

The Tucson

March/April 2024



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

Cover Story:

**Woofstock Cover Dog
Contest Winner Koko
The Cover Girl!**

Features:

**What To Expect
When You're Expecting!
Introducing Your
New Bundle of Joy
to Your Furry
Four-Legged Family**

**Hero Farm Dog "Casper"
Wins the American
Farm Bureau's 2024
"Farm Dog of the Year"**

**How to Keep Your Dog from
Getting Restless at Home
Camp Bow Wow**

Cats & Horses Too!



This magazine is
FREE
to a good home.

www.thetucsondog.com



THE TUCSON DOG MAGAZINE
PRESENTS THE 5TH ANNUAL



Sunday April 7th, 2024 10a-3p
Brandi Fenton Memorial Park

3482 E River Rd
Tucson, AZ 85715

LOTS OF LOVABLE
DOGS FOR ADOPTIONS

FUN FOR
EVERYONE

Contests & Prizes

Kid's Zone

Food & Music

Music by Jacob Acosta

LOW COST VACCINATION & MICRO-CHIP CLINIC
Courtesy of Pathways For Paws

Bring Donations:

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FOR BOOTH SPACE & MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT HEATHER@THETUCSONDOG.COM
OR CALL (520) 345-2801

COSTUME
CONTEST



Top 5 Reasons to Visit the Emergency Vet

Pet emergencies are unpredictable and can happen so fast. Like when your furry friend snags the chocolate we left on the counter, eats a sock, or escapes from the yard.

Learn about the most common pet emergencies we see at Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) and some of the signs and symptoms for when to take your pet to the veterinary ER.

1. Watch where you step.

Pets love to chow down and sometimes that food comes back up, or out! While a singular occurrence isn't usually something to worry about, persistent vomiting and diarrhea can lead to dehydration. It can also be a signal that your pet has an underlying health issue. Causes can range from dietary indiscretion to infections, or more serious conditions like toxic ingestion or pancreatitis.

2. Oops, I ate it again.

Pets nose around looking for food or fun, and then, oh no! They eat something they

shouldn't have. Household items like certain plants, medications, and foods (such as chocolate and xylitol) are toxic to pets. If you spy your little guy eating something potentially harmful, or even if you just suspect it, you've got to act fast. Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and seizures.

3. The streets where you live.

Pets can trot across streets with reckless abandon, because they're unaware of the dangers of the road. Consequently, car accidents are a frequent cause of emergency vet visits. If your pet is hit by a car, take care when moving them, as they may have sustained injuries that could be exacerbated if not handled correctly. The best way to move your pet is to slide them gently onto a flat surface for transport to the ER.

4. Problems with peeing.

A urinary tract infection is most commonly found in male cats due to their long and narrow urethra. But it can happen in female



cats and dogs as well. This condition can become life-threatening. Look for symptoms like straining, vomiting, going in and out of the litter box, excessive grooming of genital area, lethargy, or restlessness.

5. Trouble in the blink of an eye.

Eye injuries happen quickly and you may not notice any problem at first. Brachycephalic dog breeds like pugs, with their prominently exposed eyeballs, are especially prone to eye injuries. Pets cannot remove irritants, which can result in ulcers. Look for excessive discharge, redness, squinting, or rubbing eyes on the carpet or with their paws.



by your side,
when you need us most.

Sometimes it's obvious when your pet needs immediate help. But sometimes they just seem "off." That's where VEG comes in. From vomiting to complex surgeries, we treat emergency and urgent care needs for all kinds of pets—even avian and exotics!



VEG ORO VALLEY
7080 N ORACLE RD.
TUCSON, AZ 85704
520.476.3410

VEG.COM     

The Leader of the Pack Speaks

Dear Friends and Readers,

I'm happy to welcome Koko, the winner of the 2024 Woofstock cover dog contest! She's an elegant girl and brings some class to the pack.

Once again congratulations to Subaru and Friends of PACC for the amazing success of the Pets of Pima Parade. It was a jaw-dropping display of the community support we have for our furry friends in need.

Get ready for Woofstock 2024! Put on your tie-dye and bell bottoms, come out and show your style, and win some prizes. While you're there, check out all the adorable pups available for adoption and you may just find the love of your life. They certainly are deserving of a loving home and forever "puppy sighs".

I cannot go without sharing the story of my past few months as a foster mom. In September, I decided to foster a dog with her 7 puppies. From the moment I brought them home, I fell in love with them and their beautiful mom, whom I named Isabella. She had a special spirit about her that I decided I did not want to live without. She was a playful and protective mother and she seemed to mourn each of them as they slowly left the nest. After finding homes for her 7 babies, Isabella became ill and despite the valiant efforts of PACC's medical team, there were no answers as to what was wrong. Sadly and shockingly, Isabella passed away Monday, January 22nd while lying amongst the collection of blankets and towels her babies slept and played in. I rushed her to the closest veterinarian, Sabino Canyon Veterinary Care, they sprung into action and did all they could to bring her back to me, but to no avail. I am so grateful for their efforts, their compassion, and even the doctors' attention to me and my faithful neighbor Marilyn Stringer who got me through that whole day and beyond.

It's inexplicable to me how great or little the time you spend with a companion animal matters. I've lost many beloved pets through the years, most I had the pleasure of many years but it took only five months with Isabella for my heart to break as if she'd been with me for 15 years.

I am blessed to have been chosen by Isabella to be her guardian and protector of her puppies.

Thank you PACC for all that you do and thank you to the Veterinarian and Vet Techs at Sabino Veterinary Care for being there without hesitation and with the utmost compassion and professionalism.

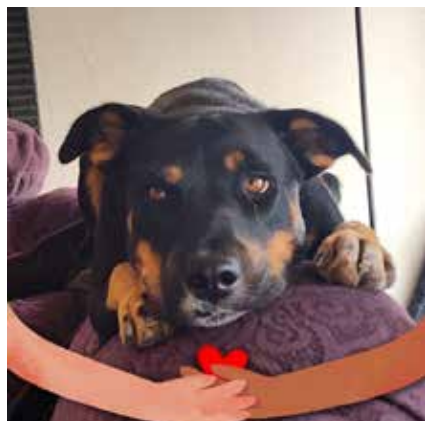
As always, I am filled with wonder and admiration meeting the many Tucsonans who give their time, attention, and donations to our animal-related charities. It is evident that the success of saving animals in need and raising awareness of prevention is not possible to do alone. We are all in this together 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
Editor & Publisher



THANK YOU

SABINO CANYON VETERINARY CARE
for your love of pets and your attentive
compassion for pet parents

DONATE

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, providing local resources and events, and continuing 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

ADOPT a CAT or DOG



Pepper



Snowflake



Paco



Libra

The Animal League
of GREEN VALLEY

talgv.org info@talgv.org facebook.com/talgv

520.625.3170

Be a part of the **PACC!**

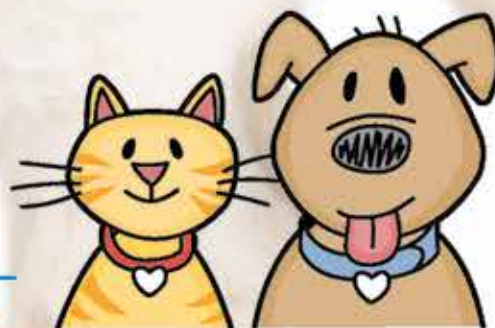


Adopt, foster or volunteer with us!
pima.gov/animalcare



PIMA COUNTY

PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER



520-724-5900 • 4000 N. Silverbell Rd.

Photo by M. Kloth

Calendar OF EVENTS

MARCH

Sat. Mar. 2, 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. Mar. 2, 10am-12pm
Soothing Touch for Animals Workshop
Hosted by the Human-Animal Connection, learn seven simple soothing techniques that can easily be used with shelter animals & your own pets. Located at the Humane Society of S. AZ. in Conference Room A & B at 635 W. Roger Rd. Fee: \$25
thehumananimalconnection.org/product-page/register-for-class-soothing-touch-for-animals

Sat. Mar. 2, 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. Mar. 2, 11am-2pm
Southern Arizona Cat Rescue PetSmart Adoption Event
Most Saturdays you can find us at the PetSmart located at 4374 N. Oracle Rd. with adoptable kitties! Visit sacatrescue.org or FB/IG @sacatrescue for available cats, times, & possible schedule changes.

Sun. Mar. 3, 17, 31, 2pm-3pm
Goats of Tucson's Yoga in the Park
Join us each Sunday for an a.m. goat yoga session at Silverbell Park 7548 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson 85743. Sign up at goatsoftucsonyoga.com or call (503) 507-8639 for more details.

Sat. Mar. 9, 23, 30, 8am-9am
Goats of Tucson's Yoga in the Park
Join us each Saturday for an a.m. goat yoga session at Udall Park at 7290 E. Tanque Verde Rd., 85715. Sign up at goatsoftucsonyoga.com or call (503) 507-8639 for more details.

Sat. Mar. 9, 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. Mar. 9 & 10, 9:30am-5:30pm
Tucson Festival of Books
Free annual book fair with panels & special events where literacy lovers can come together & meet their favorite authors & discover new bookish companies & resources. Takes place at the pedestrian-friendly, open-air U of A Mall.
Info: tucsonfestivalofbooks.org

Sun. Mar. 10, 10am-4:30pm
Pet CPR/First Aid Class via The Frontline Coalition
Newly updated program open to all pet parents & pet professionals to be held at the Sol Dog Lodge at 9665 N. Thornydale Dr., Tucson 85742.
thefrontlinecoalition.com/product/march-10th-2024-pet-cpr-first-aid-6-5-hrs

Sat. Mar. 16, 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. Mar. 16, 2pm-4pm
Read to a Cat Day Event at The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Sanctuary
Join us for an afternoon of games, guest readers, giveaways and other book related activities as we celebrate reading & cats at this kid friendly/focused event located at 5278 E. 21st St., Tucson 85711.
Call (520) 571-7839 for more info.

Thur. Mar. 21, 10am-2pm
Food for People's Pets Pantry
The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Sanctuary's Food for People's Pets Program at their Michael Cannon Community Pet Food Pantry collects donations of dog and cat food all year long and distributes it to organizations & people/pets in need.
Contact emma@hermitagecatshelter.org or c all (520) 571-7839 for info.

Fri. Mar. 22-24, 10am-6pm
55th Annual 4th Ave. Street Fair
Tucson's family-friendly spring fair hosts artists from around the world, decadent food, local entertainment & more. Greyt Escape canine collars & leashes will be there for your pet product needs. (502) 624-5004

Sat. Mar. 23, 8am (Register 7am)
13th Annual Sporting Clay Event
Hosted by Soldier's Best Friend
Join us for a morning of fun supporting our military veterans. All proceeds go toward continuing to provide life changing services at no cost to eligible veterans. Ben Avery Clay Target Center, 5060 W. Skeet St., Phoenix, AZ, 85086.
Link: soldiersbestfriend.org/sporting-clay/

Sat. Mar. 23, 11:30am-12:30pm
Paws & Pages Literacy Program
Hosted by the Humane Society of S. Arizona, this kid-friendly event allows kids to hone their reading skills with fun stories & pets at 635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705. \$10

APRIL

Fri. Apr. 5 & 19, 7pm-8pm
Cat Trivia — Adult Challenge Level
at the El Jefe Cat Café
Think you know a lot about cats? Grab a friend & come test your knowledge during Cat Trivia Night... with the company of 35 cats! Teams of 4 maximum. 3025 N. Campbell Ave., Ste. 141, Tucson 85719
info@eljefecat lounge.com

Sat. Apr. 6, 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. Apr. 6, 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. Apr. 6, 11am-2pm
Southern Arizona Cat Rescue PetSmart Adoption Event
Most Saturdays you can find us at the PetSmart located at 4374 N. Oracle Rd. with adoptable kitties! Visit sacatrescue.org or FB/IG @sacatrescue for available cats, times, & possible schedule changes.

Sun. Apr. 7, 3pm
Live Concert Benefitting Hope of Deliverance & H.E.A.R.T. SW
A tribute concert featuring the music of Paul McCartney & John Denver will be held at the Fox Tucson Theater with 100% of the proceeds going to Helping Every Animal Receive Treatment Southwest & Hope of Deliverance Rescue. Visit heartsw.com/hopeofdeliverance.org

Sat. Apr. 13 & 27, 8am-9am
Goats of Tucson's Yoga in the Park
Join us each Saturday for an a.m. goat yoga session at Udall Park at 7290 E. Tanque Verde Rd., 85715. Sign up at goatsoftucsonyoga.com or call (503) 507-8639 for more details.

Sat. Apr. 13, 5pm-9pm
7th Annual Doggie Shorts: A Furry Film Fest
Sponsored by Handi-Dogs
Event showcases short films & videos celebrating unique bond between humans & canines while supporting Ability Dogs of Arizona, a non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for people & pets. Includes silent auction. Location: Leo Rich Theater at 260 S. Church Ave. Link: abilitydogsaz.org/doggieshorts

Sat. Apr. 13, 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. Apr. 14, 10:30am-11:30am
Meditation with Cats at the Hermitage No-Kill Cat Sanctuary
Meditative class beginning with gentle movement & breath awareness to help the mind begin to focus. The kitties will love it! Seats are limited, so please pre-register. Bring your water bottle & mat. Info: (520) 571-7839

Sun. Apr. 14 & 28, 2pm-3pm
Goats of Tucson's Yoga in the Park
Join us each Sunday for an a.m. goat yoga session at Silverbell Park 7548 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson 85743. Sign up at goatsoftucsonyoga.com or call (503) 507-8639 for more details.

Wed. Apr. 17 – 28
32nd Arizona International Film Festival
A Dog's Life
filmfestivalarizona.com
Bestselling author of "Pukka's Promise" and dog whisperer Ted Kerasote is on a quest for answers to the question: How can my dog live longer, healthier, and happier?

Wed. Apr. 17 – 28
32nd Arizona International Film Festival
Rhino Man
filmfestivalarizona.com
Dedicated and disciplined, the Rhino Rangers go out each day into a war zone, knowing that the survival of rhinos depends upon their efforts.

Thur. Apr. 18, 10am-2pm
Food for People's Pets Pantry
The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Sanctuary's Food for People's Pets Program at their Michael Cannon Community Pet Food Pantry collects donations of dog and cat food all year long and distributes it to organizations & people/pets in need.
Contact emma@hermitagecatshelter.org or call (520) 571-7839 for info.

Sat. Apr. 20, 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. Apr. 20, 7pm
Tucson Roadrunners & Hope of Deliverance Animal Fundraiser
Join us on Fan Appreciation Night as we combine forces to fundraise for animals in need. (502) 372-8537

Sat. Apr. 27, 12pm-5pm
Art Show at the El Jefe Cat Cafe
Hosted by the Survivor Shield Foundation, this free event offers visitors the chance to view art by local artists in a casual atmosphere adjacent to friendly adoptable felines. At 3025 N. Campbell Ave. Suite 151, Tucson 85719. Info: (520) 849-8856 or eljefecat lounge.com.



Voodoo aka Voo aka strawberry butt

National Adoption Week • March 18 - 24

Whiskers Waving & Tails Wagging for Love



Open your heart and home to a furry friend in need!

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona and Pima Animal Care Center are teaming up with PetSmart Charities for a community-wide celebration of adoptions and heartwarming connections at both shelters and at PetSmart locations across town.



Enjoy **FREE** adoptions all week long at all locations!



JOIN US FOR IN-STORE ADOPTIONS!

Grant & Swan PetSmart:
Friday - Sunday, March 22 - 24

Orange Grove & River PetSmart:
Friday - Sunday, March 22 - 24

Oracle & Wetmore PetSmart:
Saturday, March 23

BE A CHAMPION FOR PETS IN NEED!



Join the **paw-some excitement** of March Muttness 2024, hosted by the Humane Society of Southern Arizona! This **tail-wagging event** combines the thrill of friendly competition with the heartwarming mission of helping animals in need.

Your participation makes a difference!

Donate to this virtual fundraising tournament and help us advance. Every dollar counts towards caring for Southern Arizona's pets.

Together, we can make a winning impact for pets in need!

Go to MarchMuttness.org to play!



Give love, find treasures, save lives!

Location: HSSA Main Campus, 635 W. Roger Road

Live Music

Vintage Treasures

Food Trucks

Discounts on All Senior Pet Adoptions

Unique Curated Items

Give a senior pet their forever home.

Find your loyal companion while supporting the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

VIP Access March 8 • 4-7 p.m.
\$10 (prepayment required).

General Admission March 9 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Open to the public, free entry!

Scan to Buy VIP Tickets



Visit our website for more information and adoption resources www.hssaz.org

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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



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



Elizabeth Bailey - Account Executive - is owned by two rescue dogs and volunteers as a foster for PACC. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with an emphasis on Advertising and Marketing. She is a published writer and National Merit Scholar. She is the founder and owner-operator of a 50-employee restaurant, and ran it successfully for 20 years until she sold it in 2013.



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 artist. She lives with her family which consists of 3 dogs, 3 cats, and lots of plants and chickens. They control her life, and she wouldn't have it any other way. 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.



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 Kienran'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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Training

What To Expect When You're Expecting! Introducing Your New Bundle of Joy to Your Furry Four-Legged Family

Story by Jeremy Brown, The Complete Canine

Expecting a baby can be a stressful time in the family, so we will look at ways to alleviate some of the stress that comes with introducing your pets to this curious new little family member.

By planning ahead, there are many things that you

space to be in, as well as preventing accidents and destruction. Preventing chewing is important, so having ample things for your puppy to chew on like Kongs, Bully Sticks, etc can help alleviate the stress of adding to the family. Bitter sprays also prevent destruction, so find one that works to help in moments when you are not able to keep your eyes on them. Short interactions between young humans and the puppy can help keep control of both of their actions and keep everyone safe. Keeping your new pup on a leash and under control in new situations is vital for success. Training can be a wonderful asset as it helps confidently connect new family members and set boundaries!

Ways to Calm the Canine With the New Transition

- Tellington T touch "TTouch", is A calming touch method you can use to help them relax. www.ttouch.com
- Calming Collars (Sentry or Adaptil)
- CBD
- Rescue Remedy
- Calming Treats



Archie & Harrison

can do to make for a less anxious event. For starters, bringing the scent of the newborn home before the dog and baby meet one another, will not only desensitize your pup to a chaotic situation, but it can be an integral part of the introduction process. Adding a canine to the family requires different approaches considering the age of the kids and dog. Rushing any introduction can cause difficulties to arise, so calming your pet will help immensely.

Adding a Baby to The Pack

When bringing a new baby into the family, there are things you can do to help dogs adjust. It's important to train and set boundaries in the new baby area. Training them to stay and go to their bed or space can help them gain control when they are around the baby in the future. Desensitizing your pup to young voices like crying and small children before the baby comes home can be beneficial. I recommend playing baby sounds, cries, and noises, you can find them online. Rewarding your dog shortly after hearing the new sounds will help make these new noises familiar before they are the new constant. I especially like to do this if the dog is particularly sensitive to noises. Rewarding them with high-value treats will drive the message home faster. Hot dogs and cheese are my go-to rewards! Once the baby has arrived, bring home a blanket or article of clothing that the newborn has worn. Let your pup sniff and reward him around that smell. When meeting for the first time, introduce your dog in a neutral location, such as the front or back yard of the home. Being outside helps those canines that are more territorial or more reactive in their space, plus the outdoor distractions help the canine to not focus solely on the baby. Keep your dog on a leash to help control where they go and how excited they become.



I recommend walking past the newborn at a distance and gradually getting closer as they're doing well. Keeping the actual greetings short at first can help too. I look at this like doing reps at the gym, more short introductions are better than one long greeting that may not go as well as expected.

Dog and Baby Safety

- Dogs can sniff the baby, but never force the introduction by initiating
- Include the canine in a comfortable and safe way
- Isolation can magnify potential issues
- Never scold the canine for being curious
- Supervision is important!

Adding a Puppy to the Pack

Adding a puppy to the family requires a different approach, but being proactive can make this process less stressful as well. Having a special space for the puppy, like an exercise pen or crate is vital. This allows the pup to have a safe



Examples of High-Value Rewards

(Rewards that are so special and happen only for those difficult or new moments)

- Hot Dog
- Cheese
- Freeze-dried beef liver
- Chicken
- Lunch Meat
- Something extra special (doggy's choice)

For more information and training contact The Complete Canine completecaninetucson@gmail.com



COME JOIN THE SUNSHINE THERAPY ANIMALS TEAM!



Have a great pet who loves people?
Want to make our community better?
Let us help **YOU** become
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WHO WE ARE:

We recruit, train, & place registered therapy teams, consisting of an owner & 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
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- Schools
- And other Shelter Facilities
- Libraries

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drake@lapancollegeclub.org
4651 N. 1st Ave Ste. 200 Tucson, AZ 85718
lapansunshinefoundation.org/about-sunshine-therapy-animals/



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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Sunshine Therapy Animals

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

\$0 adoption fee. \$20 license fee adult dogs. Adoption includes spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip & a free vet visit.
Pima Animal Care Center 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900.

BONITA ID#A825202

My name's Bonita, & my staff & volunteer friends here at the shelter tell me it's the perfect name for me! I'm 2 y/o & an all-around good girl. I am friendly & silly, & I promise I'll keep you laughing with my antics! I've been sharing my kennel & playing with other doggies since I got to PACC, & I would love to have a canine friend in my new home, too!

ZIGGY ID#A797901

I'm Ziggy! I'm about 3 y/o & I've been a PACC dog since 2022, but luckily, I got to stay in a foster home for a good long while! My fosters said I was a laid-back type of gal & that I did wonderfully with kids & other dogs in the home! I have seizures, but I take a daily medication that helps me stay happy & healthy!

FENNEC ID#A593115

I'm Fennec, & I'm just a young guy at 11 m/o! I'm your typical goofy puppy: Bouncy & full of energy & enthusiasm! I really love treats, & apparently that will make it really easy to train me. Who knew? I have gotten along well with other dogs in the shelter, too!

SPIDER MAN ID#A830177

I'm Spider-Man, a 1 y/o pup, & just like my namesake, I'm always ready for an adventure! I first came to PACC as a stray, & I'm keeping my original adventures a secret. Since being at PACC, they've found that I'm a big rowdy boy who enjoys play time with people & other dogs, & I'm an expert at following my nose!

FAWNA ID#A825586

My name's Fawna, & my friends say it's hard not to fawn over me! I'm a friendly, energetic house hippo who is looking for a home with an active person or family who's ready to share all the snuggles & love with me! I can be a little nervous around other pups, so I'd like to meet any potential doggy roommates before going home!

Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Main Campus: 520-327-6088 ext. 173.
Meet: 635 West Roger Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705

BRUCE ID#922896

I'm Bruce, a friendly 2.5-year-old Labrador Retriever mix fella who thrives in a serene & calm home, as I tend to be a bit on the shy/fearful side. Nonetheless, there's a world of love & joy I'm eager to share. Picture us relaxing by the pool on a summer day, or playfully chasing the water from sprinklers in the yard. These are the moments we could cherish together. I also love small dogs!

MISTY ID#898663

Hello, I'm Misty, a sweet 3.6 y/o girl believed to be a shepherd mix. Not much is known about me, but I'd make a wonderful companion if you're looking for somebody to pal around with that will love you forever! I'm fixed, current on shots, & weigh about 60 lbs. Ask about me.

JOEY RAMONE ID#936852

A 1.5 y/o Anatolian shepherd, I found myself at HSSA when I came in as a stray. Because of that, the staff here are still working to learn more about my personality & preferences. I've done well meeting other dogs here at the shelter, & while I can be shy initially, I'll soon warm up to a respectful pup. Could I be the boy for you?

The Animal League of Green Valley

Adoption fee: \$125 • TALGV (Appts 10-2 daily) • 520-625-3170

HARLEY

I'm an 8 y/o, 73 lb. Pointer-mix female that enjoys people & exercise. I know several commands & will ask to go out. I don't care for other dogs but would be happy to play fetch or jog with you. I come with Vet Care Support for Life, so if you would be my strong leader, please call about me.

LARRY

I'm a 4 y/o, 64 lb. Border Collie mix gentleman that likes to walk with my friends at TALGV. I'm smart, affectionate, & crate trained. Because I'm rather shy, my happiness would be a quiet home with few visitors & a daily routine with my own special person to love. If you are a patient person, please call about me.

Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary

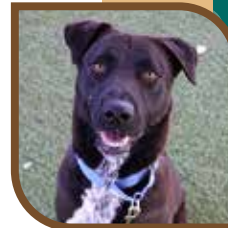
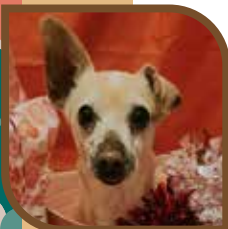
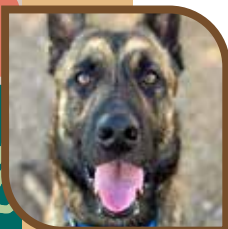
adoption application: <https://form.jotform.com/cherishedtails/dog-application>

TIO RICO (aka Scooter)

I'm looking for a lucky adopter who'll love me as I am. It's believed I was hit by a car, so my hind end's a little wobbly, but I don't let it slow me down cuz I love to play & run! I LOVE everyone & everything, do well on a leash & fine in a crate for short periods. I'm about 8 y/o, under 10 lbs., & not an excessive barker.

MOLLY

I'm a friendly, well-mannered 7 y/o girl who's housebroken w/a dog door, crate trained, & good on a leash but a puller so I need someone to work with me on that. My foster says I'm a good girl who LOVES walks, enjoys car rides, does fine at the dog park, & likes humans of all ages & sizes. I'm very loyal & people oriented & I'll need a secure yard.



From the Director's Desk

A Shelter Beyond Our Walls: How Fostering Really Does Save Lives

Story by Monica Dangler, Director of Pima Animal Care Center

Bane is one of many pets who benefitted from a long-term foster in 2023, but PACC has also expanded our short-term foster programming in recent years, giving a wider range of pets and people the opportunity to experience the joys and benefits of fostering. PACC offers short-term foster opportunities in our “Day Trips” and “Pawjama Parties” every day we’re open, and we saw a massive uptick in participation in these programs in 2023, particularly with students at the University of Arizona. These programs are a lot of fun for both people and pups, and they help find the pets homes, too. In fact, recent research from Maddie’s Fund shows that dogs that get to take day trips away from the shelter are five times more likely to be adopted, and dogs who get a sleepover-style break from the shelter, even for just one night, are *fourteen times* more likely to be adopted. Talk about compelling data!

No matter whether you take a dog for a night or for as long as it takes to find them a home, fosters help PACC and other rescues and shelters in Pima County continue to expand our shelter beyond our walls, building and growing a community who takes seriously its commitment to animal welfare. Fostering is free, and any necessary medical care is covered by our clinic free of cost. Depending on what we have on hand, PACC can also provide supplies like food and other necessary items to help make it possible. If you’re ready to share your heart and home with a PACC pet, we’d love to see you at the shelter any time we’re open.

Those who know me know that I’m all about data, and I’m thrilled to report that Pima Animal Care Center’s 2023 data again reflected Pima County residents’ commitment to keeping Pima County a life-saving community. Perhaps the most tangible reflection of that commitment was in the number of pets who benefitted from a stay in a foster home. In 2023, nearly 7,000 animals went to foster care, representing a 12% increase over the year before, a monumental achievement that allowed us to remain a life-saving shelter despite continued nationwide shelter overpopulation due to economic factors, a lack of access to veterinary care and pet-inclusive housing, and a steady influx of stray pets throughout the year.

It is difficult to over-emphasize the critical role that fosters play in everyday life here at PACC. On the broadest scale, having pets in foster homes means that there are more kennels available here at the shelter. It’s been repeated perhaps to the point of cliché, but it’s true; by fostering a pet, you are helping save the life of that pet and the pet(s) who will fill that kennel next by creating that space for incoming pets. Thanks to community members who cared for PACC pets as their own in 2023, thousands more pets were able to come through the shelter and get the help they needed.

Of course, on an individual level, fostering can be life-altering for these pets. Consider the story of Bane, a young dog who had struggled with anxiety and fear during a long stay at the shelter. After seven months of waiting, he lucked into a foster home, where he has truly blossomed into the goofy, friendly pup we always knew he could be. If the gifts of seeing a pet’s stress level decrease and their true personality come out weren’t enough, fosters also provide the opportunity for us at the shelter to learn more about the pet and their behaviors in a home, helping us to market them and find the best possible home for them. For Bane, getting a chance to leave the overcrowded and overwhelming shelter has permanently changed his life.

Beautiful Bane struggled in the shelter but has blossomed in a foster home. He’s now ready to find his forever! If interested in adopting him, email pacc.adoptafoster@pima.gov.

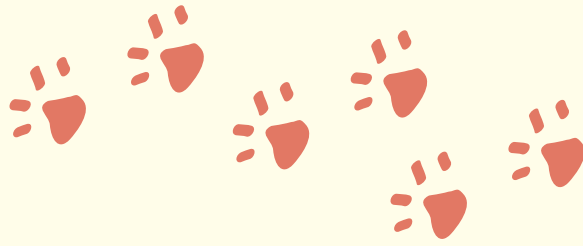


Banjo, pictured, is one of hundreds of dogs who benefitted from day trips in 2023. In fact, Banjo was actually adopted by a family he met on his day trip, who saw his excellent behavior and heard his new friend’s rave review of their day out!



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.



Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Main Campus: 520-327-6088 ext. 173.

Meet: 635 West Roger Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705



MAXWELL ID#934114

A distinguished 11 y/o boy, I prefer the comforts of a quiet home where I can indulge my favorite pastimes – snuggling/sleeping in cozy nooks. I'm a socialite with a knack for getting along with other cats & most dogs. I adore butt scratches & chin rubs but I can be shy & take time to acclimate to new surroundings before I'm purring.



NICOLAE ID#936672

I'm a handsome 3 y/o boy with big, expressive green eyes. I'm nervous around new buddies & new environments, but once I warm up, you'll have a friend for life! I really enjoyed playing with my feline friends in my previous home, before coming to HSSA. I lived comfortably with dogs as well, but prefer if they are able to respect my space.



JACK ID#937209

I'm a handsome 9 y/o boy in search of a forever home. The epitome of the perfect feline companion, I seamlessly get along with other cats, dogs, & kids alike. Charming & talkative, I love sharing the details of my day with anyone who'll lend an ear. A true sweetheart, my warm & friendly demeanor make me an ideal addition to any home.

The Animal League of Green Valley

Adoption fee: \$75 • TALGV (Appts 10-2 daily) • 520-625-3170



EPIC

I'm a handsome 4 y/o, 12 lb. buff tabby boy that likes to have my striped coat petted. Here at The Animal League, I enjoy sleeping in my cubby & eating lots of good food. I'm a bit shy but I love it when the volunteers are nice to me. If you'd like a mellow boy to pamper, please call about me.



COOKIE

I'm a 1 y/o shorthaired boy with a shiny black coat that will jump in your lap for cuddling. I'm super friendly & very inquisitive...a big-time lover who's just waiting to know you. Don't worry about dieting! You won't gain a pound with this cookie, so please call to make an appointment to meet me soon.

Pima Animal Care Center

PACC \$0 adoption fee. Adoption includes spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip & a free vet visit.
Pima Animal Care Center 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900.



WILLOW ID#A814806

I'm Willow, a 3 y/o gal full of spirit, spunk, & head butts! I can be a little shy at first but promise to reward you with my love & playful antics once I trust you - all it takes to get there is a little time & patience & maybe some cat treats! I'm looking for a family that'll love me for me, quirks & all! I'm in foster, so please email pacc.adoptafoster@pima.gov.



FORGER ID#A831226

My name is Forger. I'm a super sweet old man at 12 y/o & am looking for a home where I can be spoiled in my golden years. Like any senior, I've got some old man lumps & bumps, but PACC is getting me all fixed up for adoption. I'm ready for a foster or pre-adoptive home while I'm receiving medical treatment!



BENSON ID#A829212

My friends here at PACC named me Benson! I'm a 10 m/o kitten who hasn't had the easiest go of things so far. I'd really love to find a home where I can learn all about being a spoiled house cat! I am a sweet boy with people & have been sweetly sharing my kennel with another kitty here at PACC!



OREO ID#A830449

I'm Oreo! I'm a 4 y/o boy who ended up at PACC when my owner sadly lost their housing. My former owner said that I'm a very sweet boy who has done well with kids, dogs, & other kitties! I am very affectionate & love to be brushed. I would make a wonderful kitty for anyone looking for a new feline friend!



CAPPI ID#A815225

I'm Cappi! I'm a 9 m/o male kitten whose foster refers to me as a cat's cat! I love playing with my kitty friends, especially batting their tails like toys! With my adorable permanent wink, I'm as sweet & spunky as I look! I know you'll want to meet me, so go ahead and start your pacc.adoptafoster@pima.gov!

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary

5278 E. 21st St., Tucson 85711 www.hermitagecatshelter.org

Adopt app: <https://bit.ly/2Ws7HCG>



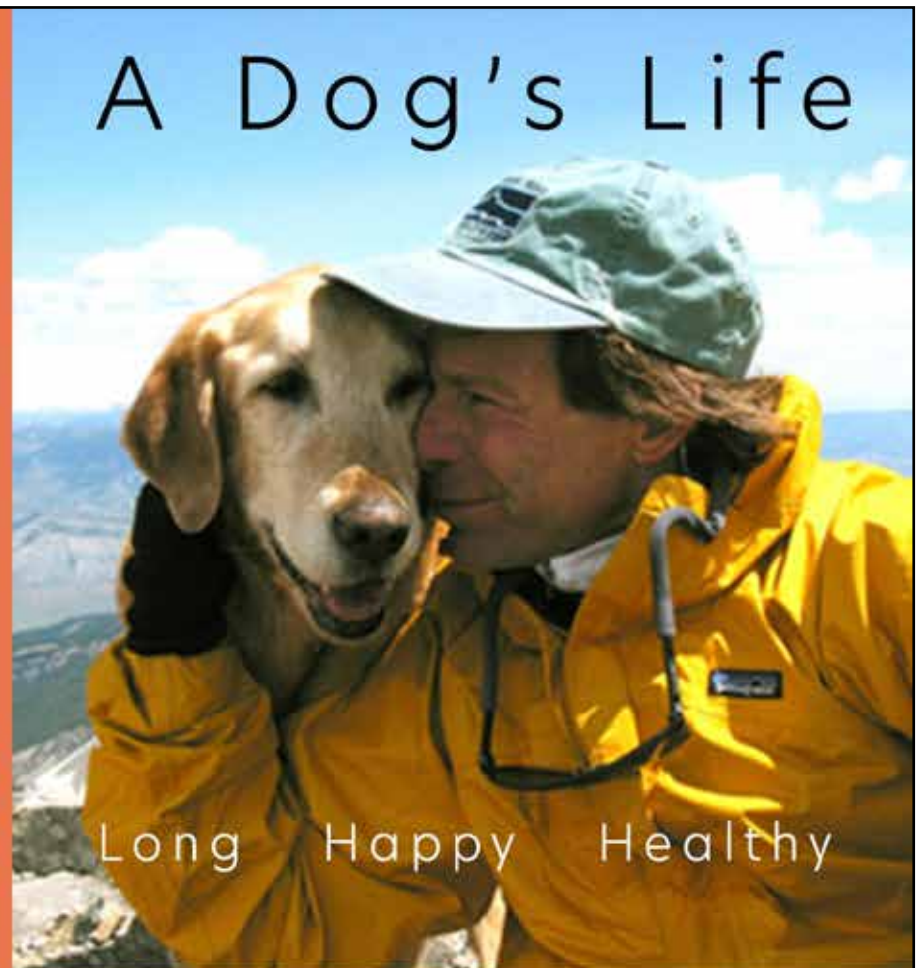
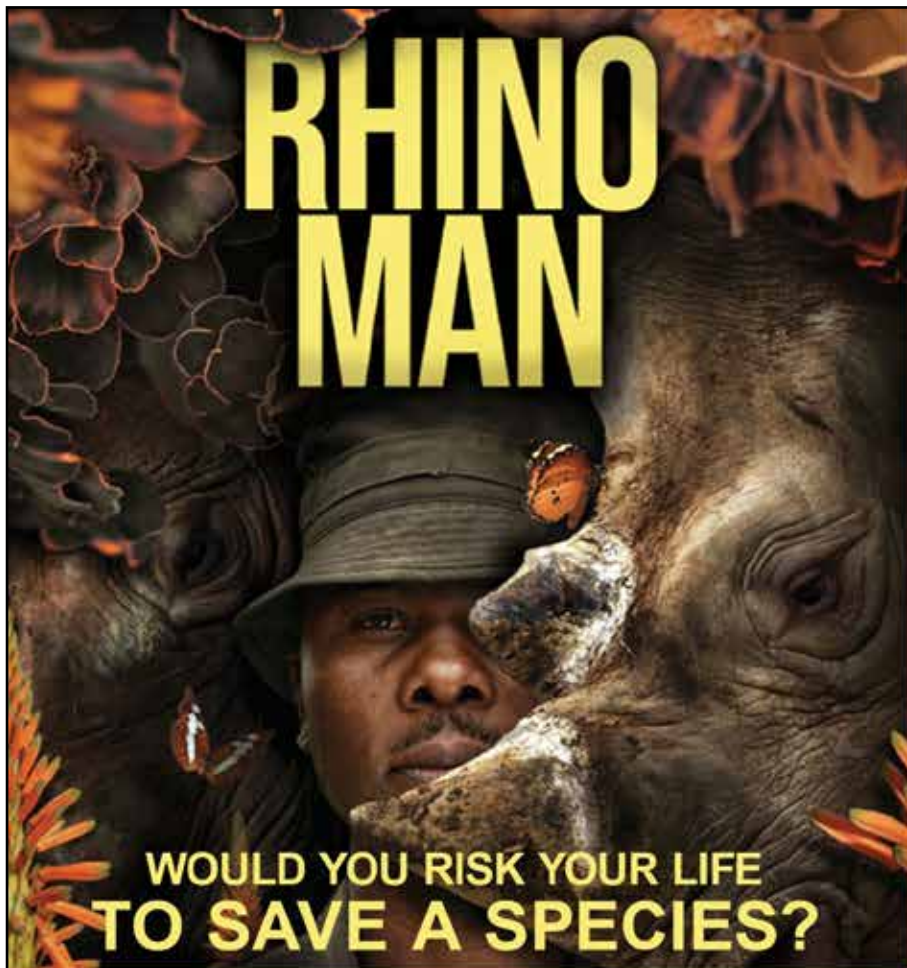
TATONKA

I'm Tatonka, & I'm 6 y/o. I'm on a special diet, to prevent bladder stones—surgery was no fun! My new food is amazing, & I'm feeling great. I'm sweet, love snoozing in sunny spots, & would love to have a human who can dispense ear scratches in exchange for purrs.



EDWINA

I'm Edwina, & I'm almost 1. Do you have room in your heart for a spritely, energetic kitty? One with big eyes, large ears, & a heart bigger than all of Arizona? If so, I am your girl! I came to the Hermitage because I am FeLV+. I would love to steal your heart!

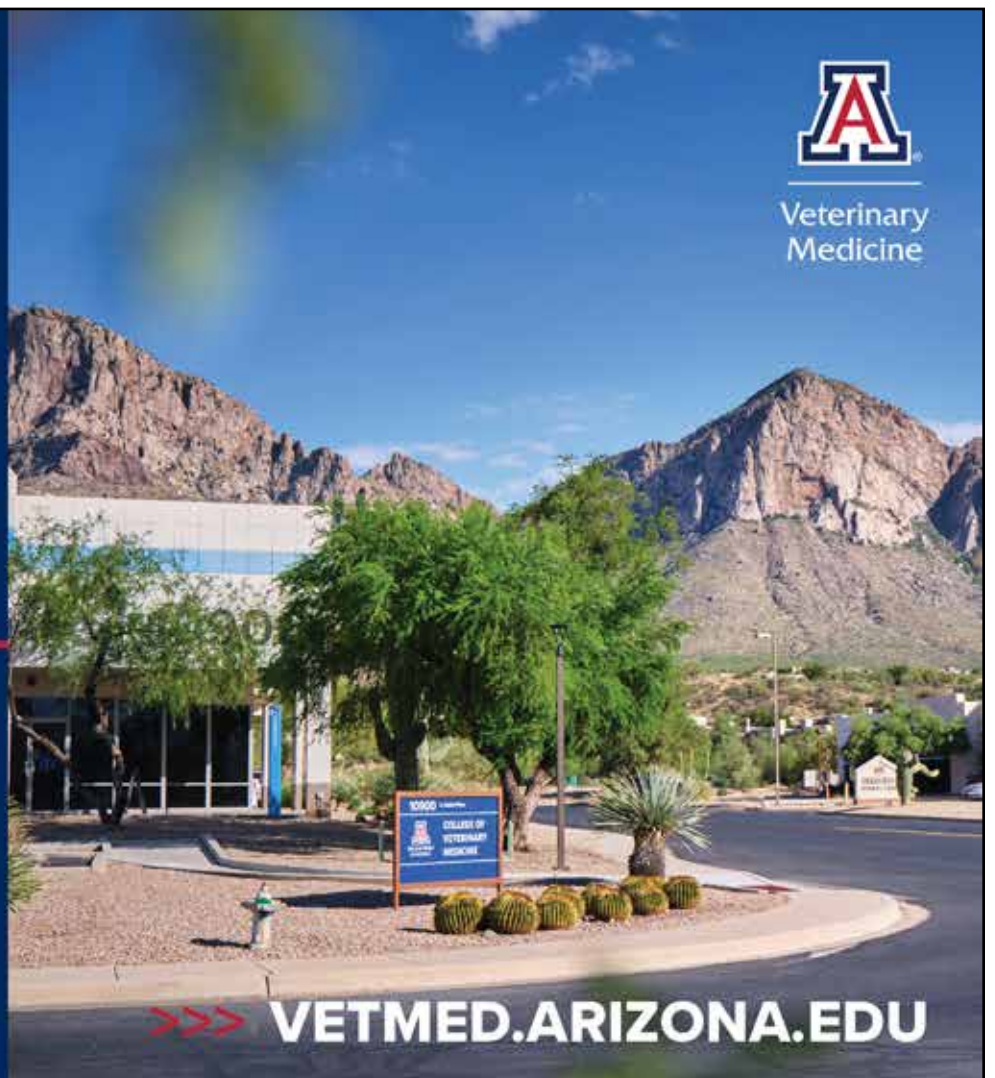


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Hero Farm Dog “Casper” Wins the American Farm Bureau’s 2024 “Farm Dog of the Year: People’s Choice Pup” Award

Story by Rebecca West, Images provided by John Wierwille

In case you missed it, it was one of the wildest, most intense stories of the year in the world of canines. A stout-hearted Great Pyrenees named Casper determinedly fought with a pack of coyotes while guarding his flock late one night in Georgia, killing eight of the 11 marauders in the process.

It all went down at a home in Decatur around 9 p.m. on November 3, 2022, when a small group of coyotes skulking about approached the property. Casper stood guard over. Initially, the animals were run off, but when they returned several hours later on the 4th, Casper, just 20 months old at the time, was ready for them.



John Wierwille, Casper’s owner, was reawakened that night by barking and went back outside to investigate. To clarify, Wierwille is the owner of Ewe Can Do It Naturally, a landscaping business that enlists a small flock of formerly-homeless sheep to organically clear invasive species like kudzu, privet, and all sorts of ivy with the added benefit of slow-release fertilizers.

Once outdoors, he was greeted by the sight of his two LGDs, Casper and Daisy, backing the flock into the corner of their pen in an attempt to safeguard them. From there, Casper did exactly what you’d expect a member of his powerful working breed to do: deter the predators at all costs. It was a chaotic skirmish that spilled out onto the street and continued through neighbors’ yards and even garages before disappearing into a narrow tract of dense woods.

When it was all said and done, he had killed eight coyotes while Daisy stood vigilantly by the sheep. Casper, however, wasn’t seen for two days following the fracas, as he’d resolutely chased after the remaining coyotes in his zeal to finish the job. When he finally returned, it was clear he had been badly injured during the violent scuffle and required multiple surgeries to close wounds to his neck and

back. His condition was so bad he had to have the remains of his tail amputated.



While it took six to eight months to heal, Casper slowly regained his strength. “In lots of ways, Casper is back to his old self and ready to go back to work full time. He was a bit depressed the few times Daisy was out on jobs with other dogs (training LGD puppies, basically). They are clearly a bonded pair and happiest together, and that is the goal, but we have some retraining to do for Casper,” Wierwille shared with us.

The tenacious pup went on to be nominated for the American Farm Bureau’s “Farm Dog of the Year” and ended up winning the 2024 People’s Choice Pup Award, which included a trophy plate and Purina brand products.

Additionally, Casper received a \$1,000 cash prize that a grateful Wierwille graciously donated to the Lifeline Animal Project, the Atlanta-based nonprofit animal shelter that cared for the indomitable Casper after his brutal mauling. “Thank you also to everyone who voted for our brave, determined, and goofy livestock protector. We are proud of Casper and glad he has a long life of doing what he loves ahead of him,” Wierwille, a Georgia Farm Bureau member, wrote in a social media post regarding the award.



The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is the national advocate for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Every year, Farm Bureau members in more than 2,800 counties meet to discuss and vote on policies affecting their farms, ranches, and communities. Those policies then set the agenda for their state Farm Bureaus and, ultimately, AFBF.

The Farm Dog of the Year contest celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers across the U.S. Each year, farmers are invited to submit nominations for the Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest supported by Purina. The grand prize winner receives a year’s worth of Purina Pro-Plan dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner is recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention, which was held in January this year. Three regional runners-up each won \$1,000 in prize money.



While the overall winner this year was a dog named Skippy, the People’s Choice Pup award saw more than 100,000 people cast their votes for the 2024 title. Judging of the contest is based on nomination materials submitted. Desired attributes in the Farm Dog of the Year are helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness, and obedience. You can visit <https://www.fb.org/initiative/farm-dog-of-the-year> for more information.

On a final note, we asked Wierwille about the relationship between him and his LGDs. “All of our working dogs are part of the family. They all get days and weeks and sometimes months off between jobs. This allows us to take care of veterinary, grooming, and other needs and just gives them a break. It is pretty obvious when they want to get back to work, and when we see those signs, we get them there.” All in all, it sounds like a darn good life.



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Cover Story Koko the Cover Girl

Story by Bonnie Craig



Happy spring, Tucson dogs and your humans! The birds are singing and our allergies are kicking into high gear, but never fear, because it's time to celebrate our latest local celebrity. Everyone put your paws together for the stunning Miss Koko! We'll learn all about this charmer soon, but first, let's meet our fabulous runners up. We've got another great crop this time, and no surprise there. It has become obvious that whether transplanted or homegrown, our desert dogs just have that special something.

just how glorious second chances can be. She was brought to PACC after being hit by a car. Known there as Olivia, she was unable to use her back legs or stand. Luckily for her however, she was adopted by a doting mom and despite still having a little trouble with the back legs, she is now running and jumping with the best of them. Her DNA panel boasts Chihuahua, Peruvian Inca orchid, Xollo, Doberman, AND German shepherd, so it's easy to see where she gets her gumption and good looks. Keep up the healing and stay epic, Akira!

three year old retired racer, formerly known as Dutchess Vonnie, flew to Tucson from down under with the help of local nonprofit, Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption. From there she was welcomed into a wonderful home with over an acre to run and play with her most treasured of items, tennis balls. She is never without one and can now be found fetching to her heart's content on any given day. Congratulations on your chill new life, Taz!



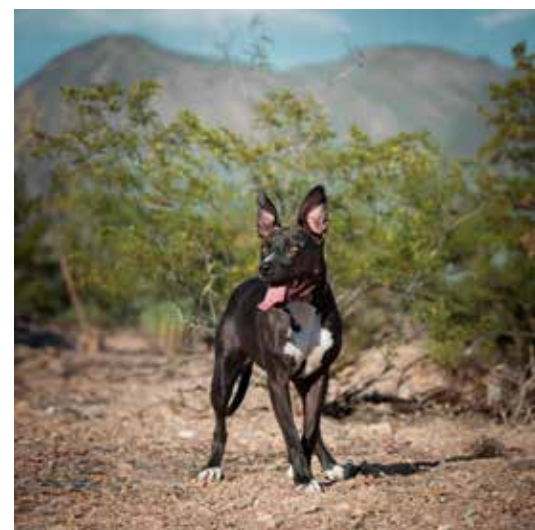
Akira

First there is the one of a kind Akira. Looking like a beautifully carved Egyptian statue with her sleek coat and pointed ears and nose, this 33 pound three year old is a shining example of



Taz

Next up is Taz! Though she bears a passing resemblance to a black thylacine, it's more likely that her name comes from the state in her country of origin, Australia. In 2023 the



Amber

Amber is another beautiful black and white bombshell. Lovingly referred to by her rescue as their, "donkey eared princess", this gem was also pulled from a rough place. After living for three years in an outdoor enclosure, she was finally rescued by Hope of Deliverance Rescue. She has been living in comfort with her foster for a year and a half, now, awaiting

continued on next page

her happily ever after. That's right, Amber is available for adoption! Interested parties can contact Hope of Deliverance for more information. Good luck finding a forever home as special as you, Amber! You deserve it!



Trixie

Our last runner up may be a bit of a winner by association. Her name is Trixie and she is a mini/standard Aussie cross. Trixie was found running loose in South Tucson, so matted and disheveled that she would probably have been unrecognizable as the impeccably coiffed little lady we see today. Luckily she was taken in by Aussie and Friends Rescue and soon adopted by a very nice lady. We love to see those rags to riches stories, Trixie, and perhaps we'll see more from you soon...

All of these runners up really knocked our socks off, and what a great batch of black and whites they are, but now it's time for the main act. Please welcome to the stage the stunning diva herself, Koko! Just one look into those soulful brown eyes could melt the heart of even the saltiest dog. She wasn't always the serene queen we see today, however. This pup was a true wild child in her younger years.

Like many other divas, Koko came from humble beginnings. She was found abandoned with her mother and 6 littermates behind a gas station in Patagonia, Arizona. They were lucky to be taken in by Arizona Desert Rotti & Pals Rescue, and immediately upon making her

internet debut through the rescue's website, the artist who would come to be known as Koko was turning heads, one in particular.

Marilyn Stringer, an accountant by day and award winning music photographer by night, took one look at the puppy and said, "That's my dog." She forced herself to wait for the puppy to be ready for adoption, and snapped her up right away when the time came. Since her new best friend had no date of birth on record, Marilyn decided on January 1st. Keeping with the celebratory theme, she named her Koko, in honor of one of her favorite photography subjects, legendary Chicago blues woman, Koko Taylor. Like her namesake, Koko was a spitfire from the beginning, but not always in the best ways. DNA results showed mostly golden retriever, cattle dog, and Chow, and she certainly gravitated toward some of the more unhinged aspects of those breeds initially.

In short, Koko the puppy was a maniac, running rampant and destroying irrigation systems, and pens; nothing made of plastic

was safe. In hopes of reining in the madness, Marilyn decided to go to training classes at The Complete Canine. Trainer Jeremy Brown was very helpful, and in a wild coincidence, they even met a dog named Stevie there, who turned out to be Koko's brother, and was named for another blues legend, Stevie Ray Vaughn.

When Koko was 8 months old, Marilyn decided a playmate was in order, so decided to adopt another puppy roughly the same age from Aussie and Friends Rescue. People may not be shocked to discover that this puppy was the aforementioned Trixie. The two hit it off and remain a dynamic, if a bit quirky, duo to this day. They both have their preferences, and it seems to work for them. At the dog park, Trixie is off and running with the other dogs, while Koko prefers pets from the people. On walks, Koko is very much led by her nose, in charge and on a forward mission, while Trixie just wants to run circles around her.

Now at 7 years old, Koko is the sweet and mellow dog Marilyn dreamed of, it just took a minute to get there.

She is still a bit fickle, with a different personality depending on the moment. She is a hunter, once even catching a rabbit. She's a sniffer, sticking her nose down any hole she comes across. Much of the time these days though, she is just a happy couch potato, morphed from the maniac puppy she once was. She loves her sister, but Koko doesn't want anyone to forget that she is the number one dog. For this cover dog contest, you sure are, Koko! Congrats on your win and all the best to you and your family!



Koko The Cover Girl

How to Keep Your Dog from Getting Restless at Home

Story and Photo Provided by Meganne Carpenter
Regional Scout, Camp Bow Wow Tucson East



With frequent weather changes and getting back to our busy schedules, sometimes it's hard to mentally and physically tire out your pup. Even with these challenges, it's always important to keep your pup's well-being in mind. If your dog is showing signs of restlessness, such as whimpering or whining, pacing from room to room, or being active at night, they might be trying to tell you that they are bored and in need of more activity. Here are some tips on how to keep your dog from being restless without leaving your home!

First, you want to rule out any medical issues as signs of restlessness could be more than just boredom. If you have determined that your dog is healthy but needs more types of stimulation, check out these easy and fun things to do together.

For the energetic pups, consider doing sprints to help wear them out. Spend a few minutes warming up, and then race with your pup back and forth across your yard, hallway, or on a leash outside if the weather permits it. If you cannot run with your dog, consider playing a game of fetch! Dogs who enjoy fetch can get their sprints in by chasing their favorite toy.

Sniffing games and puzzle toys can give your dog some of the mental stimulation they need. Try hiding some of your dog's favorite toys and treats around the house (under pillows or rugs, behind a door, under a cup/bowl, etc.). Then let them go to sniff out and find these goodies you've stashed. You can use your voice to encourage them to search and point to where things are hidden if they struggle to catch the scent. For puzzle toys, you can try store-bought ones like those made by Outward Hound, or you can make your own at home! For example, try using a muffin tin and tennis balls in a rolled-up towel to hide treats.

Pro-Tip: use a variety of puzzle, treat, and toy options and mix up when and where you use them along with what you put in them!

Take advantage of any extra time you have at home by perfecting some of your pup's favorite tricks or learning something new! A 10-minute training session can help tire a dog's brain out, provide bonding time with focused attention on your dog, and give you a break from your daily activities.


These tips help you keep your furry friend happy and healthy. Try them out to keep your dog entertained and mentally stimulated without leaving your home.

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How Your Spring Cleaning Can Benefit Rescues & Vets

Story by Rebecca West



As spring rolls around, many of us are gearing up for our annual clean-a-thon after a long, cold winter. It's time to freshen up and get rid of all sorts of no-longer-needed or unwanted possessions, and we've got some helpful ideas that can assist shelters and vets in the process.

Old Pill Bottles

You can donate old medication bottles to nonprofits such as churches, homeless organizations, and animal shelters. Call around to animal and homeless shelters to see if they need them. According to GoodRX, animal-focused groups such as the ASPCA and some Walgreens and CVS locations will also accept used pill bottles if your rescue of choice can't use them.

Before donating them, though, remove any prescription labels and clean the bottle thoroughly. You can soak empty pill bottles in room-temperature water to remove the labels without marring them. Just make sure to dry the bottles completely before capping them.

Used Baby Clothes

When it comes to baby clothes, which they grow out of at an alarming rate, they are often still in good condition by the time they no longer fit. You can always donate them to a charitable cause, but have you ever considered donating them to a veterinary clinic or local animal shelter with onsite medical services?

Vets and shelters are often in need of items such as baby socks and onesies in their day-to-day operations. When you think about it, socks for infants and onesies are the perfect size for dogs and cats. Most are generally lightweight and easy to slip on and off, which is ideal



for protecting surgery sites in the process of healing. Note: mateless socks or booties are just fine. Animals and vets aren't that discerning.

Unneeded Bedding & Linens

Animal shelters, pet rescues, and veterinarians can always use household items like sheets, towels, and blankets — as long as they're not filled

with any type of cotton or nylon batting. Just like stuffed animal pet toys with batting, dogs frequently chew through them and leave an unholy mess.

These facilities are perfect for items that still have a fair amount of life left in them, but thrift or charitable stores might be unwilling to take. Giving them a second life is a much better way to go than having them end up in your local landfill.

Retired Pet Bowls & Dishes

If you're like us, every so often you pick up a cute new doggy bowl or cat dish or replace your pets' water dispenser with a newer version. Rather than throw the old ones out, we have a habit of hanging onto them

"just in case." Years later, they're still clanging around in the garage or the bottom of your pantry, catching dust bunnies.



Give them the heave-ho once and for all, and donate them to a facility or group that will use them. Just make sure they're clean and still serviceable. Nobody wants old junk just because you can't bring yourself to throw them out.

Out of Rotation Harnesses & Leashes

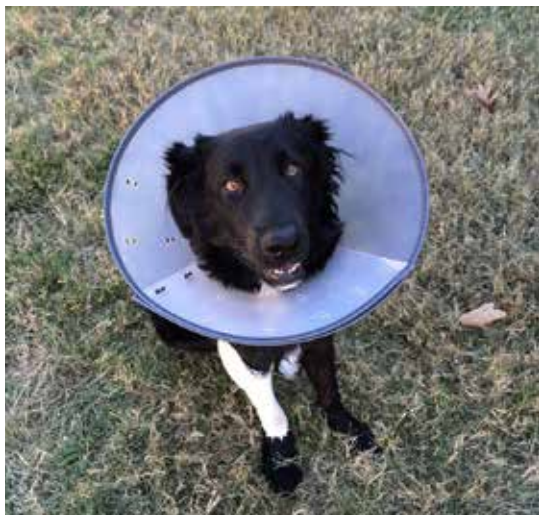
The same goes for harnesses and leashes that are no longer in service in your home. There are many reasons why you might have multiples. And you may have a collection of them in your hall closet or stuffed in a drawer somewhere. But if they're in good condition, someone somewhere will want them.

Animals waiting for new homes are walked by volunteers and staff regularly. If you've got hundreds of animals in your care like PACC does, the donation of these items can be a blessing. This is especially true of smaller rescues on a shoestring budget running solely on donations. Note: unless a collar has received little to no use, they're unlikely to be up to snuff for this purpose.

Yesterday's Doggy Sweaters, Coats, & Booties

Gently used pet items intended for warmth or protecting paws are also welcomed by shelters and rescues. Your pets may have outgrown them or never got the hang of them, but if they're still serviceable, then donate them. Here in Arizona, booties are badly needed in summer, more so than in winter, as concrete and blacktop temperatures can scorch tender skin in seconds.

As with all of the items on this list, just make sure they are clean and in relatively good condition before offering them up. Otherwise, they probably won't be accepted, regardless of how well-intentioned the gesture was. Now, let's tackle that cleaning before we change our minds!



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As concerned pet owners, we're constantly scanning the horizon for ways to improve their quality of life any way we can. We make sure to take them to the veterinarian for regular checkups, provide them with the highest quality foods and treats we can afford, ensure they're walked regularly, and try to provide them with the mental stimulation and enrichments recommended for long, healthy, and happy lives. Afterall, in our estimation, they deserve it for everything they provide us in return.

Well, scientists have now struck upon another way to improve your pet's day-to-day existence. A 2023 study involving more than 21,000 canines conducted via the Dog Aging Project looked into a variety of environmental and social factors associated with the lifespans of our canine companions. According to



their results, having more than one pet in the home or adopting another could be vital to your dog's overall health and well-being.

This shouldn't come as a shock to anyone. Put yourself in their place and imagine, if you will, not having a peer to interact with for large swaths of the day. Loafing around for hours on

end in what is basically an isolated state, hoping upon hope that someone will arrive to chat with you, hang out with you, or want to go and do something fun with you, can be incredibly lonely — especially if you're a highly social being, which dogs are.

Routinely feeling alone and bored is something so many of us had to deal with during the pandemic, and it did not go well for a lot of folks. Feelings of isolation or loneliness are documented as having negative impacts on our mental well-being, which can influence our physical health. If you're a companion animal rather than a working animal, you live for the moment your human(s) return home. Unfortunately, your pet parents aren't always going to have the strength, energy, or interest after presumably working all day to give you more than a pat on the head or a belly rub before putting their feet up.

The study results for the Dog Aging Project pointed to the fact that doggos that regularly socialize with other canines experience improved overall health in general. In homes with more than one pet, researchers routinely found this to be the case. Interestingly enough, the perceived benefits weren't limited to just doggy



Important Study Shows Dogs Do Better Living with other Companion Animals

Story by Rebecca West

interactions, either. In other words, the animal companions didn't have to woof and pant to make a difference. They could meow or even squeal, but they were present and interacted with family canines regularly.

Entitled "Social determinants of health and disease in companion dogs: a cohort study from the Dog Aging Project," the findings were published in May 2023 in the journal *Evolution, Medicine & Public Health*.

The data collected boils down to this: dogs are frequently healthier when they share a living space with another companion animal. The word "frequently" is used because, of course, there can be exceptions to this rule, such as animals living in situations with other pets that are aggressive or abusive. Just like people, some animals are crabby and pick on those around them.

The intriguing findings were based on survey data collected and reviewed by scientists from Arizona State University, the University of Washington, and other institutions of higher learning. As a side note, ASU and researcher Lisa M. Gunter have taken part in a number of canine studies over the years, including the impacts of shelter life on dogs and how the stress hormone cortisol negatively impacts them.



The hope is that these discoveries about healthy aging in our canine companions will someday translate into medical advances for people, too, so that we can both live longer and stay healthier together. Studying human aging is challenging and expensive, but dogs are science's best friends. Even though they age more rapidly than us, they are similar in that they experience the same diseases of aging that we do, they are genetically diverse, and they share our environment as well as our emotional sensitivity.

If you'd like to get involved, the innovative Dog Aging Project is focused on bringing together a community of dogs, pet owners, veterinarians, researchers, and volunteers to carry out "the most ambitious canine health study in the world," as they put it. You can get more information on how to help or enroll your own dog(s) in the project by visiting <https://dogagingproject.org/> and becoming a partner to help future generations of canines live their best lives possible!

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Snake & Toad Avoidance Training Might Just Save Your Pet's Life

Story by Rebecca West

Photos provided by Animal Experts, Inc.



Jeff Carver

and removes wildlife, including mice, bats, rats, squirrels, pigeons, javelina, raccoons, skunks, bobcats, snakes, and other critters. With more than 40 years of experience, the duo has appeared in two Nat Geo WILD series, *Animal Extractors* and *When Nature Calls*.

They also offer preventative maintenance services and education to prevent unwanted wildlife from entering dwellings and establishing residence on your property. But their canine snake avoidance training is particularly relevant to dog owners as spring makes an appearance once again — especially if you live in or tend to walk your pets in rural areas or frequently hike together.

Snake Avoidance Training Classes

It's a one-time class that typically lasts between 30 and 40 minutes. There are two types available: one using a shock collar and one without. As Jeff explains it, it's used to simulate what a snake bite would feel like to the dog. "In the 4,000 dogs trained last year, no one has ever come back and complained about the shock collar," he emphasized. If you opt for training sans the collar, there are more classes involved.

Other reasons more classes or refresher courses might be required include breeds with a high prey drive or if you have multiple dogs, which adds a whole other dynamic to reactivity on the part of the animals. "We train them separately and then train them together because dogs in a group may react differently than when they're on their own," Jeff noted. He added, "We have a 98 percent success rate and are continuously trying to refine our methods to create the best school and training experience ever."

Weather permitting, classes are conducted outdoors with a trainer and wrangler on hand. By all accounts, the canines seem to enjoy the learning session. In order to enroll, dogs need to be fully vaccinated. If they have any underlying health issues, it's advised you get clearance from a vet before enrolling them. The minimum age for training is 6 months. For canines less than a year old, it's highly recommended they take a refresher course the following year.

Tips & Myths

Jeff also went over some tips and myths. For starters, in southern Arizona, the only snake we have to worry about is rattlers, as Sonoran coral snakes are rare and very small compared to rattlers.

"Just 20 minutes of training could save your dog's life." Those are the words of Jeff Carver of Animal Experts, Inc. when asked about the importance of snake avoidance training for canines living in Arizona. Established in 1991 by Carver and his partner Marc Hammond, Animal Experts humanely captures

Not surprisingly, 95 percent of dogs bitten get bit in the face, which can become an issue with swelling and obstructed airways. Jeff said the number one thing to know if your pet is bit is to elevate the wound and call 911. He also advocates for cultivating a relationship with your veterinarian. If you have a longstanding relationship with your vet, you can work on a payment plan because treating snake bites can get pricey fast. It all boils down to how much venom was injected as to the severity of the outcome.

Some common myths associated with snake bites is that you should try to suck the venom out but, as Jeff pointed out, you can't because it absorbs into tissue. Another thing is that juvenile snakes are NOT more venomous than



adults. Venom comes from their pit glands, and juveniles have not mastered what might be considered a measured release, while an adult is more apt to give a dry warning bite. Also, there are no rattlesnakes in Arizona unless they've had their rattle damaged.

Eliminating Attractive Nuisances

Things that might attract a snake to your yard include animal feed, which will attract rodents that, in turn, attract snakes. Potted plants around the front door are perfect hiding spots for snakes, so leave a lot of clear space around entrances and don't pack them too densely in patio areas. Also, trim ground cover that overgrows pathways because they can hide under it. Prune bushes from the base up to leave them with fewer spots to hide around the base of your home.

Another suggestion is to secure your yard from potential entry points for snakes, like gaps in fences and along the base of gates where you could attach a sweep. According to Jeff, rattlers are typically very poor climbers, so they're apt to enter from the ground under or around gates and drain holes — which he recommends covering with screens — but they *can* still climb up vegetation and get overhead if you make it easy for them.

Safety First

If you're going to be enjoying the outdoors, be aware of your surroundings, and don't hike with earbuds because you can't hear the warning rattle. Also, keep your dog leashed. An important question raised by Jeff was, "Can you control your dog once it's been bit?" If it's leashed, you've got it tethered and can try to get it to help that much quicker. And finally, take a walking stick with you to keep threatening animals or critters at bay.



Wrangler Cassandra Grogan



Call or visit animalexpertsinc.com or (520) 531-1020 to learn more.

Develop A Deeper Relationship With Your Pets Through Animal Communication

Story and Photos by Alison Martin, Animal Soul Connection

Have you ever had the feeling your animal companion was reading your mind?

For example, maybe you thought about taking your dog for a walk and suddenly, he was right in front of you, wagging his tail. Possibly you've experienced your cat running under the bed just before you went to get her cat carrier to go to the vet. You may have brushed these times off as coincidence without realizing what was really happening.

Your pets are reading your thoughts and feelings because they communicate telepathically. This is their natural language. Unfortunately, we often send mixed signals to our pets which can cause behavior and emotional problems. Rather than thinking your dog or cat is behaving 'badly' when you understand what they are trying to tell you, then you can start to solve any issues they're having.

We often communicate verbally with our pets but we're thinking something different in our minds, sending them confusing messages. Because animals communicate telepathically, they are not focused on verbal requests as much as they are our thoughts. For instance, your dog may bark at other dogs while walking because you're worried he is going to bark. He reads this as something you are actually asking him to do.

It becomes clear how these mixed messages are confusing when you have a 3-way conversation with your pet during an animal communication session. Imagine for a moment living with someone your entire life and never speaking the same language. Do you think there might be issues that arise from poor communication?

It's the same for our animal family. They are trying their best to tell us what they need and want, but most often, we don't understand and our pets take the blame. We may see them as unruly, destructive, depressed, anxious, fearful... the list is endless. While what is really happening is simple. They need to communicate with you in their language!

I recently worked with a client who was at her wit's end with her cat urinating outside his litter box in their new home. He had been cleared by his vet with no physical issues yet, the 'bad behavior' was continuing and he was beginning to ruin areas of the house. When I spoke with this kitty, he clearly showed the problem was the location of his litter box. It was in a laundry room where there was a lot of noise from the vents. This was new to him and was very unsettling. His person moved his litter box to a different location and the inappropriate urinating issue stopped right away.



Lucas Talking

Can you see how frustrated this cat must have been, along with his person who was upset too? Are you worried, frustrated, concerned, or even angry about an issue your pet is having right now? You might even be feeling a bit resentful, that's normal. But, you don't



Ruthie Oliver and Elli in the grass

have to struggle. Your pet has the answers...you just need someone to be a translator for the two of you!

That's where an animal communication session can help. An Animal Communicator serves as a bridge of communication for you and your pet. You get to ask the questions that are causing you concern, and your pet gets to give you the answers! Your animal companion is finally heard and understood. Can you imagine the feeling your pet will have when the burden of trying to talk with you is lifted and they have someone speaking their telepathic language?

Through animal communication, you can resolve any issues in a logical way, rather than guessing and searching endlessly for answers.

After an animal communication session, you'll live more in sync with each other plus a wonderful bonus is you will be in a deeper relationship with your pet and feel more connected, because you finally understand each other.

Everyone has the natural intuitive ability to communicate with their animals. You simply need the desire and an open heart and mind.

Here's a tip for you to practice sending clear communication to your pet:

It's quite simple. Match your thoughts to your words! If you want your dog to stop chewing the dog bed, send him a picture of the dog bed intact, not of him chewing the bed. Rather than picturing your cat urinating on the floor next to the litter box, picture her urinating inside her clean box. Send them images of what you want them to do...not what you don't want them to do.

3 Tips To Connect with Your Animals On A Deeper Level



Quiet your mind so you can trust what you receive

Open your heart and listen from your heart and soul, not your thinking mind

Be willing to step out of what is familiar into something extraordinary

animalsoulconnection.com

Practice the awareness of communication with your pet and you'll find you're developing an even deeper relationship of love and understanding.

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

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Animal League of Green Valley
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www.talgv.org

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Isabella

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Pima County Pet Licensing - (520) 724-5969

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

Town of Sahuarita Animal Care Services & Pet Licensing
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www.safeanimals.com

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Equine Encore Foundation
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www.equineencorefoundation.org

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www.heartoftucson.org

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HorsenAroundRescue@yahoo.com

Karuna Horse Rescue
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https://www.karunahorserescue.org

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www.wildhorseranchrescue.com

Feral Cat Assistance

Tucson Feral Coalition
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Info about TNR (Trap, Neuter Return)
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Clyde Paisley



**THANK YOU to the incredible
participants, volunteers, and
teams that made this year's
Parade so special!**



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A Special Thank You to the
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*Check your local listings for airtimes of the rebroadcast. 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, and Instagram. Friends of PACC's FB: @PACCfriends, IG: @friendsofpacc.



Tucson Subaru Pets of Pima Parade & Friends of PACC Festival Delivers WOW Moments to Thousands of Spectators

Story by Elizabeth Bailey, Photos by Marilyn Stringer

Pets of Pima Parade and Festival drew thousands to Downtown Tucson. 1,200 volunteers, tens of thousands of spectators, and hundreds of pets of all descriptions kicked off the 3rd Annual Tucson Subaru Pets of Pima Parade Sunday, February 18th in the 4th Avenue District.

The lively 4th Avenue District is home to this beloved annual event, and this year was bigger than ever as the post-parade Friends of PACC Festival engulfed four city blocks with live entertainment, 60 vendors, 6 rescues, food vendors, and a major adoption event that helped many deserving dogs and cats find adoptive homes.



The parade commenced without a hitch at 10 a.m., as some 1,200 participants stepped out along the parade route, led by two marching bands. Many businesses and dog groups marched behind banners announcing their organization, and spectators along the route cheered as their favorite groups passed by. People along the parade route thoughtfully placed kiddie pools filled with water for playing or drinking, and several dogs took advantage of the opportunity to wade, splash, and drink. A large number of dogs marched in the parade, led by their owners or volunteers from their rescue. Costumes and decorated dogs were everywhere; crowd favorites included a standard poodle decorated with vegetable dye to resemble Tigger from the Winnie The Pooh stories, a dog with Woody from Toy Story riding on his back, and a tiny princess pup in her wagon decorated as a coach.

An enormous pair of Great Danes, pushing 200 lbs each, were favorites at Corbett's Restaurant after the parade. A large python draped around her owner drew oohs and ahs, and several tiny ponies made children squeal with delight.



Live media coverage of the parade was evident all along the parade route, including two reviewing areas where exhibitors stopped to be announced by Tucson's own Erin Christiansen, and allow the media to photograph, film, and record their parade entries.

Most Tucsonans are familiar with Pima Animal Care Center, PACC, and their lifesaving mission to rescue, house, care for, and rehome some 18,000 animals every year. It is a huge undertaking, and Friends of PACC is the independent 501(c)3 non profit fundraising group whose primary focus is to raise money and awareness of PACC's mission and programs.

"The parade and festival is Friends of PACC's signature fundraising event," noted Executive Director Torre Chisholm. He anticipates raising \$100,000 in sponsorships and donations as a result of this year's event.



Helping Chisholm with this monumental effort is the entire Friends of PACC team and Board of Directors; and some 200 community volunteers who work to insure the parade and after party go off without a hitch.

Friends of PACC works closely with PACC to conceive, fund, and launch significant programs to further PACC's mission. Executive Director Chisholm said that their core dynamic is helping pets stay in their homes. "You can build all the shelters in the world," Chisholm pointed out. "But the most proactive way to help animals is to keep them in the home they already have, preventing homelessness before it happens."

To that end, Friends of PACC set initiatives such as their "Keeping Families Together" program and conceived and funded Karen's Karing Van that brings veterinary care to underserved areas of Pima County.

continued on next page



Tucson Subaru, this year's signature sponsor, was instrumental in providing significant funding and support to this event, Friends of PACC, Pima Animal Care Center, and the thousands of pet lives they save every year.

Tucson is enriched by the hard work and sacrifice of the staff and volunteers that makes this exciting event so popular.

If you didn't get to see this year's parade and festival, be sure and mark your calendars for next year's event, which will be held mid-February 2025.

For more information: www.friendsofpacc.org

To become a volunteer or donate: www.friendsofpacc.org/volunteer-projects



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Spring Has Sprung at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona!

Adoptable Animals, Community Events and Education Abound

Story by Team HSSA

It's springtime at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSA), and that means new beginnings, exciting events, and most importantly, adorable animals waiting for their forever homes! Whether you're looking to adopt a furry friend, participate in community events or learn more about animal care, HSSA has something for everyone.



Karen Hollish

Meet the Team: Karen Hollish Joins HSSA as Chief Development Officer

HSSA welcomes Karen Hollish, a familiar face in the animal rescue community, as its new Chief Development Officer. With her extensive experience and passion for animal welfare, Karen is ready to lead the charge in fundraising, marketing and communications.

"I'm so excited to be a part of HSSA," Karen says. "As we enter our 80th year, we face exciting opportunities to double down on serving our mission and working collaboratively with our animal welfare partners. There are challenges facing our

field that can impede our progress in caring for our community's pets and the people who love them. I believe we can address those challenges as long as we're working together."

Both HSSA and Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) have faced capacity challenges this year, highlighting a nationwide issue, Karen adds. "Adoption is crucial, and fostering also plays a vital role." By opening their home temporarily, volunteer foster parents help free up space for another pet in need and help the shelters learn more about a pet's personality which helps in finding the right family.

"There are many ways to support HSSA," Karen adds. "Tucson is a pet community, and we've seen that passion for animals in the past. We know we can count on folks to answer the call to help Southern Arizona's pets."

Looking for a Loyal Companion? National Adoption Week is Here!

Mark your calendars for National Adoption Week, March 18-24, presented by PetSmart Charities. HSSA and PACC are joining forces to bring you this community-wide event to find your perfect furry friend. Adoption fees will be waived all week long, making it the perfect time to welcome a new member to your family! Visit the following locations:

- **HSSA: 635 W. Roger Road**
- **PACC: 4000 N. Silverbell Road**

In-store adoptions are scheduled at the following PetSmart locations:

- **Grant & Swan:** Friday through Sunday, March 22 - 24
- **Orange Grove & River:** Friday through Sunday, March 22 - 24
- **Oracle & Wetmore:** Saturday, March 23

March Muttness: Show Your Support Through a Fun Competition!

Animal lovers across the country can participate in March Muttness, a virtual fundraising challenge running March 1 – 31 where animal shelters compete for your support. Donate to HSSA and watch them battle it out in daily brackets. Every contribution counts, and the real winners are the animals who benefit from your generosity. Play at marchmuttness.org!

Vintage Treasures and Senior Pet Discounts at the Retro Rescue Sale

Don't miss the HSSA thrift store's vintage sale March 8 & 9. Early access is available for just \$10 on Friday evening from 4 – 7 p.m., with food trucks, live music and awesome finds like vintage designer clothing and jewelry. Saturday's event is open to the public from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. As a bonus, senior pets will have adoption discounts throughout the weekend!

Learning Adventures for Kids: Humane Amigos Spring and Summer Camps

Keep your children entertained and engaged with HSSA's Humane Amigos Camps! Designed for ages 6-12, these camps offer hands-on experiences with Education Ambassador Animals, interactive activities, and valuable lessons about animal care and fostering human-animal bonds. Sign up today and ensure an unforgettable summer for your kids! Go to hssaz.org/Camp.



Safety First: Rattlesnake & Toad Avoidance Training for Your Pet



With rattlesnake season approaching, protect your furry friends by enrolling them in HSSA's avoidance training program. This program teaches dogs to identify and avoid these dangerous creatures, ensuring safe outdoor adventures together.

Stay in touch!

Beyond these highlights, HSSA offers a variety of services and programs throughout the year. **Visit their website at hssaz.org** to learn more, get involved, and make a difference in the lives of animals in need.



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