



The Tucson

DOG

September/October 2025

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

Cover Story:

Jerry's Law:
AZ Animal Welfare
Bill with Teeth

Features:

It's Back! The 6th Annual
Dogtoberfest Adopt-A-Thon
—Don't Miss Out!

Gabriel's Angels:
25 Years
Sharing Confidence,
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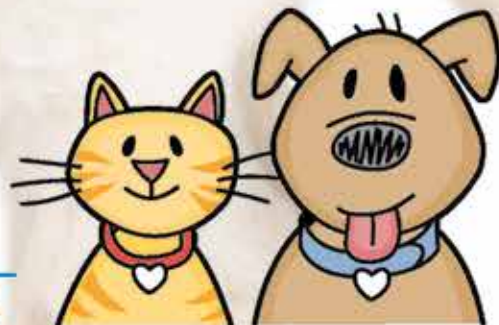


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Sharing Confidence,
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ISSUE
IN
THIS

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



Candice Eaton - Cover Photographer - The award-winning photographer behind C. Eaton Photography, captures the heart and soul of every pet and their owner's unique story so that they can keep them forever. With a deep passion for storytelling, Candice ensures that each portrait is a heartfelt tribute to the special bond between pets and humans. When she's not behind the lens, you'll find her soaking up Arizona's 300 days of sunshine or gearing up for her next big adventure.



Susan Stolar - Account Executive Susan has built an accomplished career in marketing communications & media relations. She started her career in New York City, her hometown. In 2000, she relocated to Tucson and established a consulting business. Susan now serves on the Board of the Father's Day Council, is a member of the Blues Music Foundation, and volunteers for animal rights organizations. After moving here, her first stop was the Humane Society, where she adopted two rescue dogs. While volunteering at Pawsitively Cats, she added a cat to her family. Susan's fur family now includes Homer, her senior cat, and her recently rescued senior poodle, Lucky.



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 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

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(Sept/Oct cover photo provided by Koco Garcia)

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All stories and articles in this publication are written and reviewed by real humans.

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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 2025 by *The Tucson Dog*. Layout and pre-press services: Christine Scheer (Visit xscheer.com or email x.scheer@gmail.com)



Gabriel's Angels: 25 Years Sharing Confidence, Resilience, and Connection

Story by Bonnie Craig, Photos Courtesy of Gabriel's Angels

profit organization called **Gabriel's Angels** has not only endured through these changes, but is arguably better than ever.

In the year 2000 Pam Gaber and her Weimaraner puppy, Gabriel, a therapy dog, paid a visit to the Child Crisis Nursery. After seeing the profound connections he made with the kids there, Pam was moved to form an organization that could serve a greater swath of Arizona youth. Today, the therapy dogs of what became Gabriel's Angels continue to help children in schools, shelters, and other youth-serving organizations strengthen their abilities to regulate their emotions, form healthy relationships, and treat others with kindness and respect.



Gabriel's Angels stands out among therapy animal organizations in that they are very intentional about the ways in which they utilize the dogs. This is done predominantly by following the guidelines of their two main programs. One of these is

Animals, Books, and Children (ABC), and as the name suggests, it is focused on promoting literacy by allowing children to read to the therapy dogs in a one-on-one setting. As any dog lover knows, the lack of judgement and abundance of unconditional love they share allows us to be vulnerable in ways that aren't always as easy with other people. In this way, the children can gain confidence and eliminate some of the psychological barriers and anxieties that many face while learning to read.



Paws for Resilience is their other main program. This is a more behavior based initiative where the focus is social emotional learning. Interactions with the therapy dogs under these circumstances help children to strengthen their coping and emotional regulation skills. These interactions are guided by organization volunteers, creating a safe space for all, in which the kids can work on self-awareness, stress management, and resilience, leading to healthier relationships and better overall emotional wellbeing.

Gabriel's Angels also makes special visits to various sites, providing support for anything from test anxiety to high stress incidents, and generally

promoting mental health on a shorter term basis. As with all of their programs and services, these are always free of charge.

Currently, Gabriel's Angels serves 106 sites, and is powered by 139 human volunteers. 115 of these volunteers work with their dogs as pet therapy teams and the other 24 help lead activities in the Paws for Resilience group program.



The impact of their work is felt keenly by those they serve, inspiring one child to write poetry for a therapy dog, York. Another dog, upon his retirement was sent multiple letters from children including such sweet sentiments as, *"I love you, Socks, to the moon."* On one of his hard days, a child living with Leukemia said that he only came to school because he knew he would get to read with a dog. These are just a few drops in the ocean of good Gabriel's Angels has done and will continue to do for these kids.

In 2024, they came up with a 10-year strategic vision, with the goals of financial sustainability, measurable program excellence, advocating for pet therapy, and impact beyond direct service, many of which are already being realized. Ultimately this means reaching more youth in need, and making long term impacts which can create a butterfly effect and go on to branch off and grow to effect more positive change in the world at large. In the words of Gabriel's Angels CEO, Melissa Steimer, *"...as long as I can remember, both my personal and professional life have lived at the intersection of caring for vulnerable youth and animal welfare. Looking ahead, my vision for the next 25 years for this organization is bold but simple: that no child who needs our support ever goes without it."*

These words and sentiments reinforce the fact of the organization's stellar leadership, and show how crucial it is that organizations like Gabriel's Angels can continue. As a non-



profit offering completely free services, they rely on financial support from the community. There is a growing waitlist for services from Gabriel's Angels, so more volunteers are always needed to help expand their reach. Anyone interested can learn more at gabrielsangels.org/volunteer.

Of course no quadranscentennial celebration would be complete without a party; festivities are planned for both metro areas served by Gabriel's Angels. In Phoenix, A Night of PAWSibilities gala will be happening on November 15th at the Arizona Biltmore, and in Tucson they will be

hosting their Unleash the Love happy hour at St. Philips Plaza on October 9th. To get your tickets, check out their events page at gabrielsangels.org/events/.

In the current world full of so much discord, anxiety, and unkindness, organizations like Gabriel's Angels are a real light in the darkness. Much respect and love to this amazing organization, congratulations on 25 years of success and service, and here's to another 25 years and beyond!

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The Leader of the Pack Speaks

Dear Friends and Fellow Animal Lovers,

As September temps fall into October's cooler air, our hearts lighten with the excitement of what's ahead, especially Dogtoberfest 2025, happening October 26th at Ft Lowell Park. More than a festival, **Dogtoberfest is a life-saving celebration**, bringing together local rescues, shelters, and community partners in a powerful mission: to find loving homes for pets in need. It's a day where second chances take center stage and we honor the tireless heroes who make them possible. My heartfelt thank you to the rescuers, fosters and volunteers who dedicate their lives to giving animals a better life.

This issue is dedicated to the power of change and those who make them. Our cover story highlights Arizona's groundbreaking **Jerry's Law (SB1658)**, a step forward in protecting animals from prolonged suffering and neglect. Named after a dog who endured far too much, this law is a declaration: our state values animal lives, and we're no longer willing to stand by in silence. Let Jerry's story remind us that change doesn't just happen, it's created by those who care enough to speak out.

On a more personal note, I want to share something close to my heart. My beloved dog, **Marley**, is nearing 17 years old. He's my companion and in many ways, my inspiration. As we walk through these final chapters together, I'm making medical and comfort care decisions with the same dignity and love I've witnessed in families during my years in home healthcare. Palliative care isn't just for people, it's for pets too. And the choices we make in this tender time are just as profound.

Marley has always been part of **The Tucson Dog** story. In the coming months, you'll see more of him in photos, in updates, and hopefully, as the face on our cover. He's earned it. I know many of you have walked or are walking this same path. I see you. And I thank you for the love you continue to give, even when it's hard. Just remember, all they want is to see your face up to their very last moment.

Behind every article, event, and photo in **The Tucson Dog** lies a truth we hold dear: animals bring out the best in us. They teach us patience, empathy, and unconditional love. I'm proud to amplify their stories and celebrate the people who make their lives better every day.

So whether you're attending **Dogtoberfest**, championing policy change, educating yourself on pet care, or searching for your next best friend, we hope this issue inspires action, compassion, and connection. Together, we can build a future where every animal is safe, voiced, and loved.



Here's to the animals who shape us, the people who fight for them, and the moments that remind us why we do this work.

See you at Dogtoberfest!

With gratitude,
~ **Heather McShea**
Publisher & Editor-In-Chief

THANK YOU

to our Dogtoberfest Vendor and Sponsor Heroes. You're giving rescue dogs the chance they deserve. If your business would like to make a difference and be part of this incredible event, contact: heather@thetucsondog.com or go to this website: dogtoberfesttucson.com.

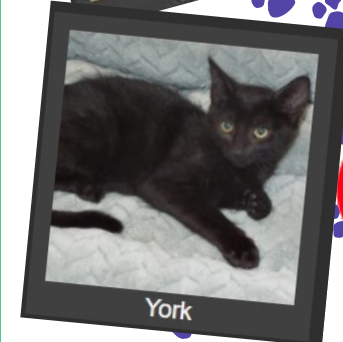
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WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS to *The Tucson Dog* during these trying times. Your donation will help us to continue serving our community by continuing to promote local shelters and rescues (at no cost to them), helping homeless pets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

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It's Back! The 6th Annual Dogtoberfest Adopt-A-Thon ... Don't Miss Out!



Story by Rebecca West



A relaxing day in the park? Check! Heaps of fun? Check! Taste-tempting food and shopping opportunities? Check! Easing Tucson's homeless pet population and supporting animal welfare? Double check!

From the moment visitors arrive, the infectious buzz of laughing voices, children playing, live music and dogs barking in a manner that suggests joy and excitement, rather than fear or stress, surrounds them. With a festive carnival-like atmosphere, the happy vibe pervading the air at one of Tucson's largest canine adoption events is absolutely palpable.

We're talking about Dogtoberfest Adopt-a-thon, a fun, family-friendly gathering that has seen thousands of visitors pour in each year in late October/early November to either adopt or help

In the past, meteorologist Erin Christiansen of KOLD News 13, KGUN 9 Good Morning Tucson anchor Claire Graham, and artist Diana Madaras have been on hand to help emcee and/or support our events, among other public figures involved in animal activism. While we never know who'll be stopping by to help make the event a success, this year we've once again got the power of radio behind us.

A few issues back, we had the opportunity to interview Matt Gentry, the Director of Programming and the morning voice of The Drive Tucson, and his lovely wife, Randi, who cohosts with him on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for our May/June cover. The duo are lifelong pet lovers who have been



Randi & Matt Gentry.
Photo by Kelly Richard



support animal rescue here in southern Arizona. While this will be our sixth year hosting the annual event, we merely picked up the torch from Handi-Dogs, who started their own version of it years earlier, complete with canine games and a beer garden.

Founded by Alamo Reaves in 1973, Handi-Dogs—now known as Ability Dogs—is among the oldest assistance dog-training programs in the United States. The organization has helped thousands of people train their dogs to aid them in their day-to-day lives. Originally organized as a celebration of the bond between people and their dogs, we've shifted the focus of Dogtoberfest to animal rescue and adoption while maintaining that celebratory spirit.

Coincidentally, Handi-Dogs' first Dogtoberfest event was held in 2002 at Fort Lowell Park, which is where we'll be hosting ours in 2025.

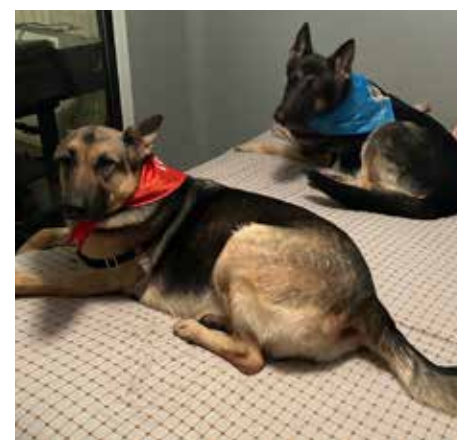
This year, however, The Tucson Dog's 6th Annual Dogtoberfest Adopt-a-thon has joined forces with radio station KDRI's The Drive Tucson to help us bring the event to the next level. Our hope is that this translates to even more pups finding forever homes, thus lessening the strain on local rescues and shelters, such as Hope of Deliverance, Cherished Tails, The Animal League of Green Valley, HSSAZ, AZ Beagle Rescue, and so many others that struggle each day to keep up.



Patty Ruiz

working to raise the profile of rescue pets in the Old Pueblo and bring awareness to the cause by utilizing their platform as local personalities.

Also supporting the event is broadcast veteran Patty Ruiz, Vice President and General Manager of Bustos Media, the company operating not only The Drive Tucson but KVOI's The Voice and KTVG's The Groove, as well as two other radio stations, La Poderosa and Urbana.



Patty's dogs, Teddy and Destiny (top) and Honey and Princess (below, napping)

During her career, she earned regional and national recognition for her work, including induction into the AAF Tucson Hall of Fame. Another animal devotee, Patty's passion for dogs and animal welfare has become part of the culture at Bustos Media, inspiring every station she oversees to champion adoption events, support shelters, and use their platforms to make a difference.

According to Gentry, her management style and genuine heart for the people and pets of southern Arizona have given teams like The Drive Tucson the freedom to create authentic, impactful connections with listeners.

"Community is everything to her. Her fierce loyalty to the people and pets of Tucson fuels everything she does. She's a passionate dog lover, known for championing animal rescue causes, and her leadership has sparked partnerships that go far beyond advertising, including a perfect collaboration with *The Tucson Dog Magazine*. It's more than business; it's a shared mission."



On average, well over a thousand people visit Dogtoberfest each year, where we host hundreds of adoptable dogs. With the aid of our generous sponsors, like Bustos, we've assisted in facilitating thousands of adoptions, which is something we're very proud of.

So, what can you expect this year? In addition to more than 150 dogs waiting patiently in our "Adoption Alley" for their forever person to come along, there will be plenty of entertainment to enjoy, including contests and drawings with great prizes and gifts. Since you're welcome to bring along your own well-behaved pups, you can get dressed up and join the Halloween costume contests for some added fun.

The categories include Most Beautiful Dog, Best Dog Costume, Best Owner/Dog Costume, Best Kids Costume, and Biggest and Smallest Dog.



In keeping with past events, there will be games for people and dogs, too, such as the ever-popular Hot Dog Bobbing Contest. Who needs apples when there's a frank floating around?

As usual, we'll have a KIDS ZONE for occupying the little ones with face painting, additional games and prizes, Halloween candy, and treats for the doggos.

Speaking of treats, there will be plenty of food trucks and booths on site to please a variety of palates, like Tucson favorite You Sly Dog, pulled pork and other American fare, delicious sweets, and Mexican food from another popular purveyor, The Quesadillas.

As for keeping the beat, this year Matt and Randi will be DJ-ing with a live remote broadcast to mix things up a bit. Their presence also means you can likely enter The Drive's free classic car giveaway contest while you're there. The vehicle in question is to be unveiled on September 20, so auto enthusiasts should keep their eyes and ears open in the coming weeks to learn the make and model.

Of course, as in prior years, there will be plenty of vendors on hand—which we couldn't do without—showcasing pet-themed and non-pet-related products, merchandise, services, and crafts from local artisans. These booths are also a great place to get educated on a number of different issues near and dear to pet owners' hearts.

A few of the most popular vendors in recent years have been Zoomies, with their mobile dog gym and treadmills, Tucson Veterinary Urgent Care, Camp Bow Wow and Gaia Provides Pet CBD. Gaia has organized an incredibly fun scavenger hunt with the other booths and vendors for guests to take part in.

Renewal by Andersen, Mary Kay, TEP, Truly Nolan, Done Right HVAC, and several Real Estate agents have also found ways to entertain visitors and their dogs with things like kissing booths and gift wheels. As Nigel from Zoomies stated, "These events are a highlight for me. Just the camaraderie of all the vendors alone is enough to bring me back. Everything else is a bonus!!"

The truth is, the vendors are the life of the party!

You can also take advantage of low-cost vaccinations and microchipping for dogs while you're there through Pathways for Paws, making it a day of memorable fun and one-stop shopping. Which reminds us, if you're going to bring Fido, please ensure they are in good health, vaccinated, and able to handle crowds, noise, and other doggos for everyone's health and safety. And remember, they must be short leashed, at the very least, if not harnessed.

While Dogtoberfest is a free event where Tucsonans can meet new friends and greet old ones, we ask that visitors please bring dog/cat food or other supplies to help fill donation boxes for pet-related charities that distribute them to animal rescue groups, individuals, and others in need.

We'd like to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers in advance for making these adoption events possible. It's quite an undertaking, and we couldn't do it without you.

For more information, contact heather@thetucsondog.com or visit dogtoberfesttucson.com.



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Business Spotlight

Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit Delivers Affordable Pet Surgery in Tucson

Story by Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit

Veterinary costs can prevent pets from getting the care they need. That's why Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit – a low-cost specialty clinic – is making a big impact in Tucson.

Since opening in 2023 at 8860 E Broadway Blvd., the clinic has become a lifeline for pet families, offering safe, affordable care at a fraction of the usual cost.

BECAUSE EVERY PET DESERVES QUALITY CARE – AND EVERY PET OWNER DESERVES PEACE OF MIND.

A Mission Rooted in Compassion

Founded in 2016 by veterinarian Dr. Kelly Patriquin and her husband Doug Patriquin, the clinic was born from a simple but powerful idea: high-quality surgical care shouldn't be out of reach.

"Our business strategy was created to provide worried parents with a reliable location for their pets' care," says Doug Patriquin, CEO and Co-Owner. "We take great pride in offering treatments and procedures at just a fraction of the typical price so that more pets can receive the high-quality care they deserve."

Dr. Kelly's focuses exclusively on surgical and dental services, including spays and neuters, tumor removals, dental cleanings and extractions, and bladder stone procedures. This targeted approach allows the team to operate efficiently and cost-effectively – without compromising safety or outcomes.

Purpose-Built for High-Volume Care

The Tucson facility was specially designed to support a high volume of surgeries with speed, precision, and compassion. Each clinic features a specialized prep area, dual surgical suites, and a quiet recovery zone to ensure pets remain comfortable and closely monitored after their procedures.

Each doctor is able to complete 18 or more surgeries per day, thanks to the clinic's streamlined systems and experienced support staff. The facility can accommodate 60 to 80 surgeries daily.



"Our model removes the unnecessary overhead that often inflates veterinary costs," says Doug. "We use the same medications, anesthesia, and safety protocols as any full-service hospital. The difference is our focus – we do what we do extremely well."

Supporting Rescue Organizations Across Arizona

In addition to individual clients, Dr. Kelly's works with more than 80 pet rescue organizations across the state. These partnerships allow rescues to treat animals before adoption – helping them find homes faster and reducing strain on local shelters.



Since its founding, Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit has performed over 200,000 low-cost surgeries and served more than 250,000 clients. The clinic's efficient, high-volume model is designed to meet the needs of both pet families and the organizations that support animal welfare in Arizona.

Changing the Way Pet Owners Think About Care

One of the most common misconceptions about low-cost veterinary services is that they involve lower quality or less experienced staff. Dr. Kelly's team challenges that idea every day.

The practice employs seasoned veterinarians, many with years of experience in high-volume surgery and emergency care. By focusing only on surgical and dental services, they've built a system designed to maximize safety, minimize stress, and deliver consistent results.

"We're not just a clinic – we're a trusted ally to our clients," Doug says. "When people realize they can get the care their pet needs without going into debt, you can see the relief on their faces. That's what keeps us going."

"WE'RE NOT JUST A CLINIC – WE'RE A TRUSTED ALLY TO OUR CLIENTS."

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DR. KELLY'S
SURGICAL UNIT

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Mon. Sept. 1, 10am-8pm

Peanut's Clawset is Now Open!

Visit Peanut, Tucson's well-known fashion & style icon, & shop his whimsical size-inclusive pet togs & accessories downtown every day at 321 N. 4th Ave. We're located in the front of the Tucson Thrift Shop.

Sat. Sept. 6, 11am-2pm

**Southern Arizona Cat Rescue
PetSmart Adoption Event**

Most Saturdays you'll find us at PetSmart located at 4374 N. Oracle Rd. with adoptable kitties! Visit sacatrescue.org or FB/IG @sacatrescue for more info.

Sat. Sept. 6, 9am-10am

**Oracle/Ina Northside Drive-Thru
Vaccine & Microchip Clinic** hosted by Pathways for Paws at 7440 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson 85704. Cash, Venmo, Zelle, Apple Pay & checks okay. No debit or credit cards. Pathwaysforpaws.com

Sat. Sept. 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. Sept. 6, 8am-9am

Puppy Yoga: Stretch, Smile, Support!

Join us for the most joyful way to begin your day with Puppy Yoga at Sol Dog Lodge! Oracle Animal Rescue will bring puppies for beginner-friendly yoga. \$20 pp. Advance registration required. Call (520) 886-7411. All proceeds benefit Oracle Animal Rescue & Sol Dog.

Sat. Sept. 6, 10am-12pm

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

We have a 'beagle play date' the 1st 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. Sept. 6, 12pm-2pm

**Southern Oasis Lab Rescue Meet &
Greet at Pet Supplies Plus**

Come meet sweet, adoptable Labrador Retrievers at 10540 N. La Canada Dr., Oro Valley 85737.

Sat. Sept. 6, 10am-11am

**Donuts, Donations & Dogs with Sol
Dog Lodge & Training Center**

Swing by Scrumdiddly Ice Cream Shop to donate pet food for the Marana Food Bank & we'll provide the coffee & donuts! Jim Click Raffle Tickets available. 12120 N. Dove Mountain Blvd., Ste. 192, Marana 85658.

Sat. Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 8am-9am

Goat Yoga in the Park

Join us Saturdays 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.

Sun. Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28, 8am-9am

Goat Yoga in the Park

Join us Sundays for an a.m. goat yoga session at Denny Dunn Park at 4400 W. Massingale Rd., 85741. Sign up at goatsoftucsonyoga.com or call (503) 507-8639 for more details.

Sun. Sept. 7, 3pm-4pm

**Pet Fitness
Program Presentation at Sol Dog
Lodge/Training Center**

Kate Titus of A Loyal Companion will be presenting an hour-long program on your pet's fitness at 11862 N. Tangerine Business Loop, Marana RSVP at (520) 886-7411 or info@soldoglodge.com.

Wed. Sept. 10, 6pm

Seeking Comfort after Pet Loss

Grief therapist Jennifer Titley Rubio will lead a conversation on Seeking Comfort after Pet Loss. Free to attend, participate in person at 4758 E. Grant Rd., Tucson or virtually. Reservations requested. <https://www.facebook.com/ALoyalCompanion/events>

Sat. Sept. 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

Sun., Sept. 14, 12pm-2pm

**Meet the Greyhounds Ice Cream
Social at Bark 'n Berry**

Bark 'n Berry will be hosting an ice cream social for Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center at their doggie ice cream parlor at 6121 E. Broadway Blvd., Ste. 138, Tucson. Call (520) 886-7411 for more info. Bring your sighthound!

Mon. Sept. 15 through Oct. 31

Socktober (Sock Collection Drive)

The Salvation Army Tucson invites individuals, schools, businesses & organizations to join in collecting new adult & children's socks to help our neighbors stay warm this winter. Drop off: The Hospitality House, 1002 N. Main Ave., Tucson 85705.

Thur. Sept. 18, 10am-2pm

Food for People's Pets Pantry

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Sanctuary's Food for People's Pets Program at the Michael Cannon Community Pet Food Pantry collects donations of dog & cat food all year long & distributes it to organizations & people/pets in need. 5278 E. 21st St., Tucson (520) 571-7839

Thur. Sept. 18, 6pm-10pm

Paws for Cause Dog Dance Party

Hosted by & benefitting Tucson Action Team's spay & neuter fund, get ready to rock, wag & roll at our pawsome benefit concert. All well-mannered, noise tolerant, leashed dogs are welcome to join us at St. Philip's Plaza Courtyard, 4340 N. Campbell, Tucson \$10 per person: tucsonactionteam.com/services/

Thurs. Sept. 18, 6pm-7pm

Hidden Toxins & Poisons Talk

Join Dr. Lisa Newman for an informative talk about Hidden Toxins & Poisons in our Pet's Environment & how they may affect them. Includes solutions & short Q&A. Bring photos of labels concerning you. Enjoy 10% off after talk. Space limited. Sign up at HolisticAnimalCareShoppe.com 5905 E. Speedway Blvd. 85712

Sat. Sept. 20, 12pm-3pm

Southern Oasis Lab Rescue Meet

& Greet at Bookman's Come meet sweet, adoptable Labrador Retrievers at Bookman's Entertainment Exchange located at 6230 E. Speedway Blvd.,

Sat. Sept. 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. Sept. 20, 7am-12pm El Tour de
Tucson Chuck Huckelberry Loop Ride**

The 2025 edition of El Tour Loop de Loop will bring the fun of riding the Chuck Huckelberry Loop with an after party at Rillito Park Race Track on the Loop. Feel free to join in anywhere along the Loop & have fun while being safe & responsible. <https://eltourdetucson.wordpress.com/loop-de-loop/>

Sat. Sept. 20, 12pm-5pm

Rescue Me Marana

4-Year Anniversary Celebration!

Join in the celebration with door prizes, vendors, & more! The Dre Creations & others will be on hand. Cakes for dogs & cats provided by Dogs-n-Donuts. Location: 6401 W. Marana Center Blvd. # 902, (across from Old Navy) Tucson

Sun., Sept. 21, 7am-10am

**Rattlesnake & Colorado River Toad
Avoidance Training Sessions**

Taking place at the Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center at 11862 N. Tangerine Business Loop, Marana 85658. Call Marc at Arizona Animal Experts Call (520) 272-1825 to register.

Sat. Sept. 27, 11am-2pm

**Walter Station Brewery x Arizona
Animal Welfare League
Beer Launch Event**

at the Gilbert House, 397 S. Gilbert Rd., Ste. 170, 85296. Join us for the launch of this year's AleWagger can. There will be yummy food, beer, & adorable puppies! Email events@aawl.org

Sat. Sept. 27,

**Pet-Friendly Hunger Walk
in Green Valley**

Hosted by Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, join us at the Historic Canoa Ranch located at 5375 I-19 Frontage Rd., Green Valley, Arizona 85614, to alleviate hunger. communityfoodbank.org/hungerwalk

OCTOBER EVENTS

**Wed. Oct. 1 Aimee's Farm Animal
Sanctuary 1-Hour Private Tours**

Each month you can book private tours with Aimee & all her barnyard friends filled with Cow Hugging, Piggy Belly Rubs, Animal Feeding Time, & lots of animal kisses & snuggles. Schedule now at <https://aimeesfarmanimalsanctuary.org/book-your-tour>

Fri. Oct. 3 through Oct. 5

Southern Az Home Show & SACR

You'll find Southern Arizona Cat Rescue at the Southern Az Home Show at the TCC daily! We will have SACR shirts, raffles, and some cute adoptable kittens.

Fri Oct 3rd through-Nov 2nd

**Pickles Paws & A Cause
Charity Pickleball Tournament**

Onsite Pet Adoptions
Kino South Sports Complex
For information JJ@sparcc.com
See our ad on pg 31

Calendar of Events

Sat. Oct. 4, 10am-2pm

Dogs-n-Donuts Adoption Events

In conjunction with various local rescues, we now have adoption events most Saturdays at our bakery. Visit our website for more details. dogsndonutstucson.com

Sat. Oct. 4, 11am-2pm

**Southern Arizona Cat Rescue
PetSmart Adoption Event**

Most Saturdays you'll find us at PetSmart located at 4374 N. Oracle Rd. with adoptable kitties! Visit sacatrescue.org or FB/IG @sacatrescue for more info.

Sat. Oct. 4, 5pm

Pet-Centric Game Night

Join fellow pet lovers at A Loyal Companion for a night of pet themed games. Featuring Birdwood Games favorites like Dog Park & Forever Home plus newcomers such as Spots from CMYK. Free to attend at 4758 E. Grant Rd., Tucson 85712, but registration is required. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/ALoyalCompanion/events>

Sat. Oct. 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. Oct. 4, 8am-9am

Puppy Yoga: Stretch, Smile, Support!

Join us for the most joyful way to begin your day with Puppy Yoga at Sol Dog Lodge! Oracle Animal Rescue will bring puppies for beginner-friendly yoga surrounded by wagging tails. \$20 pp. Advance registration required. Call (520) 886-7411. All proceeds benefit Oracle Animal Rescue & Sol Dog Lodge.

Sat. Oct. 4, 10am-12pm

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

We have a 'beagle play date' the 1st 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. Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 8am-9am

Goat Yoga in the Park

Join us Saturdays for an early morning 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.

Sun. Oct. 5, 6pm-7pm

Cat Bingo at El Jefe Cat Lounge

Come & join us on Sundays for bingo with adoptable cats. \$15/pp - recommended ages 5 & up. Prizes for winners include a free lounge hour pass & fun El Jefe merch! Reservations are required. eljefecatlounge.com/reservations

Sun. Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 8am-9am

Goat Yoga in the Park

Join us Sundays for an early morning session at Denny Dunn Park at 4400 W. Massingale Rd., 85741. Sign up at goatsoftucsonyoga.com or call (503) 507-8639 for more details.

Sat. Oct. 11, 10am-11am

**Donuts, Donations & Dogs with Sol
Dog Lodge & Training Center**

Swing by Pet Supplies Plus in Oro Valley & donate pet food for the Marana Food Bank & we'll provide the coffee & donuts! Jim Click Raffle Tickets also available. 10540 N. La Canada Dr., 85737

Sat. Oct. 11, 10am-11am

**Kitty Yoga with Melissa at Hunter's
Kitten Lounge**

Join Melissa (Life Connection Yoga) for an hour-long yoga class with the cats of Hunter's Kitten Lounge. This class is for all levels of yoga. Kids must be 11 & up. Bring your own mat or we have a few to borrow. \$20 per person. Spots limited, so book today!

Sun., Oct. 12, 7am-10am

**Rattlesnake & Colorado River Toad
Avoidance Training Sessions**

Taking place at the Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center at 11862 N. Tangerine Business Loop, Marana 85658. Call Marc at Arizona Animal Experts (520) 272-1825 to register.

Sun. Oct. 12, 7am

**Tucson Wicked Half Marathon, 10K,
5K, & Spooky Kids Sprint**

Join Dogs-n-Donuts & bring the whole family out for a wicked good time at this 8th annual event held at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park! All kids registered for the Spooky Sprint will receive a Halloween bag at check-in to trick or treat with from our volunteers along the course! Costumes are highly encouraged!

Mon. Oct. 13 through Dec. 15

**Salvation Army Tucson Gifts & Grins
Christmas Toy Drive**

The Salvation Army is collecting donations for youths ages 13 to 17. Gifts & Grins helps bring holiday joy & dignity to local teens who might otherwise go without. Drop off new items at 1002 N. Main Ave., Tucson 85705. salvationarmytucson.org

Thurs. Oct. 16, 10am-2pm

Food for People's Pets Pantry

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Sanctuary's Food for People's Pets Program at the Michael Cannon Community Pet Food Pantry collects donations of dog & cat food all year long & distributes it to organizations & people/pets in need. 5278 E. 21st St., Tucson 85711, (520) 571-7839

Thurs. Oct. 16, 5pm-7pm

Dogs 'n Denim Fashion Show

U of A students enrolled in Fashion for a Purpose will be hosting the Annual Dogs 'n Denim Fashion show featuring upcycled denim apparel. Local pet apparel makers & nonprofits will be on hand to showcase Tucson's best makers & pet-centric businesses. 650 N. Park Ave., Tucson 85719

Thurs. Oct. 16, 6pm-7pm

Foster, Adopt & Rescue

Join Dr. Lisa Newman for an informative discussion on Foster, Adopt & Rescue. Includes a short Q&A on issues concerning you about your next companion. Enjoy 10% off after the talk. Sign up at HolisticAnimalCareShoppe.com. 5905 E. Speedway Blvd.

Fri. Oct. 17, 5pm-7pm

**ABBA Skate Night Benefitting Hope of
Deliverance**

Come voulez-vous with us at Skate Country Roller Rink located at 7980 E. 22nd St., Tucson 85710. 100% of proceeds benefit Friends of PACC Spay & Neuter Stipends. \$5 admission & \$5 skate rental.

Fri. Oct. 17, 5pm-7pm

Haunted Hermitage! Halloween

We'll be passing out candy to any ghouls, ghosts, & goblins who want to stop by. We ask that they bring an unopened package of pet food for our pet food pantry (it doesn't have to be big, cans welcome, too). Kids must be accompanied by an adult, but adults don't have to wear a costume.

Sat. Oct. 18, 7pm-9pm

**SPOOKY Movie Night with Cats at
Hunter's Kitten Lounge**

Film will be Pg-13 or R rated. We have lots of kitties here who'd love to snuggle up & watch with you while you hang out at the cat lounge. *Free drink & snack with lounge entry for this 2-hour cat lounge session. Book NOW!

Sat. Oct. 18, 10am-3pm

A Spooktacular Celebration

Join Foothills Community Market & their vendors for a spooktacular celebration benefiting Rescue Me Marana. Costume contest, prizes, & more. For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/foothillscommunitymarket> or email them at communitymarketstucson@gmail.com. 7325 N. La Cholla Blvd., Tucson 85741

Sat. Oct. 24, 1pm-?

Howl-o-Ween at The Carrick!

3rd Annual Pet Costume Party

Come hungry, leave happy! There will be free chili for everyone who joins us for this fun-filled pet-friendly event & prizes handed out for the top costumes. 39 Howell Ave., Bisbee 85603. Reservations at thecarrick.com. (520) 234-5921

Sun. Oct. 26, 10am-4pm

Dogtoberfest Adopt-a-Thon 2025

The Tucson Dog & The Drive Tucson invite you to join us for a fun-filled spooktacular day of adoptable dogs, costume contests, prizes, food trucks, vendors, kid- & pup-friendly activities & a live broadcast with The Drive Tucson! It'll be a tail-wagging good time at Ft. Lowell Park located at 2900 N. Craycroft Rd., 85712.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Sat. Nov. 1, 8am-12pm

27th Annual Walk to Save Animals

Hosted by the Arizona Animal Welfare League, this community-focused event at Tempe Beach Park is full of family-friendly experiences & offers access to a variety of pet resources. For more info, visit <https://support.aawl.org/event/2025-walk-to-save-animals/e695509>

Sat. Nov. 1, 7pm-9pm

**SPOOKY Movie Night with Cats at
Hunter's Kitten Lounge**

Film will be Pg-13 or R rated. We have lots of kitties here who'd love to snuggle up & watch with you while you hang out at the cat lounge. *Free drink & snack with lounge entry for this 2-hour cat lounge session. Book NOW!

Sat. Nov. 1, 9am

Parkinson's Moving Day

Benefitting & hosted by the Parkinson's Foundation, there will be a doggy station at the event with water & dog treats! All well-mannered, leashed pups welcome. Reid Park 900 S. Randolph Way, Tucson 85716. Donations accepted. movingdaywalk.org/event/moving-day-tucson/

Cover Story

Jerry's Law: An Animal Welfare Bill with Teeth

Story by Rebecca West | Images courtesy Arizona Humane Society

Three cheers for the Arizona Humane Society (AHS), Senator Shawnna Bolick, and Governor Katie Hobbs! It's been a long time coming, and it wasn't without its starts and stops. But community activists were finally able to get an animal welfare bill with the potential to make a difference passed and signed into law on June 27. We're talking about bill SB1658, aka Jerry's Law, which will go into effect September 26, 2025.

So, what is it, how did it come about, and why is it so necessary? Surely there are other animal welfare laws in place to oversee the protection of pets and other domestic creatures. To a certain extent, that's true, but advocates say none have the scope or range that this one has.



Jerry's Law press conference crowd.

According to Dr. Steven Hansen, AHS President and CEO, "SB1658, also known as Jerry's Law, is the most important animal cruelty bill to pass in the last decade in Arizona. This law better defines the bare minimum standard of care for pets and marks a vital step forward in our fight against animal abuse and neglect."

Jerry's Law

SB1658 is a bill that strengthens animal welfare laws by expanding the definition of animal cruelty and neglect. It also broadens the conditions that constitute the offense of animal cruelty. For instance, under the bill, failing to provide necessary medical attention to prevent the protracted suffering of an animal will rightfully be considered a crime of consequence.

To clarify, SB1658 does not change any penalties in the state law. It better defines what constitutes adequate shelter and changes the requirement for medical care from protracted suffering to unreasonable suffering, in essence, revising it from a time-based level of suffering to a necessity-for-care-based measurement. So, moving forward, it will become a crime to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fail to provide such care to prevent unreasonable suffering.

The new law also clarifies what constitutes adequate food and water for companion animals while outlining specific actions that are considered cruelty, including cruel neglect or abandonment, infliction of unnecessary physical injury, cruel mistreatment, and death or harm without legal privilege. Jerry's Law applies to all domestic animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians that are kept as pets or companions.

The Arizona Humane Society believes it will save thousands of companion animals' lives annually by enabling faster search warrants in cases of extreme cruelty.

The Catalyst for Jerry's Law

While residents of Arizona had long desired more stringent laws and stiffer penalties connected to animal abuse, nothing of any real substance was able to get passed. Sadly, many of our lawmakers were either asleep at the wheel or blatantly disregarded the need for added protections, even on the most basic levels.

Yet many individuals and groups have been trying for years to improve the lives of pets, including Tucson Action Team (TAT). In fact, they had their own bill written this session to officially create an Office of Companion Animals to oversee rescues and breeders in Arizona. We wrote a piece about them in Nov/Dec 2023 regarding their concern over puppy mills, pet stores, and predatory lending.

The language of their bill, which was sponsored by Senator Brian Fernandez, was written by Debra Nolan, who runs dontleaveme.org. Nolan also wrote and introduced the Hot Car Bill, aka the Good Samaritan's law. Formally known as House Bill 2494, it provides legal protections for individuals who break into a car to rescue a child or pet in imminent danger from extreme heat that could lead to death or brain damage. It was passed in 2017.



Governor Hobbs Signing SB1658

In this case, the Arizona Humane Society in Maricopa County is responsible for the bill (SB1658) that was just passed. Sponsored by Senator Shawnna Bolick, she was approached by AHS after a slew of high-profile abuse cases had come to light involving horrible crimes against animals. Typically, the perpetrators' charges were pled down, and they received the equivalent of a slap on the wrist.

As it happens, Jerry's Law got its name from a paralyzed dog that was involved in one of those cases. Jerry was part of a horrible case in Chandler known as the "House of Horrors" scandal. The defendant was April McLaughlin. She stated that she was running a rescue called Special Needs Animal Welfare League. But the circumstances in which the animals lived, and in some cases died, were deplorable.

Due to multiple reports and complaints of possible animal cruelty and neglect, AHS officials attempted to perform an animal wellness check at the residence on September 9, 2023. They returned on the 12th and again on



the 19th. Around the same time, the Chandler Police Department began an investigation, and a raid was conducted at the home after a search warrant was obtained on September 22.

The horrific case was ultimately dubbed “The Chandler 55” for the 55 animals discovered there. We’ll spare you the worst of the details, but of the animals rescued, five had to be euthanized, and a freezer on the property was found to contain the frozen remains of five more canines, which were said to be puppies.



Governor Hobbs with “Chandler 55” survivor Jerry and owner Koco Garcia

Reported to be using at least 21 different aliases, which is unusual in itself, McLaughlin was charged with 55 counts of Animal Cruelty by way of Neglect and Abandonment (A.R.S. 13-2910A1), which is classified as a Class 1 Misdemeanor, and 55 counts of Animal Cruelty by way of Failing to Provide Medical Treatment (A.R.S. 13-2910A2), also classified as a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

On September 27, however, officials with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office announced that McLaughlin’s case had been sent back to Chandler Police for further review, and charges against her were dropped. Rearrested in November 2023, she was booked into jail on 77 misdemeanor charges, 49 of them under ordinance 13-2910A1 and 28 under ordinance 13-2910A2. She pleaded not guilty.

Eventually, multiple fraud charges were added to her laundry list of animal cruelty allegations, and her court case continued to be postponed as late as February of this year. Still in jail, it’s said her trial date is currently scheduled for this September, with many in the animal advocate community believing that she will eventually take some sort of plea deal, if one is offered. It will be interesting to see what she gets regardless.

It’s worth noting that Arizona Humane led efforts in 2023 that successfully resulted in the Chandler City Council approving significant revisions to the city’s animal cruelty ordinance. The updates outline additional situations in which an animal may be taken into custody and guarantee that each of these instances will be presented before a court to assess whether the animal was subjected to abuse.

Why Jerry’s Law is Necessary

We asked Lara Iacobucci Paris of Tucson Action Team why Jerry’s Law was considered such a victory for animal welfare and how it differed from other laws already in place. She stated that the difference with this particular law



Supporters of the proposal picketing.

is that it’s got “teeth” as opposed to previous iterations. In other words, it’s believed that this law has the potential to actually hold people accountable and see to it that they’re punished for their crimes.

“In the past, people have been accused, and the charges were dropped down to almost nothing. There were virtually no consequences to their actions.

There’s been no real accountability.”

In addition to the House of Horrors scandal, Iacobucci Paris pointed to another seriously disturbing case that made the news not only for the sickening crime but its sad lack of real consequences when it was all said and done.

On July 20, 2023, a four-month-old puppy named Chloe was found dead in a dumpster at an apartment complex here in Tucson. The dog’s owner, Semya Jones, was accused of beating the animal to death, placing it in a garbage bag, and then dumping it in the complex’s large communal trash container located on the grounds.

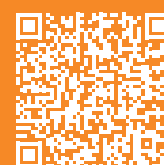
Previously, a neighbor had viewed alleged abuse between Jones and the dog on a doorbell camera and notified authorities. Weeks later, the same neighbor discovered Chloe’s bloodied body in the trash. One particular video clip reportedly showed Jones with a trash bag matching the one Chloe was found in. Following the neighbor’s report to the Tucson Police Department, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) brought several animal cruelty charges against Jones.

Jones accepted a plea agreement in Tucson City Court, pleading guilty to one count of animal cruelty and neglect. Two similar charges were dismissed. She was sentenced to 36 months of unsupervised probation, with conditions prohibiting her from violating the law or owning any animals. Jail time and fines were waived as part of the plea deal.

A number of animal advocates attended Jones’ plea hearing and were understandably disappointed with the outcome while calling for justice. Many felt the system had failed Chloe. For her part, throughout the entirety of the case, Jones never once offered an explanation as to how her dog died. The neighbor told KVOA News 4 she believes that law enforcement didn’t do enough before the puppy’s death to address the alleged abuse she had reported.

As hard as these stories are to read, it’s crucial that they come to light and that laws are not only enacted but enforced to the fullest extent of their reach to hopefully deter future incidents and hold perpetrators accountable. It’s believed that the signing of bill SB1658 by Governor Katie Hobbs on June 27 and its enactment this month will go a long way toward making that happen.

To view the bill SB1658 for yourself, scan this code or go to https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/57leg/1R/summary/H.SB1658_032525_HOUSEENGROSSED_SE.DOCX.htm



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Leo the Working Dog: A Cluckin' Nightmare

Story by Leo Alpha of Anecdotes

I was just settling into life with Jax, teaching him the noble arts of yard surveillance and mid-snack bodily function blame when it happened. She walked out of the house. Sun hat, coffee mug, and the aura of someone who just watched a YouTube video called “10 Benefits of Backyard Chickens” and now thinks she’s Dr. Dolittle.

“Leo, sweetheart,” she cooed in that voice she uses right before she wrecks my peace, “we’ve added a few more animals to the herd!” **Few. More. Animals.** I’ve heard that phrase before, that’s how the goats happened. That’s how the emu incident happened. (Don’t ask. Barbara and I are still in court-ordered mediation.)

Then I saw them. Twenty-three chickens and eight chicks with legs the size of dental floss and the moral compass of a Wall Street hedge fund manager. So apparently, herding sheep, goats, and one emotionally unavailable emu named Barbara wasn’t enough. Guess who’s now head of Fluff Poultry Patrol? That’s right, the esteemed canine with a résumé that includes an American Hero Dog award and Farm Dog of the Year. Now reduced to getting side-eyed by something named Mildred who eats rocks and judges me.

At first, I thought it was some kind of poultry-themed TikTok challenge. But no, this was permanent. No one asked me. No orientation. No union rep. Just bam! Overnight I went from livestock manager to poultry bouncer.

My herding instincts are going off like sirens in my hypothalamus. Meanwhile, Jax is on the porch, cheering like it’s *WrestleMania*.

Let me tell you something about chickens:

They. Do. Not. Herd. They scatter like someone yelled, “KFC family bucket - half off!” They flap, they peck, they scream and then act like *I’m* the problem. Every morning now, I clock in like some underpaid barn intern. Chicks are everywhere. Under the deck, inside my water bowl, and one nesting in my tail. I’m not emotionally equipped for that level of intimacy. I miss the days when all I had to worry about was coyotes and the occasional sheep with boundary issues.

Jax, of course, is thriving. He thinks the chicks are his fan club. Struts around like a feathered cult leader. I, however, am exhausted. Physically. Emotionally. Spiritually. My herding game is now 37% bark, 60% chase, and 3% *passive-aggressively* peeing near the coop. I’ve employed my skill of adaptation and developed a new herding technique called the “*chicken shuffle*,” which is me zigzagging wildly while barking like I’ve completely lost control of my life. Which, let’s face it, I have.

Fun fact: Chickens don’t respect eye contact. I stared one down for six straight minutes. She blinked at me like she was waiting for a payout.

But... (and don’t quote me on this) I *might* be getting kind of good at it.

Last week, a hawk swooped low. I launched like a giant canine anti-hawk missile. Welcome to the “no fly zone”, I display a tail feather as a warning. Now, they follow me like I’m a god. I walk, they follow, I stop, they bump into me, I sneeze and three of them lay eggs out of sheer panic. And the chicks? They’ve started snuggling up to me at night. One even tried to groom my ear, I pretended to hate it, obviously, but I didn’t move. I’ve gone soft, I blame the down feathers. They’re weirdly comforting.

My human says I’m “learning a new skill set.” I still say I’m living a **cluckin’ nightmare**. But hey, this is the life of a working dog: Adapt. Overcome. Herd literally anything that breathes. *Where are my sheep?!*

If they add ducks, I’m unionizing.

Advice for dogs and dogs only: Sometimes life drops a coop full of chickens on your lawn. Don’t panic. Watch the skies, guard the snacks, and always nap with one eye open.

Leo, (Still the alpha. Barely.)

Shut up Barbara!

Loosely based on some true working canine events, filtered through Leo’s “couch potato” lens.



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Program Director

Thomas@sunshinetherapyanimals.org

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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 (PACC)

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

Pima Animal Care Center 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900.

CRUZ ID#A871103

I'm a 14 y/o who shouldn't spend his golden years in a shelter. I recently enjoyed a foster stay where I proved I'm housebroken, have great leash manners, love squeaky toys, & sleep quietly in my crate at night. My foster said I'm mellow, polite, friendly, & cuddly when the mood strikes. I'm looking for a retirement home where I can nap & some love.



PEPPER ID#A873674

Hi, I'm Pepper! I'm a big (100 lbs.!), 3 y/o guy looking for a home. I'm an affectionate pup who loves my people! I did well with cats & kids in my previous home, but I can be a little picky about my dog friends & would like to meet them first before heading home. I'd love to love you!



JORDAN ID#A855097

While you might be impressed with my big ears, I'd love to show you my even bigger personality! I'm a happy, energetic 1.5 y/o boy who loves other dogs, people of all ages, & even lived with a cat! I have valley fever, but it doesn't slow me down. Like all PACC pets, I'm eligible for low-cost care at the FoP Clinic!



CHOO ID#A856908

I'm Choo, named after Jimmy Choo, but I'm more sneakers, flip-flops, & long walks than high fashion. I'm a friendly, playful 2 y/o boy who loves hanging with human & doggy friends & will do just about anything for a treat. I've been here for 9 months now, & I'm ready to strut my stuff right out of the shelter & into a forever home!



HULO ID#A870485

I'm Hulo, a friendly, 2 y/o pup with a soft spot for butt scratches. I'm a calm, low-key guy who loves hanging out right by your side & gets along very well with other dogs. I've enjoyed several day trips with members of the public & they all report that I'm a perfect gentleman!



DAISY

I am a calm, soulful 3 y/o, 53 lb. Staffie-mix girl who adores people more than other dogs. I like walks & am good on leash. I was found in the desert over a year ago, & now I'd like to go home with kind humans to a loving home. Please call about me.



Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary

Main Campus: 520.616.0171 PO Box 631, Marana, AZ 85653
<http://form.jotform.com/cherishedtails/dog-application>

PATCHES & BOOTS

We are a very sweet, happy, bonded pair who are friendly with new people & most dogs. Considered high energy, we are leash & crate trained & have very nice house manners, but Boots is not 100% housetrained & will need someone willing to work on it. Both of us boys are about 9 y/o & weigh 8-10 lbs.



ROSEBUD

About 2 y/o, I'm a very playful girl & puppylike. I'm crate trained & working on my potty routine in foster care where I use the doggy door consistently. I'm also doing well with leash training. I can be very vocal, so I likely wouldn't suit with apartment/condo living. I weigh 10 lbs. & am waxed, spayed & chipped.



Paws Without Borders (PWB)

(520) 289-0549 pawswithoutborders.org/contact-us
pawswithoutbordersus@gmail.com

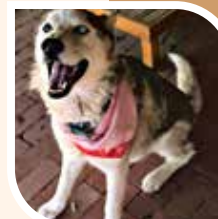
ALBUS

I'm a sweet, obedient & playful 5 y/o Am. Bulldog who loves meeting new people & learning new things. My interests are food, praise, & play in that order! I'd love a gentle home without cats or small dogs. I have eye cysts but my adoption is free & PWB provides my eye drops, which I take super easily, cuz I'm a Very Good Boy!



GUERRO

I'm a very friendly & loving 6 y/o Husky boy. Belly rubs are my favorite & I love to give kisses & snuggle with my people. Very family friendly, I get on well with kids, adults, & other dogs, who I enjoy running & playing with. Energetic & smart, I adore walks & respond well to commands.



MELLO

I'm a 2.5 y/o Lab/Black Curr mix who's a gentle giant! Truly one of the sweetest pups you could meet, I can be shy at first but will warm up with time. Dog friendly, I love to romp for a bit & then cuddle with my person. I keep getting overlooked due to my size but I'd love to be your ultimate lap dog!



The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV)

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

FERN

I'm a smart, fun-loving, & well-mannered 18-month-old, 50 lb. Shepherd mix girl who loves a good play session almost as much as a good belly rub. I do best with an experienced walker. I'm a fast learner because I listen well & love to please. Please call about me!



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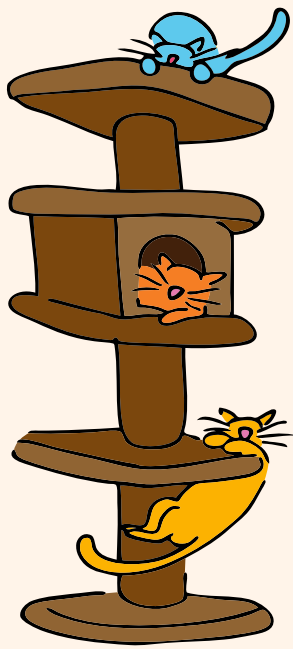
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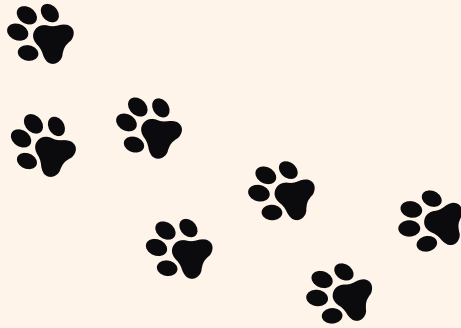
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The Scratching Post: Cats for Adoption

All the cats on this page are available for adoption now. If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends, please call the group listed with the picture.



Southern Arizona Cat Rescue

Website: sacatrescue.org, sacatrescue.org/contact-us, sacatrescue.org/adoption-application



IZZY

Hi, I'm a 4.5 y/o neutered tabby with the cutest little folded ear. I'm a playful boy with a big personality. I love to watch my people doing everything & following you all over the house. I'd do best with older children & a home with very playful cat friends or a solo cat home.



KERR

I'm a large 3 y/o neutered tabby fella who's your typical floppy orange boy that just loves to love. I'm all about playing, snuggles, & I get along with basically anyone & everyone. What more could you ask for?



SOUFFLE

I'm a 9 m/o sweet, gentle kitten who loves his kitty friends & play time. I'm initially slow to warm up to people but so worth the effort. I'd be fantastic for a family with cats who are looking for a new friend. No dogs & older kids who are respectful of my needs would be ideal for me.

The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV)

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



SHILOH

I'm a 2 y/o, shorthaired black & white lady who was found & brought to The Animal League to find a good home. It's taken me a while to regain my composure & the volunteers speak softly to let me know that all is well here. Please call about me.



BARCLAY

I'm a handsome, long-legged 1 y/o gray tabby fella who likes to play with string toys. I can be a bit shy with people, so I need a quiet home with a patient family. Did I happen to mention that I really love treats? Please call & make an appointment to meet me soon.

Pima Animal Care Center

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



DUSTY ID#A871256

I'm Dusty - a striking, spirited 2 y/o girl with opinions & personality to spare. I love hard, play harder, & sometimes get a little carried away in the moment. I'd prefer to be your only kitty. If you're fluent in feline body language & appreciate a cat who tells it like it is, I'll reward you.



ZOE LIGHTNING ID#A831225

I'm Zoe Lightning! I'm not sure how I got that name, but I do know you'll fall for me lightning-quick! I'm an 11 y/o gal who's had enough of shelter life & would love to find a place to show off my incomparable skills in biscuit-making, rolling around, & looking adorable.



CHARLA ID#A876726

I'm a 1 y/o princess with a collection of fans among the staff & volunteers at PACC thanks to my sweet purr-sonality. The clinic is treating me for a few skin issues right now (non-contagious) & I'll need a special diet in future, but with a little care & lots of love, I'm going to shine just like I was meant to.



FIZZ ID#A872112

I'm a 2 y/o found badly injured. After multiple surgeries & losing my tail, I've bounced back. Sweet, gentle, playful & cuddly, I get along with cats & dogs. Because of my injuries, I need my bladder & bowel expressed. I take daily meds & need someone experienced with or open to learning about long-term medical care. I'm not just looking for a home, I'm looking for a hero. Could it be you? pacc.adoptafoster@pima.gov



RIKI ID#A839841

I'm a friendly, affectionate, & well-behaved gal who loves cuddles, head butts, & playing with toys. I'm chatty in the best way, give gentle paw taps to show affection, & enjoy both snuggle time & personal space. I've lived with other cats & am litter box trained. I'm basically perfect. Email pacc.adoptafoster@pima.gov.

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary

5278 E. 21st St., Tucson 85711 www.hermitagecatshelter.org
Adoption application: shelterluv.com/matchme/adopt/HERM/Cat



AQUILA

I'm Aquila, & I'm 3 y/o. I came to The Hermitage in need of a safe place to have my little constellations! I'm named for the eagle constellation & I'm very sweet. You can meet me & all of my friends at the El Jefe Cat Café [3025 N. Campbell Ave., Ste. 151, 85719]



WALLAROO

Did you know tabby cats can have tuxedo markings, too? I do! I'm Wallaroo & I just turned 2! At first, I was shy, but I've learned that humans are kind & give treats! I'd be best in a quieter home, as I have a gentle demeanor & I'm still a little shy. Wanna come say hi?!

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR DOG COOL IN THIS TUCON HEAT



Keep Your Dog Cool & Safe In Tucson Heat!

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

Summertime is all about fun in the sun and your dog deserves to enjoy it too! But while you're making summer memories, it's important to stay mindful of the rising temperatures. Dogs can overheat quickly, especially since they wear a built-in fur coat year-round. Here are some helpful summer safety tips to keep your pup cool, comfortable, and healthy:

Top Summer Safety Tips for Dogs

The best way to protect your dog from heat is to keep them indoors in a cool, climate-controlled environment. But if you're out and about with your pup, here are some essentials to bring along to help them stay safe and comfortable:

- Collapsible water bowl and plenty of fresh water to keep your dog hydrated on the go
- Cooling gear such as a dog cooling mat, cooling vest, or cooling bandana
- Frozen treats like a chilled KONG, Chill Fill, or frozen bone for refreshing fun
- Paw protection and pet-safe sunscreen with dog booties to guard against hot pavement and other surfaces. Sunscreen is to protect the dogs with thin hair or skin

Fun Summer Activities for Dogs

If your dog enjoys water, a dog pool is a great way to help them cool off! Just be sure to clean and refill it after each use to keep it safe and sanitary. Looking for indoor activities? Try one of these dog-friendly ideas:

- Pet-friendly stores like Home Depot or Lowe's for an air-conditioned walk

- Hide-and-seek games using treats or toys around the house
- Puzzle toys or treat-dispensing games to keep their mind engaged
- Short training sessions to work on tricks or basic obedience indoors
- Tug-of-war or fetch in a hallway or large room with soft flooring

Understanding & Preventing Heatstroke in Dogs

Heatstroke is a serious and often fatal condition that occurs when a dog can no longer regulate their body temperature. Prevention is key, avoid long periods outdoors in high heat, and always provide shade, water, and rest breaks.

Know the warning signs of heatstroke:

- Heavy panting or labored breathing
- Drooling, weakness, or vomiting
- Bright red gums or a rapid heartbeat
- Disorientation or collapse

If you notice any of these signs, get your dog into a cool space and contact your vet immediately.

Talk to your veterinarian about how heatstroke may present in your dog's specific breed, age, and health condition and what to do if it happens. With these summer safety tips in mind, you and your dog are ready to enjoy a fun, safe, and memorable season together!

For more information visit
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Eco-Friendly “Lambscaping” Enlisted in the Battle Against Wildfires in Southern Arizona

Story by Rebecca West

Some years ago, Tucson Electric Power (TEP) made the decision to forego gas and battery-operated landscaping tools for use at its Solar Arrays. Instead, they decided to give the more eco-friendly method of “lambscaping” a shot. Provided for them by sixth-generation rancher Rusty Cocks, it’s the practice of employing flocks of sheep to keep plant growth in check.

The woolly cud chewers are well-suited to the task and quite efficient when it comes to tackling a variety of plant life. Without their grazing, the vegetation—some of which grows up to seven feet in height—can block the sun’s rays from feeding the energy-absorbing panels and inhibit solar power production.



Buffelgrass. Photo by Sonya Norman.

Rather than noisy mowers and weed whackers capable of throwing damaging rocks, sheep quietly and without fuss consume the nonstop growth that creeps up and around the panels, providing a safe and cost-effective way to maintain the site while preserving the panels and the surrounding environment.

Hardly a new concept, using sheep for sustainable land management has seen an uptick in recent years while earning praise from ecologists. It’s a brilliant idea. The process of grazing, combined with sheep droppings, can help create a more resilient ecosystem. The custodians of Italy’s Pompeii Archaeological Park brought sheep back to the area in December of 2022 as a less intrusive solution to managing growth within the fragile setting, with quite pleasing results.

Closer to home and less well known is an environmental pilot project using Navajo-Churro sheep to help reduce the threat of wildfires on A Mountain at Sentinel Peak Park. This past spring, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, in conjunction with the City of Tucson and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, deployed sheep there to help combat an invasive plant species known as buffelgrass, which is highly flammable when dry.



Grazing sheep. Photo courtesy Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

Nonindigenous to the Sonoran Desert, buffelgrass was introduced to the area in the 1930s by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for cattle to nosh on and as an aid for erosion control. The latter was especially popular in Tucson in the 1970s and ‘80s. Native to Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, the plant’s drought tolerance led to its rapid expansion, transforming the desert landscape in the process. It can crowd out native plants, such as our towering saguaros.

As to the sheep in the program, Navajo-Churros are a variety

of domestic ruminants descended from an ancient Iberian breed. Known as Spanish Churra, they were obtained by the Diné in the 1500s from Spaniards who arrived in North America with a view towards colonization. Cultivated for their wool and meat, the multi-horned sheep would eventually become an economic asset for the Navajo. The wool consists of a coarse protective topcoat and a soft, fluffy undercoat.

Bred and raised in Cochise County, the 15 sheep employed at Sentinel Peak Park are arid-adapted, rendering them extremely hardy with lower water requirements—much like the buffelgrass they were brought in to munch on. Trained to work with virtual fencing, the technology assured they stayed well within the targeted area.

Grazing specialist Grant Tims explained that they’re kept in a tight formation, walking in a systematic pattern. That way, they miss very little. Tims, who is also the owner of the flock, was contracted by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum for work with the program. Rather than using livestock guardian dogs, he checked in regularly to oversee their progress and monitor their well-being.

The bill for the targeted grazing project is footed through a grant from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. Its objective is to provide land managers with another tool for reducing the increasing risk of wildfires.



Navajo-Churro sheep. Photo courtesy Arizona Sonora Desert Museum



Sonya Norman (Photo credit: Anne-Marie Laurian)

Interestingly enough, the plan isn’t to have the sheep eradicate the grass by eating it down to nothing. That behavior is more in line with goats, which are far more destructive. Instead, the idea is to trim the vegetation back significantly so that later in the year, the targeted areas can be treated with herbicide to destroy the roots.

Sonya Norman, the public programs coordinator for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, has organized volunteer groups to assist in the project. To date, hand-pulling grass and treating impacted areas with herbicide has been the most popularly employed method for control.

“We will come back after the summer monsoons hit and the plants green up, and we are then going to hit these same areas with herbicide,” Norman stated in an interview with the *Arizona Republic*. “It’s a two-phase approach.”

The theory is that with the bulk of the plant removed by the sheep, the herbicide will not only be more effective, but less of it will be required. While there is no guarantee the method will eliminate the grass entirely, the hope is that it will significantly reduce the source of combustible materials that fuel the fires we’re facing with disturbing frequency.

From the Director's Desk

The Human-Animal Bond: A Deep Connection That Enriches Lives

Story & Photos by Kim Eisele, President, The Animal League of Green Valley

The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) is a 501(C)(3), no-kill cat and dog shelter. Our mission is to save homeless cats and dogs and match them with the right human. This match ideally results in the “human-animal bond”.

The human-animal bond refers to the profound and mutually beneficial relationship that develops between humans and animals. This connection has existed for thousands of years, shaping cultures, supporting survival, and fostering emotional well-being. Today, the bond is recognized not only for its emotional significance but also for its positive impacts on health, social development, and overall quality of life.



Cuddelbug

Historically, humans relied on animals for food, work, and companionship. Early domestication of dogs around 15,000 years ago marked the beginning of a special relationship, as dogs provided protection, hunting assistance, and emotional comfort. Over centuries, this bond evolved from practical needs to a more emotional and social connection, with animals becoming cherished family members in many societies.

Research consistently demonstrates that animals contribute significantly to human mental health. Interacting with pets can reduce stress, anxiety,

and depression. The act of caring for an animal provides a sense of purpose and routine, fostering emotional stability. For many people, animals serve as non-judgmental companions, offering unconditional love and companionship that can alleviate feelings of loneliness and social isolation.



Andy in his new home

The human-animal bond extends into therapeutic domains. TALGV has a Pet Therapy Team. This team not only goes to assisted living facilities, but also goes to a school for a Read to a Dog program. The children read to the dog, where they feel less inhibited than reading to a person, albeit a person is also there. This program has proven to be very successful. The children look forward to the day when the dogs are going to visit.

Service animals, such as guide dogs for the visually impaired or assistance dogs for those with mobility challenges, provide vital support that enhances independence and safety. Modern science has proven what many pet

owners have felt for a long time: the bond between humans and animals has tangible psychological and physiological benefits.

Studies show that interacting with pets can reduce stress and anxiety by lowering cortisol levels and increasing oxytocin, the “love hormone.” Pets can also improve heart health, including lowering blood pressure and cholesterol.

From childhood to old age, animals play a significant role in human development and well-being. Children learn empathy, responsibility, and social skills through pet ownership. Seniors often find companionship and emotional comfort in animals, which can improve mood and even physical health by encouraging activity.

As the human-animal bond deepens, it's essential to emphasize responsible pet ownership. This includes providing proper care, respecting animals' needs, and understanding their natural behaviors. Ethical treatment ensures that the bond remains positive and beneficial for both humans and animals.

The human-animal bond is a testament to the enduring connection between species that enriches lives across cultures and generations. Recognizing and nurturing this relationship not only benefits individual well-being but also promotes compassion, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of all living beings. As research continues to unveil the profound impacts of this bond, it remains clear that our relationships with animals are integral to the human experience.

So, stop by TALGV and visit our canines and felines. With a choice of over 35 dogs and 150 cats, there's a good chance one will capture your heart, and you will take him or her home and develop your own special bond. The simple act of stroking a cat or walking a dog can create moments of mindfulness and connection that anchor people in the present. Speaking from experience (I have 2 dogs and 3 cats), it is the most wondrous connection.

The Animal League of Green Valley

1600 W Duval Mine Rd, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (520) 625-3170



Starr having ice cream

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Training Nervous Canine Behaviors: Training, Prevention, and When To Ask For Help

Story by Jeremy Brown & Jenny Cain, The Complete Canine



Nervous behaviors can manifest in various forms and result from a range of factors. Our main focus is to examine these behaviors, explore ways to stop or modify them, and identify signs that indicate a more serious issue may be at play. Unfortunately, many dogs display nervousness and anxiety in ways that are similar to humans and other species. The good news is that there are effective strategies to address and alleviate these issues.

Development can significantly affect anxiety and nervousness in dogs. Many pets lack proper socialization during their first year, leading to behavioral issues. Key socialization and fear stages occur between 4 to 8 months, during which dogs can benefit from diverse experiences to better cope with life's challenges. Often, dogs are adopted after this critical period, however there are effective ways to alleviate their stress, including seeking professional help.

Separation anxiety occurs when dogs become anxious or scared when left alone. They may panic and display behaviors like panting, pacing, drooling, vocalizing (e.g. whining or barking), urinating, or destructive chewing. The many potential causes can include major life changes or traumatic experiences. Pet parents often try to distract their dogs with toys, bones or treats, but stressed dogs may have little interest in food, even the most food-motivated dogs.



How To Train: When addressing fear-based behaviors, the process takes careful planning, consistency and time. Remember, this isn't just a behavior, it's a phobia. One great way to start is crate training. Allow your dog to spend time in the crate while you perform small household chores, helping to normalize this confined, den-like space. Additionally, practice leaving your dog alone for brief periods, starting with 30 seconds and gradually increasing the duration. Repeat several times for the remainder of that session, returning before they show signs of stress. Once they're comfortable, introduce departure cues (picking up keys, grabbing purse, putting on shoes, etc). Gradually progress to getting in the car and driving away for short durations.

A home camera is a great tool to monitor when your dog begins to panic. Remember that each dog progresses at their own pace, and separation anxiety cannot be resolved overnight. Along the way, try to minimize their time alone by asking neighbors, family and friends to stay with them while you're out. Choose dog-friendly places where you can bring them along.

When to seek help: If you've been working on separation anxiety with little improvement, it's time to contact a professional. In serious situations, talk with a vet to discuss other options if needed. There are many helpful books, such as *"Be Right Back!"* by Julie Naismith and *"Separation Anxiety in Dogs"* by Malena DeMartini-Price.

Nervous urination and jumping are common age-related issues, often seen in their first year due to stimuli or environmental changes. Dogs typically jump on handlers in response to events, not out of excitement. Both behaviors can occur in high-stress situations, like vet visits or grooming. Uncontrolled urination may be caused by excitement or fear, so it's important to understand the triggers and adjust accordingly. Keep in mind that these behaviors are not out of spite, and your feelings can exacerbate the problem!

How to Train: Reward-based training can be highly effective by redirecting focus, rewarding desired behaviors, and teaching positive alternatives. Two especially useful commands for these situations are *"watch me"* and *"stay."* *"Watch me"* helps redirect your dog's focus onto you instead of whatever's causing the overexcitement. Many people find it helpful to use this cue before their dog has the chance to jump or urinate, essentially getting ahead of the problem.

Meeting in a neutral, less stimulating area such as a driveway, can also help. If excitement remains too high for training, consider calming aids (listed below) and work on building confidence.

When to seek help: Basic training can go a long way, but if you've tried without seeing real progress, it may be time to seek help. A professional can guide you to safe places to work through anxiety, and since urination can sometimes be medical, checking in with your vet is a good idea.

Barking is an interesting canine behavior because it can mean many different things. It's one of the main ways dogs express emotions—seeking attention, protecting territory, showing excitement, expressing fear, or alerting to something they see as a threat. Understanding why your dog is barking makes it easier to address the cause without unintentionally rewarding unwanted behavior.



How to train: There are many ways to approach barking, but a positive approach often yields faster results. Teaching a *"quiet"* or *"calm"* command can be key. Some dogs respond well to redirection, giving them another task to focus on instead. Desensitizing them to the trigger can also help; for example, pairing a distracting treat with the sound that normally sets them off. Commands can shift their mindset and reduce overreaction.

While bark collars can be effective, they shouldn't be the first step. For those living close to neighbors, a spray collar that emits an unpleasant sound or scent may provide quicker results without skipping essential training steps. Always consider your dog's well-being and avoid tools that could cause harm.

When to seek help: Rescue or sensitive dogs may react differently, so consulting a trainer or behaviorist can ensure the right tools and techniques are used. If you're unsure, ask for help. Mental stimulation, such as puzzle toys, snuffle mats, or lick mats can also give dogs a healthy outlet for their energy and reduce excessive barking.

Tools That Can Help

There are some great products that can take the edge off, even if they won't completely solve the problem. Calming supplements like Rescue Remedy or CBD can make a difference for some dogs. Others respond well to a ThunderShirt, which provides gentle, steady pressure for comfort. Calming collars or diffusers release soothing pheromones, offering ongoing support. If noises trigger anxiety, playing white noise can help mask the sounds and create a calmer environment.

Nervous canine behaviors can be challenging to work through. Seeking professional help is never a bad idea, but it's just as important to observe the behavior, understand how to modify it, and remain patient. Reward-based training is often the most effective approach, and when it comes to helping a dog feel less scared, nervous, or anxious, you can't really give too many treats.

For more information contact The Complete Canine at:
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