85712
(520) 289-2747
savecats@PAWSitivelycats.org

Paws Patrol
750 W. Camino Casa Verde
Green Valley 85614
(520) 207-4024

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

Southern Arizona Cat Rescue
"Our rescue is dedicated to saving
the lives of felines in Southern Arizona"
We're a foster based rescue
located in Tucson Az
www.sacatrescue.org
www.facebook.com/sacatrescue

Feral Cat Assistance

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

Equine Rescues & Sanctuaries

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

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

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

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

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

Whisper's Sanctuary
Whisper's Ranch Bed & Breakfast
A Place of Peace and Healing
for Horses & Other Animals
www.whispersranch.com
toni@rrheartranch.com
520-455-5424

The Wild Horse Haven Rescue
"Saving horses and healing souls
through wild horse connections"
Safford, AZ
wildhorsehavenrescue@gmail.com
<http://www.wildhorsehaven.com/>

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

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

Pig Sanctuary

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

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DOGTOPIA OF TANQUE VERDE

7285 E Tanque Verde Rd | Tucson | 520-549-4707 | dogtopia.com/tanque-verde