

The Tucson

November/December 2025

DAG



Cover Story:

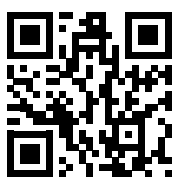
Introducing the
Ravishing Trixie!
7th Annual Holiday Dog
Contest Winner!

Features:

High School Heroes:
How Tucson Teens
Are Changing
the Lives of Shelter Pets

Gone But Not Forgotten:
TPD K-9 Raven

Cats &
Horses Too!



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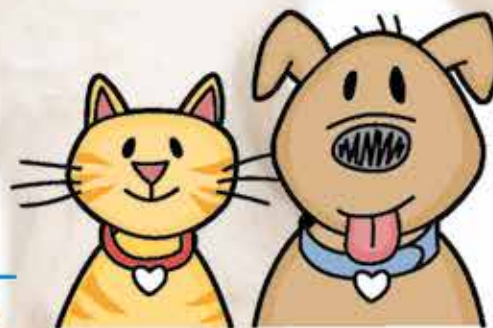


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The Tucson Dog Staff & Writers



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



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.



Cindy Lee - Staff Writer/Account Executive Cindy Lee, Account Executive for The Tucson Dog magazine, where she brings more than 20 years of experience in marketing, advertising, and sales to the team. A native Tucsonan with a deep love for pets—especially her beloved Poodle/Bichon mix, Chole—Cindy has dedicated her career to helping businesses grow through creative advertising solutions. She has worked in print, television, and online media, and now combines her expertise with her passion for dogs to support The Tucson Dog magazine and its community events.



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



THE TUCSON DOG
TheTucsonDog.com
(520) 345-2801

Publisher/Editor Heather McShea
Want to share your story and comments with the Publisher?
Contact: heather@thetucsondog.com

Cover Photography
Candice Eaton

Contributing Writers
Meganne Carpenter, Kim Eisele, Jenny Cain, Jen Lisk, Genie Joseph

Layout & Graphics
Christine Scheer

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

The Tucson Dog reserves the right to editorial control of all articles, stories and Letters to the Editor. *The Tucson Dog* assumes no responsibility for errors within its publication. The views herein do not necessarily represent the policies of *The Tucson Dog* and should not be construed as endorsements.

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The Tucson DOG

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IN THIS ISSUE

The Leader of the Pack Speaks

Dear Friends and Fellow Animal Lovers,

As we head into the holidays and the close of another year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our loyal readers and advertisers. YOU are the reason we continue to thrive! If you're one of our wonderful readers, please take a moment to support the local businesses featured in our pages and let them know you found them through The Tucson Dog! Your support keeps our mission alive and tails wagging.

Dogtoberfest 2025 was an incredible success thanks to our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers and guests. A special thank-you to Matt and Randi Gentry of The Drive Tucson for co-hosting, judging contests, and sharing their love of animals. Because of your collective efforts, many more dogs are now happily out of the shelters and into their new forever homes. Gracing our cover this issue is the radiant Trixie - The Susan Lucci of our Holiday Cover Dog Contest! After six tries, she finally claimed her well-deserved spotlight, proving that perseverance (and good hair) always pays off.

As the Holiday season bustles with joy and sparkle, it can be extra stressful. Remember to relax into the comfort and the love that your furry friends readily share without condition. Sadly, this time of year also brings a rise in surrenders, often senior pets displaced when "new" pets join the family. Our shelters are full of older dogs and cats who are frightened, confused and heartbroken. If you're able, please consider giving one of these loving seniors the comfort and love they deserve in their golden years. You'll gain the most grateful companion you will ever know.

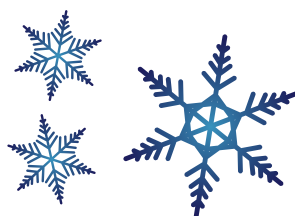
Looking ahead, I'm so excited for what 2026 will bring! The Tucson Dog will continue to grow, inspire, and advocate, all thanks to YOU. Our mission remains strong: to promote the human/animal bond, raise awareness of shelter and rescue animals, promote spay and neuter, and help keep pets safe through vaccinations and microchipping. Through the next six issues, we'll explore meaningful ways to be a voice for the voiceless and together, create real and lasting change in our community.

From all of us at The Tucson Dog, we wish you a joyful, and peaceful holiday season, and a bright, hopeful New Year. Thank you for being part of our pack.



Enjoy this holiday season!

With gratitude and cheer,
Heather McShea
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
The Tucson Dog Magazine



THANK YOU

Jessica, Emma, Ekram & Francine
for your generous donations to The Tucson Dog. Because of you,
we can keep shining a light on rescues, adoptions, and the amazing
people working tirelessly to give every pet a chance at a happy life.

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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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Dogtoberfest Adopt-A-Thon 2025 ... A Pawsitively Unforgettable Day!



It was a day of wagging tails, smiling faces, and endless love as the community came together for The 6th Annual DOGTOBERFEST Adopt-A-Thon 2025!

The Tucson Dog team extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and made this year's event such a tremendous success. From the first bark to the last tail wag, the day overflowed with joy and purpose as rescues, shelters, and pet lovers united for one shared mission: finding forever homes for deserving dogs.

A special round of applause goes out to our dedicated shelters and rescues who work tirelessly year-round rescuing animals, providing care, and helping them find families to love. Your compassion and commitment are what make **DOGTOBERFEST** possible. "You are the heart and soul of this event and the reason we're here."



And to our amazing volunteers! You are the true MVPs of the day. Your energy, kindness, and teamwork made everything run seamlessly. We couldn't do it without you!

The Drive Tucson: Music, Excitement, and Heart

"Matt and Randi Gentry brought their brand of excitement to the stage and to the hearts of every animal lover in Tucson." A huge thank you to The Drive Tucson's Matt and Randi Gentry and Bustos Media who co-hosted the

event alongside *The Tucson Dog Magazine*.
(continued on next page)



Humans + Their Dogs: Tucson Portrait Project



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(Dogtoberfest continued)

Their partnership brought energy and excitement to **DOGTOKBERFEST 2025** both on-air and on stage! In the weeks leading up to the event, The Drive Tucson provided incredible radio coverage, spreading the word far and wide and inspiring the community to join in. On event day, they kept tails wagging with upbeat music from KDRI The Drive Tucson and kept the crowd smiling with their signature charm and enthusiasm.

A Round of Apaws for Our Sponsors!

We're incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their support, generosity, and belief in our mission to make a difference in the lives of animals across Tucson.

One lucky winner was picked to be in the final drawing to win The Drive Tucson's 1967 Ford Fairlane (pictured above)!

(continued on next page)



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Celebrating Rescue, Community, and Compassion

DOGTOBERFEST isn't just an event, it's a celebration of hope, second chances, and the powerful bond between people and pets. Together, we proved once again that when a community unites around compassion, amazing things happen.

From all of us at The Tucson Dog Magazine, thank you, Tucson, for making this **DOGTOBERFEST** one to remember. We can't wait to see you and your furry friends at next year's **WOOFSTOCK Adopt-A-Thon**. Stay tuned!

For more photos go to dogtoberfesttucson.com



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Contestant, Akira



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The Great Robot Roundup!

Story by Leo Alpha of Anecdotes

There's trouble on the ranch again, folks. Not the usual kind, no missing goats, no escaped chickens, no Jax trying to teach Barbara, the emu, "The Art of Respectful Communication 101." This time, the threat came from inside the house.

It started when the humans rolled in a shiny new contraption they called Janet. A "smart vacuum," they said. I call her what she is: a low-riding, circular menace with no sense of boundaries. Janet whirs around like she owns the place, bumping into chairs, swallowing crumbs, and occasionally attacking my tail with the enthusiasm of a caffeinated squirrel. *I now have a bald spot. Thanks, Janet 1.0!*



Jax

Naturally, Jax thought she was alive. "LEO! There's a UFO scanning the floor for signs of life!" he yapped excitedly. I told him to calm down, but you can't reason with an Australian Shepherd running on pure chaos and coffee grounds. Not the vegetative dog I met at the shelter. He's really come into his own... for better or worse. Within minutes, Jax had declared himself the hero of the homestead and launched Operation Ground Control. He stalked Janet like she was a coyote, crouching low, hackles raised, and giving her the dead-eye of a seasoned cattle dog. Janet, unbothered, rolled straight under the couch, probably to regroup and plot her next ambush.

Then came the chaos. Janet zipped into the mudroom, where the new baby chicks were safely tucked in a playpen. Jax dove after her, barking orders like a drill sergeant, while feathers and panic flew in every direction. The humans came running, yelling his name, but Jax was in full action-hero mode—*think Rambo, but harrier and less coordinated sans the red headband.*

In his valiant attempt to "save" the chicks, he knocked the charging dock off the wall. Sparks flew. Janet beeped in distress, finally meeting her match. And just like that, the great invader was vanquished, smoke, feathers, and all.

The humans were ill impressed. Something about "another appliance destroyed." But after the dust settled (literally), they realized the spark had nearly caught the feed bag alight. Jax's chaos had inadvertently prevented a small fire.

So, there you have it. Jax the accidental hero. Again. As if my National Hero Dog of the Year award means nothing—zip, nada.

He strutted around the yard afterward, chest puffed out, telling anyone who'd listen that he'd "neutralized a UFO threat." He even tried to give Janet a proper burial under the porch.

Another day in the life on the ranch keeps you guessing. Some days you chase coyotes, some days unidentified sucking robots.

If the coyotes don't get us, the appliances will.

Leo, *(Still the alpha. Barely.)*

Loosely based on some true working canine events, filtered through Leo's "couch potato" lens.



Charlie

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One Rescue's Path to Slowing the Spread of Disease & Overpopulation

Story by Rebecca West / Photos courtesy of Pathways for Paws

Founded in October 2019 by animal advocate Stefanie Seitz, **Pathways for Paws (PfP)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, no-kill, animal welfare organization here in Tucson that you might recognize from their vaccine and microchip clinics. They began, however, as a canine rescue with a strong desire to see more spay and neuter procedures being performed in the area.

Currently, their mission is to promote vaccines and low-cost microchipping to the community and to reinforce their message regarding the importance of spaying and neutering. By doing so, they hope to help slow the spread of deadly diseases and the overpopulation of unwanted dogs, leading to a happier, healthier community for both pets and people.



Two years later living his best life!
Pathways for Paws

As a foster-based rescue, there's no need for a brick-and-mortar facility. Everything is handled through appointments and volunteers. To raise the profiles of the animals in their care, PfP routinely organizes meet-and-greet events with various local businesses where people can come in and interact with potential family members with cold, wet noses and four fuzzy paws.

When Seitz started, her goal was to acquire a mobile spay/neuter unit to address the myriad of accidental and unwanted litters Tucson is regularly inundated with. In the meantime, when all of the litters coming in had parvo, she recognized the need to offer affordable vaccines as she worked toward attaining a truck.

"I've wanted a mobile unit since day one and started with the rescue to earn the trust of the community and get our name out there," she explained. FYI, Pathways is still pursuing the dream of attaining a mobile unit, if you'd like to contribute and help make that dream a reality.

The desire to see that come to fruition is two-pronged, as Seitz believes the

importance of spaying and neutering isn't JUST about preventing litters. There are certain conditions that intact animals can develop that the procedures could possibly negate or lower the incidence of, she explained. They include various cancer risks and behavioral issues, among other problems.

The most sought-after vaccine for dogs visiting the clinics is the DAPP vaccine, which stands for distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, and parvovirus. And this year, parvo was everywhere, according to Seitz, with all of the shelters having to reckon with it. "If people do what they're supposed to when they're supposed to, vaccines generally work well," she informed us. Seitz urges everyone to get their dogs vaccinated to stem the spread.

Parvo is a highly contagious and potentially fatal virus that causes severe vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration. The DAPP vaccine is considered an essential part of a dog's core vaccination schedule. At PfP, the shots are \$10 apiece and given two weeks apart, but not more than 30 days, if you can't get

back in at the two-week point. Four shots are needed in total.

While there is no definitive cure for canine parvo just yet, timely diagnosis and care can lead to recovery, with survival rates said to be as high as 80%-90% with hospitalization. The treatment to date has involved intensive supportive care that includes IV fluids to combat dehydration, anti-vomiting and diarrhea meds, antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infections, and nutritional support.

A newer treatment known as monoclonal antibody therapy is said to help block the virus from replicating, thereby improving survival rates. As of August 2025, it was announced that Elanco's Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody treatment had been conditionally approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for use when treating canine parvovirus. Pathways is obviously interested in any cure.

Curious about the increase in parvo cases, we contacted Dr. Lisa Shubitz, DVM, with U of A's Valley Fever Center for Excellence. As one of the scientists responsible for the upcoming Valley Fever vaccine for canines, she knows a thing or two about viruses. She shared this:

"Regarding parvo, most of the parvo is related to lack of vaccination, not just of individual animals but of populations of dogs. The vaccine hesitancy in humans often extends to their pets, despite the fact that parvo is a fatal or very expensive disease in puppies and dogs, and nearly 100% preventable by vaccination."

She provided a link to an American Animal Hospital Association article on parvo vaccines, saying the information was consistent with previous research she had heard about. To view it, go to www.aaha.org/resources/2022-aaha-canine-vaccination-guidelines/canine-parvovirus-cpv

If you're wondering whatever happened to the Valley Fever vaccine, we're told that while the regulatory wheels turn slowly, she believes they are near the finish line for USDA approval. Shubitz added that a live avirulent fungal vaccine is truly a frontier product with many complexities.

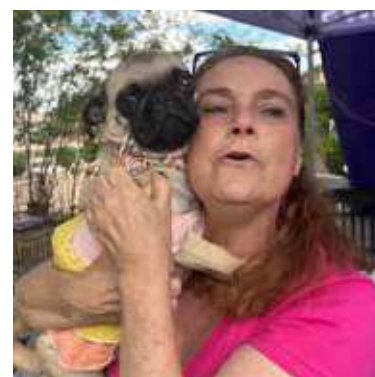
Besides the four main drive-thru clinics conveniently located around town offering distemper/parvo, bordetella, feline FVRCP, microchips, and nail trims, PfP has recently begun collaborating with Bark n Berry for a walk-in clinic option, rather than a drive-thru, due to the ice cream parlor's location. Check the rescue's website for days, times, and locations nearest you.

Pathways for Paws would love to have more fosters and volunteers for help with any number of tasks, including updating their website. If you're interested, they'd be extremely grateful for your assistance.

Visit: pathwaysforpaws.com



Adopted!
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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Sat. Nov. 1, 12pm-2pm

SOLR Hop Shop Meet & Greet

Visit the Hop Shop at 3230 N. Dodge, Tucson 85716, on Nov.1 to meet some of the available dogs at Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue!

Sat. Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22& 29, 10-11am

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.

Sat. Nov. 1, 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. Nov. 1, 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. Nov. 1 & 29, 9am-10am

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru Community Outreach Clinic

at 7400 N. Oracle Rd. (Post Workspaces) offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. More info at pathwaysforpaws.com.

Sat. Nov 1, 9am-12pm

Donuts, Donations, & Dogs

Visit the Pusch House Museum at the Steam Pump Ranch & bring your pet food donations (opened bags are fine) for the Marana Food Bank. Sol Dog Lodge will provide FREE coffee & donuts. The SDL team & volunteers will be there to talk about volunteering & help with pet food collections.

Sun. Nov 2, 8am-12pm

Howl-A-Ween Pawtrait Party

Bring your furry ones in for a special studio style portrait session with the incredible photographer Molly Condit, of Great Bear Media, & help support the mission of Sol Dog Lodge. \$175 includes 15-minute session & 3 retouched portraits.

Reserve: molly@gbearmedia.com or (917) 558-3931. Party at SDL, 11862 N. Tangerine Business Loop, Marana

Sat. Nov. 2, 2pm

Dia de los Muertos Painting Celebration/A Loyal Companion

Create meaningful artwork honoring our cherished animal companions. Free canvases, paints, & guidance provided to create lasting memorials filled with love & joy. Registration is required. For info, (520) 448-3548.

<https://event.aloyalcompanion.com/dia-de-los-muertos-event-registration>

Sun. Nov. 2, 3:30pm-6:30pm

Yappy Hour at Tucson Hop Shop

Join us for Yappy Hour at Tucson Hop Shop! Enjoy a fun afternoon with good company, great drinks, & plenty of wagging tails all while supporting Ability Dogs of Arizona.

3230 N. Dodge Blvd. Ste. H, Tucson 85716. RSVP at forms.gle/Sh6g5pKrM725FKp28

Sun. Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23&30, 10-11am

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.

Wed. Nov. 5 & 19, 4pm-5pm

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru

Community Outreach Clinic at 2035 E. 17th St. offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. More info at pathwaysforpaws.com.

Thur. Nov. 6, 4pm-7pm

TAILgate at University Main Gate

Celebrate Homecoming week with your pup! Dogs-n-Donuts is hosting a Yappy Hour in the Geronimo Plaza. Doggie beer, most spirited contest, activities, & more. Free to attend. University Main Gate, 881 E. University Blvd., Tucson 85719

<https://www.facebook.com/dogsndonutstucson/events>

Sat. Nov. 8, 8am-12pm

Rummage for the Rescues

Annual yard sale hosted by St. Marks United Methodist Church benefitting Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue. Come shop & support SOLR. Located at 431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson 85704

Sat. Nov. 8, 9am-4pm

Vail Fest 2025

Fun for the entire family, there will be local vendors & artisans, food trucks, kids' activities, a beer tent, silent auction, & more. Free to attend, Pound Dogs Purpose will be there. Pima County Fairgrounds, 11300 S. Houghton Rd., Tucson 85747. Visit vailfest.com for info.

Sat. Nov. 8, 5pm-8pm

Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue's 17th Annual Corks & Collars Gala

Join us for an unforgettable evening where the spirit of giving & the love for four-legged friends will shine bright! On 11/8, Hunkapi Farms in Scottsdale will transform into a festive gathering for animal lovers & supporters of DLRR that includes a silent auction. corksandcollars.org

Sat. Nov. 8, 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

Tue. Nov. 11, – Dec 9 6pm

Novice Tricks Class at Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center

Tricks can be a great way to mentally/physically challenge your dog & direct their energy into learning & engaging. \$400 for 5-week class. Call (520) 886-7411 to register in advance. Dogs must be UTD on vaccinations. Class will be at SDL, 11862 N. Tangerine Business Loop, Marana 85658

Fri. Nov. 14, Registration 7am

Soldier's Best Friend 15th Annual Charity Golf Classic

Held at the Arizona Biltmore Golf Club Links Course in Phoenix, join us for a morning of beauty, history & fun while supporting our military vets. Proceeds go toward providing life-changing services at no cost to eligible veterans. Info at soldiersbestfriend.org/golftournament.html

Sat. Nov. 15, 12pm-2pm

Southwest Oasis Labrador Rescue

Meet & Greet at Kendra Scott There will be an in-store meet & greet with our pups, PLUS 20% off in-store & on-line purchases come back to SOLR! La Encantada located at 2905 E. Skyline Dr. Tucson 85718

Sat. Nov. 15, 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. Nov. 15, 4pm-6pm

Doggone Treat n' Mingle

Bring your four-legged friends to our 1st ever sip & mingle! Enjoy delicious wines & light snacks while your pups enjoy treats from Dogs-n-Donuts! Well-mannered, social, leashed dogs welcome. Registration required. Follow @totalwinetucson on IG for upcoming details. 5870 E. Broadway Ste. 448, Tucson 85711

Sat. Nov. 15, 11am-2pm

S. Az. Reptile Rescue & Education Adoption Event at Bookman's East

Come learn about reptiles with Certified Master Herpetologist Cressi Brown at Bookman's Speedway & Wilmot location & meet your new pet. For questions, (808) 747-6445.

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 15 & 16, 10am-2pm

Dogs-n-Donuts 7-Year Anniversary

Goodie bags for the first 25 people each day & in-store specials. Dog adoptions with Paws without Borders. Meet our special guests, Collar Scholars, the U of A student club of Canine Companions. Visit us on IG or our FB Events page at facebook.com/dogsndonutstucson/events

Sun. Nov 16, 9am-4pm

Pet CPR/First Aid Certification Class

This class is designed for pet owners, groomers, doggy day care workers & veterinary staff & includes handbook & certificate of completion. Cost is \$175. Register by calling (520) 886-7411. Class held at Sol Dog Lodge & Training Center, 11862 N. Tangerine Business Loop, Marana 85658.

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER (continued)

Sun. Nov. 16, 4:30pm

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter

60th Birthday Celebration!!!

Join us at the Savoy Opera House at 4:30pm with a Reception to be held at 5:15pm as we celebrate 60 years of saving at-risk cats! We'll have wonderful food, share stories from the past, & a vision for the future! 6541 E. Tanque Verde, #3, RSVP:

www.wizevents.com/

hermitagecatshelter2025/?id=10635

Thur. Nov. 20, 4pm-5pm

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru Community Outreach Clinic

at 8796 E. Broadway Blvd. (Taylor Tack & Feed) offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. More info at pathwaysforpaws.com.

Thur. Nov. 20, 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

Sat. Nov. 22, 9am-10am

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru

Community Outreach Clinic at 2812 W. Alvaro Rd. (Lazy V) offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. Info at pathwaysforpaws.com.

Fri. Nov. 28, 12pm-4pm

Four Tails Holiday Boutique

Visit us at the tasting room in Sonoita as we kick off the gifting season. We'll have booths with dog/cat apparel, art, jewelry, & other fun gifts including wine baskets. Taste wine & shop at the same time! More info: fourtailstastingroom.com

Sat. Nov. 29, 10:30am-2pm

Photos with Santa Paws Benefiting Rescue Me Marana

Kick off the holiday season & celebrate Small Business Saturday with Santa Paws & Rescue Me Marana at Dogs-n-Donuts! No appointment needed, 1st come, 1st served. \$15 for photo. Proceeds support Rescue Me Marana. 7743 E. Broadway Blvd., **Tucson 85710**

DECEMBER EVENTS

Every Day from 10am-2pm

Moon & Stars Animal Rescue

Feline Adoption Events

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

Wed. Dec. 3, 17 & 31, 4pm-5pm

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru Community Outreach Clinic

at 2035 E. 17th St. offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. More info at pathwaysforpaws.com.

Fri. Dec. 5, 4pm-8pm

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter's Night Markets Craft Fair & More!

Visit us at the shelter for an evening of festive lights & unique shopping! We have booths with holiday items, fun kitty stuff, art, jewelry & other fun, artsy things. For more info, visit www.hermitagecatshelter.org

Sat. Dec. 6, 10am-2pm

Dogs-n-Donuts Adoption Events

In conjunction with various local rescues, we now have adoption events most Saturdays at our bakery. Details on our website. dogsndonutstucson.com

Sat. Dec. 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. Dec. 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. Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 10-11am

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.

Sat. Dec. 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. Dec. 6, 9:30am-1:30pm

Holidays at Houghton Community Event with S. Az. Reptile Rescue

Learn about reptiles with certified Master Herpetologist Cressi Brown at the Holidays at Houghton event at the Houghton Town Center shopping mall & meet your new pet while you're there! (808) 747-6445

Sat. Dec. 6, 12pm-4pm

Red Collar Rescue Fundraising Event at Four Tails Vineyard

Come support this fundraising event for Red Collar Rescue & Recovery, which focuses on reuniting lost dogs with their owners. Taste wine & great food, enjoy special treats, participate in a silent auction, & grab a photo with Santa. For more info, visit fourtailstastingroom.com.

Sun. Dec. 7, 6pm

Cat Bingo at El Jefe Cat Cafe

Every Sunday at 6pm we play Bingo with cuddly, adoptable cats. Join us! info@eljefecatlounge.com

Sun. Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28, 10-11am

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. Dec. 7 & 21, 10am-12pm

Bark 'n Berry Pix with Santa Paws

Get your holiday pet pix with Santa at 6121 E. Broadway, Ste.138. You must secure a spot in advance. To do so, visit www.BarknberryAZ.com under "BOOK AN EVENT".

Fri.-Sun. Dec. 12-14, 10am-5pm

56th Annual 4th Ave. Street Fair

Family-friendly 3-day winter festival in the historic district promoting original art with 350+ artists from around the world with live music, buskers, 40+ food vendors, & beer! Admission is free, as well as free Shuttle Service provided from the Pennington St. Garage! fourthavenue-street-fair.org

Sat. Dec. 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

Sat. Dec. 13, 5pm-8pm

Four Tails Tasting Room Holiday Hoedown

Join us at the tasting room in Sonoita to celebrate all things of the Holiday Season: good food, good wine, & good friends, all while listening to live music by the fire under the stars. Our wine & tasting room menu will be served with some special holiday treats. Visit fourtailstastingroom.com

Sat. Dec. 13, 5pm-7pm

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter Lights of Love Remembrance

Join us for this annual event where we take time to pause in the middle of this busy holiday season & reflect on cats, dogs, & people we've lost over the past year, or even just in our lives, & memorialize them. Watch our socials for luminaria available for purchase. hermitagecatshelter.org

Sat. Dec. 13, 10am-2pm

Photos with Santa Paws Benefiting Friends of PACC

Get ready for Santa Paws! Proceeds from the event support Friends of Pima Animal Care Center & their mission. No appointment needed, 1st come, 1st served. \$15 for photo. To be held at Dogs-n-Donuts, 7743 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson 85710

Thur. Dec. 18, 4pm-5pm

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru Community Outreach Clinic

at 8796 E. Broadway Blvd. (Taylor Tack & Feed) offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. More info at pathwaysforpaws.com.

Fri.-Sat. Dec. 19 & 20, 6pm-8pm

Queen Astara's Fairy Lights at Valley of the Moon

Come wander our enchanting paths where the decorations & lights are sure to entice some of the fairies to appear to celebrate the season. There will be fairy music & other surprises! For tickets, visit valley-of-the-moon.yapsody.com/event/index/752037/queen-astaras-fairy-lights

Sat. Dec. 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. Dec. 20, 9am-10am

Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru

Community Outreach Clinic at 2812 W. Alvaro Rd. (Lazy V) offers vaccines, microchips & nail trims for a small donation via cash, Venmo, Zelle & Apple Pay. No debit/credit cards. Info at pathwaysforpaws.com.



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Cover Dog Story

Introducing the Ravishing Trixie! 7th Annual Holiday Dog Contest Winner! Story by Bonnie Craig

Happy fall, Tucson dogs! The leaves may not get colorful in our neck of the woods until December, but it sure must be nice to have cool nights and mornings to frolic and fetch, free from those embarrassing booties the humans make you wear all summer long. Of course somehow you sense that they do it out of love, much like nail trimmings and vet trips and... entering wild and wacky pictures of you into some kind of contest?

Yes, they do! Your people love you so very much that they want to share your oh-so-kissable faces with the world, or at least our little part of it. Speaking of kissable faces, this issue features one that may look familiar. Twice gracing our pages as a runner up, and a 6 time entrant, Trixie has finally made it to the cover! We will hear more from her soon, but first, let's learn about our runner up!



Cover Dog Runner Up: Cayenne
Photos provided by Jaci Gerard

Cayenne is a spicy little guy, thought by his people to be a "Schnocker" (Schnauser Cocker Spaniel mix). The three year old fellow, adopted into his family in February of last year, hails from Mexico originally. There he was surrendered by his former family and ended up in the care of Desert Rotti and Pals rescue, by way of PACC. His current and forever family believes that their elderly dogs, who had passed the previous year, may have been working their magic from behind the scenes to bring their family and Cayenne together. He is now enjoying life as the smart, amiable, and happy go lucky pup he was always meant to be, and he's bilingual to boot! ¡Felicidades, Cayenne!

Now we reach the main event. It is the one, the only, the two time runner up and finally the winner, Trixie! That's right, she has finally joined her sister Koko in the hallowed halls of cover dog stardom. This mini/standard Australian shepherd mix is nothing if not persistent, or perhaps that is on the part of her person, but regardless, she was clearly born camera ready.

After a stint running wild on the streets of South Tucson, Trixie was rescued and found her way to Aussie and Friends Rescue, where she was cleaned up and cared for. Her formerly matted fur quickly gave way to the luxurious locks she now rocks. In a continuation of her streak of good luck, she was quickly adopted into a fun and loving home, with a sister her own age. This sister, the famous Miss Koko of former cover dog fame, proved to be a most excellent foil to Trixie's personality.



Cover Dog Winner Trixie
(Photo: C. Eaton Photography)

Trixie is the life of the party at the dog park, acting like a social butterfly with the other dogs, while Koko prefers to mingle more with the two legged crowd. On walks, Koko is all business, sniffing her way forward, as her goofball sister runs circles around her. With an outsized personality



Trixie smiles next her sister, Koko.
Photo by Marilyn Stringer



Trixie giving some holiday vibes.

We will stay tuned for her tinsel town debut, but in the meantime, she has always been a star in our town, where she can keep jumping on her person's head every morning at walk time and goofing around at home with Koko. Who knows, maybe Trixie was meant to be a home town hero all along, and she finally has her day in the sun as this issue's Tucson Dog cover queen.



Sittin' pretty.

*** Bravo, Trixie, Encore! *****

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Gone But Not Forgotten: TPD K-9 Raven Update

Story by Rebecca West



Raven

As some of you may recall, in October of 2023, a K-9 with the Tucson Police Department was shot while responding to a call involving an armed man at Reid Park suffering from an emotional health crisis. While mental health professionals attempted to de-escalate the situation over the phone, TPD officers rushed to the park to find the man and ordered him to drop his weapon.

During protracted negotiations, the individual suddenly dashed to an exposed area of the park where he began to open fire, shooting police dog Raven in the process. Three of the officers on scene returned fire, wounding the man before he was taken into custody and transported to the hospital. Raven, a 3-year-old male German shepherd who began his career with the TPD just a few months earlier, was simultaneously rushed to the VCA Valley Animal Hospital and Emergency Center with life-threatening injuries.

TPD noted at the time that the VCA Valley Animal Hospital team worked tirelessly to perform life-saving surgery on him. After learning that he was in stable condition, they gratefully added in a statement, "Thanks to the incredible work by Dr. Chirco, Dr. Perino, Dr. Chauvet, Dr. Saulnier-Boyd, Dr. Pashaian and techs Andrea, Cassidy, Bailey, Maddie, Diana, Emily, Gemma, Cait, Ro, Jessy, Autumn, and Perla, Raven was able to survive his injuries."



Raven running

But Raven had a long way to go in regaining his health and ultimately passed away on July 5, 2025, as a result of his injuries. We were able to speak to Sgt. Richard Legarra about the incident and learn a little more about Raven, the K-9 unit in general, and the vests the dogs wear while working. Legarra, who's been the head of the unit just shy of two years, is also a SWAT team leader and was there the night Raven was shot.

Raven was one of eight K-9s with the Tucson Police Department at the time of the shooting. Currently, there are nine dogs. Only three breeds are selected for use in the program. They are Belgian Malinois, German shepherds, and Dutch shepherds. They receive constant training from day one and throughout their careers with the TPD K-9 Unit, but a minimum of eight weeks of training is required before they begin duty. The animals live with their handlers and are generally assigned to them for the length of their careers.

Raven came from Adlerhorst International LLC, a provider of police service dogs and canine training to law enforcement agencies worldwide.

The person who shot Raven took a plea agreement and was held accountable for interfering with a police dog. Oddly enough, they are not considered law enforcement personnel in the court system but working dogs, so the penalties are not the same as shooting an officer. Since it is no longer an open case, no further charges will be brought against the defendant in connection with Raven's death more than two years ago.

A memorial service was held on August 5 of this year at the police academy located on Wilmot Road. A private affair, members of the Service Dog Unit and their immediate families were in attendance, as well as members of the executive leadership team and the department's SWAT team, along with some additional K-9 handlers from other agencies who were invited.

Around the same time, it was announced on social media that the department was the recipient of new ballistic vests, saying, "The Service Dog Unit would like to thank The Alvernon-Grant Initiative (AGI) for their generous donation that helped purchase two new custom ballistic vests. Their donation will help keep K-9 Ranger and K-9 Hondo safe. Both have been outfitted with K-9 Storm Inc. ballistic vests. All of our K-9s wear ballistic protection while working."

Legarra informed us that vests are custom-made for each dog and that they can't order a vest until the animal is 2 years old because they generally aren't finished growing until then. As you're likely wondering, Raven, being a new dog with the department, hadn't received their vest yet.

Curious, we asked about the efficacy of the vests for dogs as compared to humans. In other words, are they as efficient and reliable as vests for their two-legged counterparts, considering the materials used? The answer is that dog vests are rated for handgun caliber while human vests are rated for rifle caliber, which has a more powerful impact. The reason for this is that the materials used for humans are far too heavy and bulky to work with the slight frame of a dog.

On a final note, Sgt. Legarra wanted to say: "These dogs are absolutely amazing. On more than one occasion, a dog has saved my life. We are indebted to them and we take care of them accordingly, both during their working career and after. They are incredible animals who deserve the best."



Raven's memorial service



Hondo in new vest



Ranger in new vest

A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

All the dogs on these pages are available for adoption at the time of this publication. Interested in meeting any of these adorable friends? Some get adopted very quickly, so please go ahead and contact the group listed with the picture to find out more.

Pathways for Paws

Pathwaysforpaws@yahoo.com
pathwaysforpaws.com/adoption-application

BEAN ID#A871103

I'm a 2 y/o Lab-mix girl with a heart of gold who's looking for a family who can return all the love & affection I have to give. I'd thrive in a home with another dog to play with. Vaccinated, microchipped & spayed, I'm unsure of cats, but I get along great with all sized dogs & people.

LULU ID#A873674

About 4 y/o, I'm a quiet girl who doesn't ask for much other than to follow you around & be close. I'm not overly playful with other dogs, but coexist peacefully & keep to myself. It's believed I won't mind cats. I have minor allergies that are easily controlled. I'm also vaccinated, chipped & spayed.

KAZO ID#A855097

A handsome boy with battle-worn ears & a heart full of love, I sleep & eat in my crate like a champ but I'm happiest being close to my people as a quiet, loving companion. Great with cats & kids, I can be selective with male dogs but I'm respectful & responsive to correction. I'm leash trained, neutered, vaxed & chipped.

Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary

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

BROWNIE

A 7 y/o gal who enjoys going on walks, I can initially be scared when the leash comes out but my confidence is improving daily. I'm crate trained & doing pretty well with the potty routine at my foster's using a dog door but will need someone patient willing to work with me. I may have been abused.

DALLAS

It's a super active 5 y/o boy who loves attention but is a little unsure in new situations, so I'll need time to adjust. Mostly house trained, I use a dog door, crate up easily, & walk nicely on a leash. I love playing with other dogs but am untested with cats. I have a slight palsy-type tic that doesn't affect me at all. It doesn't affect me at all. am vaxed, spayed & chipped.

VALENTINE

I am a calm sometimes mischievous 3 y/o, 54lb. Shepherd/Doberman-mix girl who likes short walks, playing outside, & solving food puzzles. I like to collect stuffed toys & keep them safe in my crate. With a little warm-up time, we could be best friends. Please call about me.

Hope of Deliverance

Hopeofdeliverancerescue@gmail.com,
hopeofdeliverance.org/adoption-application
(330) 647-9963

AMBER

Hi! I'm Amber - your new sidekick. I LOVE kids, walks, & a good snuggle session for movie night! I am 4 y/o girl who weighs 45lbs., plus I'm house trained! Ready for me to join your family?!? I know I am!!!

MURPHY

Murphy here! Ever wondered what an 11-month-old kid, dog, & cat- friendly Great Dane looks like?! Well, here I am! I'm a fella who loves a good romp & a great nap! Don't miss out on me!

Paws Without Borders (PWB)

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

LUNA

I narrowly dodged becoming a shelter statistic when kind humans rescued me—thinking I liked other dogs. LOL, nope. I'm a "one-woman wolf pack." I'm 2 y/o & love to have fun but am currently sulking at boarding like a teen grounded from Wi-Fi. Got snacks, hikes, & no other dogs? Congrats—you just met your new soulmate!

HONEY

Hi, I'm Honey—1.5 years young, cancer survivor, & certified zoomie queen. I beat the big C & now I'm ready to beat loneliness. I love other dogs, snacks, & sprinting like I just stole your socks. I've got energy for days & cuddles for nights. Forever home wanted: must love wiggles, chaos, & unconditional joy.

BENNY

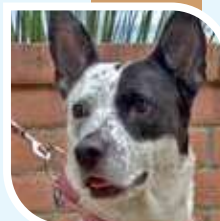
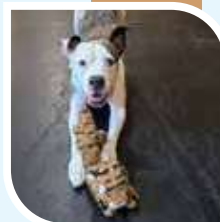
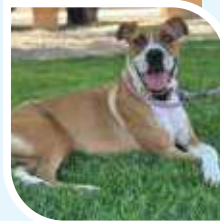
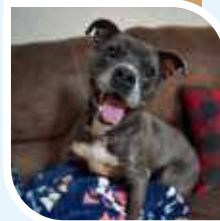
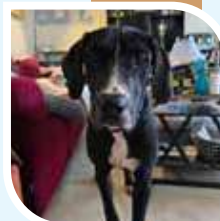
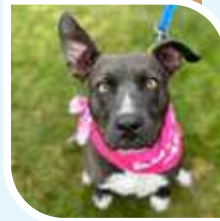
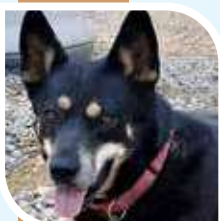
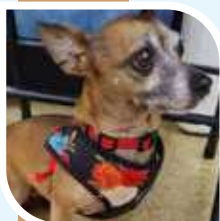
I'm 85lbs. of American bulldog & misunderstood brilliance. People say I'm "a lot"—I say I'm just vibing on a different frequency. I've been overlooked for being big, quirky, & choosy about my dog pals. Little kids? Nope. Grown-ups, especially big guys? I'm all in. I love car rides, routines, & hanging with my person. Got a truck & a chill lifestyle? Let's hit the road!

The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV)

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

ARIES

I'm a smart & strong 8 y/o, 70lb. Heeler-mix girl who wants to be your one & only companion. I'm house trained & know commands "sit," "lay," & "heel." I love to eat but not chicken or grain because I'm a bit allergy prone. I come with Vet Care Support for Life. Please call about me.



Healing with Hooves: The Therapeutic Power of Donkeys

Story Inspired by Genie Joseph *The Human-Animal Connection*



Rosie and Lilly - Mini Therapy Donkeys

When people think of therapy animals, dogs and horses often come to mind, but donkeys are quietly making their mark as some of the most effective and empathetic therapy partners around. With their gentle nature, intuitive sensitivity, and steady pace, donkeys offer a unique kind of emotional connection that benefits both humans and the animals themselves.

Donkeys have an uncanny ability to sense human emotions. Their calm demeanor and curious personalities help people who struggle with anxiety, trauma, grief,

or developmental challenges. Unlike horses, donkeys tend to move slowly and deliberately, which creates a sense of safety for those who may feel intimidated by larger animals. Their patient presence encourages mindfulness, so participants must slow down to match the donkey's rhythm, and be fully present in the moment.



For children with autism, veterans coping with PTSD, or individuals in recovery, this quiet interaction fosters trust and builds confidence. Grooming, walking, or simply standing beside a donkey can lower blood pressure, ease tension, and create genuine emotional breakthroughs.

The benefits go both ways. Many therapy donkeys come from rescue situations, and through this work, they rediscover trust in humans. Regular interaction, affection, and gentle handling help them heal from neglect or fear, giving them renewed purpose and emotional balance.

Donkey-assisted therapy programs such as The Human-Animal Connection, also educate communities about the species' intelligence and emotional depth, challenging old stereotypes that label donkeys as stubborn or lesser animals. In truth, their strength lies in patience, empathy, and the quiet power to help humans heal. "Our therapy donkeys work with people of all ages," says Genie Joseph, animal communicator and event organizer. "They teach us how to heal, how to trust again, and how to simply be in the moment."



Genie Joseph The Human-Animal Connection at Donkey Day

Whether in a structured therapy program or a casual visit at a sanctuary, the connection between donkeys and people proves that healing doesn't always come from words, it often begins with a bray, a nuzzle, and a heartbeat at your side.

For more information and to see the donkeys in action, watch these videos:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4j7b0sgsSg
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUK0zRJIB8M

Donkey Christmas



Save the date:

Sunday - December 14, 1-3 PM

TheHumanAnimalconnection.org



The Human-Animal Connection warmly invites you for an unforgettable afternoon with some of the most loving, gentle, and healing animals: Therapy Donkeys. This free community event offers a heartfelt celebration of donkeys and the joy they bring to our lives. Come and experience firsthand the curiosity, playfulness, and innocent joy that these donkeys bring to every interaction.

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 1-3 PM Brandi Fenton Park
Ramada Six, The Haybarn**

Event Highlights Include:

- Meet, brush, and bond with Therapy Donkeys – Get to know these incredible animals and their calming presence.
- Capture the moment – Enjoy selfies and peaceful moments with these lovable long-ears.
- Food trucks and local artists – Savor delicious food and explore artwork, with interactive activities for animal lovers of all ages.
- Nonprofit info tables and educational displays – Learn about donkeys, their roles in therapy, and the profound impact of animal-assisted healing.

Sponsor Our Celebration!

This event is co-hosted by **The Human-Animal Connection** and **Forever Home Donkey Sanctuary and Rescue**, in partnership with local animal advocates and artists. Funds raised will support the donkeys and their care.

Ways to Get Involved as a Sponsor:

- Host a table: \$100-\$200
- Sponsor Donation: Any Amount
- Loving Sponsor: \$1,200 Includes recognition as a sponsor on our social media
- GOLDEN SPONSOR: \$2,500 Includes recognition as a sponsor on all social media posts, reaching over 30,000 people in Tucson.

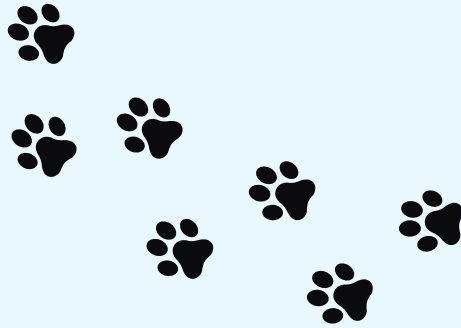
Your support will help us continue the important work of providing emotional healing through therapy animals and raise awareness for the invaluable role donkeys play in supporting those in need.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to partnering with you to make this event a success!



The Scratching Post: Cats for Adoption

All the cats on this page are available for adoption at the time of this publication.
If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable kitties, please contact the group listed with the picture.



Southern Arizona Cat Rescue

Website: sacatrescue.org, sacatrescue.org/contact-us,
sacatrescue.org/adoption-application (520) 200-1643



MOOSE

I'm a big baby of a boy who's 4 y/o & ready to find his forever home! I'm laidback & enjoy the simple things in life: snacks, lounge spots in the sun or just somewhere cozy, & some good pets/cheek scratches. I like snuggles & the company of my humans. I coexist fine with other cats & would be fine with respectful kids & dogs.



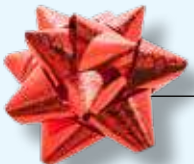
ADAM

I'm a gentle 1 y/o guy who's truly sweet & lovable, just a little shy at first, but warm up once I know I'm safe. I love chin, cheek, & booty scratches. I very much enjoy the company of other cats & need a feline friend at home for comfort. I'd be best with older kids & can adapt to laidback dogs that give me space.



BENNY

I'm a sweet 2 y/o boy with a big purr & an even bigger heart. I was found in Mexico with a severe jaw injury that took months to heal, but now I'm ready for a forever home! Playful, I'll flop down beside you & roll over for belly pets. Dogs aren't my thing, but I'd be a wonderful companion to my forever family.



The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) Adoption fee: \$50 • TALGV (Appointments 10-2 daily) • 520-625-3170



HIGGINS

I am a sweet 10 m/o tabby boy that was found & brought to The Animal League to find a good home. Shelter volunteers can coax me to play with a feather wand & I'll let them pat my head. I'm wishing for a rescuer with patience & a kind heart. Could you be them?



MISS KITTY

I'm a 4 y/o feline lady with a sleek & shiny black fur coat. I can be very vocal at times & when I "chirp-meow," you'll know I'm happy. I lived with a couple who had to release me due to their failing health. I don't care to be picked up yet, but I'm good for petting. Please call & make an appointment to meet me.



DISCOVER

I'm a 1 y/o gray tabby girl with white patches & big yellow eyes. I can be shy with people, so I need a quiet home with a patient family. I do get along with the other cats here at the shelter, but I need a kind person to take a chance on me. Please be them & make an appointment to meet me!

SOS Cat Rescue AZ

Info@SOscatrescueAZ.org,
soscatsrescueaz.org/adoption-application, (520) 445-3889



NALA

Hi! I'm Nala. I play hard, snuggle harder, & sometimes use my mouth to express my excitement (so, no tiny humans, please). I'm a 2 y/o girl with a big heart & an even bigger pounce. I'd love to be your one-and-only feline companion. Once you're in my circle, I'm loyal, goofy, & full of love..



WENDY

Hi, I'm Wendy—a 4 y/o Tucson native & proud FIP survivor! I was a brave girl through daily medicine as a kitten, which made me a bit shy about being handled. Now healthy & happy, I love bedtime cuddles, movie nights, & soft meows for attention. I'd thrive as your only cat in a calm, loving home..



SALEM

I'm Salem. I'm an outgoing, independent gal with a quirky side & cranky meow. I like things *my* way & expect my humans (& any pets) to respect that! I can live with calm, submissive animals, but honestly—I prefer ruling the castle solo. With eight years of snuggle experience, I'm ready to share my sass & love.

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary

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



BILLOW

I'm Billow, & I just turned 1! I came to The Hermitage with my "Cloud" babies; now that they've launched into the stratosphere with their humans, I'm looking for mine. I'm a little shy, but would love to turn your blues into sunshine! A sweet girl who loves treats, come & meet me!



BARNEY

I'm Barney, & I'm an older distinguished boy of 12. I recently returned to The Hermitage when I was found outdoors. I'd prefer to stay inside & snooze next to my very own human. I'm a healthy FIV+ boy. I love scritchies & treats & would be a great companion kitty for just about anyone!



GOLDUCK

Hi! I'm a sweet girl who just turned 2. A nice lady found me living on the street & saved me so I could find a forever family. I love attention, & people keep calling me a "love bug". I just know that scritchies are nice. I also like other kitties. Let's meet!



High School Heroes: How Tucson Teens Are Changing the Lives of Shelter Pets

Story by Rebecca West; Images courtesy of THMS.



What happens when an English teacher with a passion for animals plants the seeds of animal welfare into the minds of high schoolers? You get the THMS Animal Rescue Group! Established in 2002 by Tucson High Magnet School faculty member Miriam Rosa, the group raises money for sick and injured animals at Pima Animal Care Center (PACC).

Described as “a saint” by Cecelia Garcia, the group’s co-sponsor and gallery curator, Rosa is known for being a humble person who has spent her entire life giving back. Her good works include volunteering with women’s shelters, soup kitchens, and other worthy deeds. Among them is her previous work with PACC, where she helped facilitate adoptions for many years. She also sells books on eBay to raise money for the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

Garcia joined her at the school three years ago and says that everything Miriam does, she does for someone else. Like all truly humble people, Rosa feels no need for recognition, but Cecelia believes otherwise. Working together as a team, they created a logo that includes her dog, Minnie, and Rosa’s dog, Baby Bear.

The program has helped Tucson teens recognize the overwhelming need for community involvement surrounding the homeless pet problem and the myriad challenges that arise from it.



The group, which regularly meets on Wednesdays during the school year, varies in size from 15 to 20 students, some with an interest in veterinary science. While THMS teaches kids ranging from the 9th through the 12th grade, the members, who are predominantly seniors, are often comprised of siblings, friends, or couples. “They always drag friends along for crafting projects,” Garcia

laughingly noted.

As for crafts, they are part of their fundraising efforts, as well as their parking program, where event goes in the downtown area park in the school’s lots. Charging \$5, plus the sale of bottled water, this component is integral to their success because it’s their biggest money maker by far.

“While crafts account for a smaller percentage of our funding,” Garcia explained, “the rest is raised through our parking program. The lots are located on 8th Street and 6th Street, and occasionally, we’ll use the Roskrige parking lot. It was Miriam’s idea.”

The annual Made in Tucson event and the popular Pima Pet Parade provide their most significant returns for their efforts. The group would appreciate anyone willing to promote the Park Program during events.

The crafts are sold on the school grounds three times a year, including homecoming and Valentine’s Day.

They consist of Croc charms and handmade bracelets, buttons, origami flowers made from craft paper, and flower and butterfly rings fashioned from super plush, brightly colored pipe cleaners. The bracelets, made of beads using bracelet-making kits, were inspired by Taylor Swift’s friendship bracelet trend. They also create woven or knotted bracelets.

The THMS Animal Rescue Group frequently has educational guest speakers accompanied by animal friends for students to pet, play with, or hold. Some examples include Sol Dog Lodge, Southern Arizona Reptile Rescue, Southern Arizona Cat Rescue, Hunter’s Kitten Lounge, Tucson Action Team (TAT), Southwest Oasis Lab Rescue, Friends of PACC, and AZ Heartfelt Hounds.

These visits are a huge hit with the students, who are known for enthusiastically asking, “When do we get to go out and rescue animals?” To date, the largest organization to visit has been the U of A Veterinary College. The kids would appreciate more folks in the rescue community coming in to speak with them about ways to get involved or to give demonstrations.

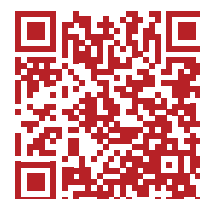
Here’s what past members have to say about their experience with the group!

Lilly, 17: “I joined Tucson High’s Animal Rescue Group because I’ve always had a passion for helping animals, and this club felt like the perfect way to make a difference locally. Out of all the clubs at THMS, this one stood out because of the heart and dedication I saw from both the members and the sponsors, especially Miriam and Cecelia, who made everyone feel welcomed and inspired.

“To me, animal rescue means making sure every animal gets the chance for care and love they deserve. What makes THMS Animal Rescue special is the way we combine action with compassion. Whether it’s organizing donations or educating others, we do it with real heart. The club feels more like a community than just an extracurricular, and that’s what makes it truly stand out.”

Carlos, 18: “Very unforgettable. As an ex-secretary of the THMS Animal Rescue Club officer, it was more than a school club. It was an engaging moment for us to explore what it was like to make handmade things to build money to save animals in shelters.”

***Wanna help?! Donate crafting materials via their Amazon Wishlist in lieu of cash donations:**
Scan the QR code here or visit this link:
<https://shorturl.at/6gvmk>
Website: thms.tusd1.org/AnimalRescueGroup



Lab from SOLR with Miriam Rosa

Keep Your Dogs Away from These Holiday Foods!

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

One of the greatest parts of the holiday season is the food! While humans can indulge in all sorts of delicious treats this time of year, it's important to understand that some of these foods are dangerous for dogs.

As you bustle through the kitchen this holiday season, be sure to keep a close eye on your pup! This is just a short list of common holiday foods that can be harmful to dogs. For a full list of foods to avoid, we recommend visiting the ASPCA Poison Control website.

Chocolate

All chocolate, including dark or baking chocolate, can be dangerous for dogs. The theobromine in chocolate can cause reactions like vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst, urination, tremors, and seizures.

Candy and Candy Wrappers

Candies often contain xylitol, which is a sugar alcohol that is extremely poisonous to dogs. Xylitol can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, leading to loss of coordination and collapse. Which can lead to liver failure.

Even if the candy itself doesn't contain xylitol, the wrappers can be just as dangerous. Dogs love to chew on things, and if they ingest foil or cellophane wrappers, they can suffer from intestinal blockages.

Animal Bones

While it may seem like a good idea to give your dog a bone to chew on, it can actually be hazardous. Animal bones can splinter and cause lacerations or blockages in your dog's digestive tract.

Dairy

Many dogs are lactose intolerant, and consuming dairy can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. It's best to keep the cheese plate away from your pup!

Nuts

Some nuts are safe for dogs in small quantities, and many dogs enjoy nut butter treats. However, some nuts are toxic to dogs or pose a choking risk and should not be fed to dogs. Avoid giving your dog macadamias, pistachios, black walnuts, and almonds.

The best way to keep your dog safe during the holidays is to make sure they don't have access to any human food. Keep an eye on them while you're cooking, and be sure to put leftovers away where they can't reach them. If you think your dog has ingested something they shouldn't have, contact your local animal hospital immediately or call ASPCA Poison Control at (888) 426-4435.

Wishing you and your pup a safe and happy holiday! For more information, visit campbowwow.com/tucson-east or call (520) 655-3647.

HOLIDAY FOODS TO AVOID FEEDING YOUR DOG



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- LARGE INDOOR & TURF OUTDOOR PLAY YARDS
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*Offer valid only at mentioned locations. Camper must meet entrance requirements. New customers only. Free first day valid only for interview day. Other restrictions apply.

From the Director's Desk

The Secret Life of PACC: Behind the Scenes of Lifesaving

Story by Steve Kozachik Director of PACC

When people think of Pima Animal Care Center, the most common focus is on the place to go if you want to adopt a dog or a cat. And while that's true, PACC serves the community in many more ways. Some of that is 'back-of-house' services that many people are not even aware that we're providing. And yet the work being done is critical to PACC being the regional animal welfare leader.



Meet Brynn ,A863416.

Go to www.pima.gov2562Browse-Shelter-Dogs



Meet Koko A840764! Go to:
www.pima.gov2562Browse-Shelter-Dogs



Meet Figgy, 667787778! Go to:
www.pima.gov2562Browse-Shelter-Dogs

One of the back-of-house functions at PACC is our medical clinic. With the funding support that comes from both Pima County and from Friends of PACC, we have on staff 4 veterinarians, between 15 and 20 vet techs at any given time, and staff that is dedicated to community events through our mobile medical unit, Karen's Karing Van (KKV). While that may sound like an army of vet care professionals, given our vast regional responsibility, we keep that medical crew busy every day of the week.

Every animal that's adopted from PACC leaves fully altered (spayed or neutered) and vaccinated. That means our vets are performing 40+ alterations daily. PACC also has over 1,500 dogs and cats out in foster. As foster animals, their medical care continues to be our responsibility. The clinic schedules 10-15 foster animals daily for any number of ongoing medical conditions. And with that number of foster animals out in the community,

some inevitably come in with emergency medical needs. We see roughly 10 foster emergencies daily.

And don't forget our Animal Protection Services (APS) unit – the animal welfare enforcement team that responds to calls regarding cruelty and neglect around the clock. Between those calls and the 'hit by car' responses we make daily, the PACC APS unit brings another dozen or so medical cases to our clinic. Add up those numbers and you can see the PACC vets, vet techs, medical support staff, and volunteers are treating 75-80 animals every day, many with significant emergency needs. And all are treated with the compassion you would expect to be offered for your own pet.

In addition to all of those medical interventions that are performed at the shelter, our clinic is out in the community multiple times weekly. The KKV was provided to PACC by the Friends of PACC. It is literally a mobile surgery center that we take all over the county performing spay/neuter and other wellness procedures. We realize that the cost of veterinary care can be prohibitive for many people. The KKV mobile clinics are our way of offering spay/neuter surgeries free of charge to those who simply cannot afford the cost of private veterinary care. Everyone wins from this service – low-income animal owners gain the veterinary care their pet deserves, and we limit future litters that may have otherwise ended up in the shelter.



When you think of PACC, it is correct to think of the many adoptable pups (and cats) we have at the shelter. And it is also proper to remember the PACC medical team that serves largely behind the scenes, conducting life-saving procedures and preparing the animals in our care to go home and become your new forever family member. PACC would not be what we are without the dedication of the PACC clinic staff. Each time you interact with your PACC pet, give a nod of thanks to the team who works 7 days each week in support of our animals' health.

Want to help? Donate: www.friendsofpacc.org/support-pacc-pets
or Volunteer: www.pima.gov/2795/Volunteer-with-PACC

Food Banks Aren't Just for People: How the Southern Arizona Animal Food Bank is Keeping Pets Fed

Story by Vicki Austin, Photos courtesy of SAAFB



Volunteers happily dedicate themselves to the SAAFB cause.

Our animals are part of the family, providing companionship, stress relief, and emotional support. Some families in Tucson might not be able to feed their animals. They may be homeless and without resources; perhaps they're a veteran, just getting back on their feet. The elderly, the infirmed—anyone who is struggling to decide whether to eat or choose instead to feed their beloved pets—might wonder where they'll find help.

The Southern Arizona Animal Food Bank (SAAFB) is here to fill that gap. Created in 2015, the mother-daughter team of Donna and Margaux DeConcini established a donation and distribution center, initially for horses and later for dogs, cats, and other family pets. Donna recently relocated the store to 4444 E. Grant Avenue, Suite 116, Tucson, 85712, where she serves all of southern Arizona.



At the market

Wilconson, Krista Miller, Troy Dainty, and Zac Fisher." Those folks and more keep the store humming and the animals fed, she said, but the need is ever-growing for more volunteers.

"The real issue we need to address is limiting the population of animals in Southern Arizona," Donna said. "We're distributing 10,000 pounds a month to animal families in need, but it's getting harder to keep up with demand. That's why we appreciate our donors so very much, as well as our volunteers."

Partnerships for Pets

Donna would be the first one to say that SAAFB can't do this job of feeding hungry animals alone. She's passionate about the topic of spaying and neutering to control the animal population, reducing the need for donated food. To that end, SAAFB works closely with Tucson Action Team (TAT), another nonprofit that supports the health and well-being of animals in Tucson. Their mission is to advocate for, promote, and protect the rights and well-being of dogs. Together

with Donna, they spread the word about low-cost spaying and neutering opportunities for families that cannot afford the typical cost of service.

Other SAAFB alliances include the Humane Society of Arizona, the Hermitage Cat Shelter, Gospel Rescue Mission, Sister Jane Women's Shelter, and Santa Cruise Soup Kitchen. Veterinarians, too, are partners in the cause.

How it Works

When someone needs food for their pet, they can fill out an application form at the new store. Office hours are currently 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. Once the request is approved, applicants receive a 30-day supply of pet food. Due to the increased need for animal food assistance, applications per household are limited to four times per year.

Donors Offer Critical Support

"At this time of year, we hope people will consider SAAFB in their year-end giving," said Donna, citing the organization's dependence on monetary gifts from donors to continue serving animals in need. "We so appreciate those whose hearts lead them to SAAFB and those who have a special affinity for animals. Most people do!" she said.

To generate interest and contributions, Donna and her team have come up with a variety of ways for people to give to SAAFB, whether that's a monetary gift or donations of goods for the animals. One way is to host a holiday party where, instead of a gift exchange, people donate food, treats, or pet toys to SAAFB. "We even have companies that host a competition, and the department that generates the most donations gets to have a kettle corn and shaved ice party on us," she said.

She spoke about the scope of donations SAAFB receives. "We get everything from dog and cat food to medications, toys, beds, crates, and household items," she said. The food bank accepts gently used items as well as non-expired pet food from owners whose beloved animals have "crossed the rainbow bridge." The act of giving back to SAAFB in honor of their pets seems to provide some comfort to those who have lost their pets. Donors are invited to add their pet's name to the Rainbow Bridge in the store.

The SAAFB does its best to meet demand, but sometimes things can get tight. Donna is proud of the fact that they've never turned anyone away, but she emphasized that SAAFB cannot sustain itself without the support of the community. "We serve all of Southern Arizona, including Tucson, Three Points, Wilcox, and the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham communities," Donna said. "With the help of our donors, volunteers, and partners, we can make a difference with all the animals we love."

For more information, visit www.saafeb.org 4444 E. Grant Road, Suite 116, Tucson, 85712. Store hours, Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. To donate or volunteer, please visit the website or reach out via email to info@saafeb.org.



Lots of dogs!



The Rainbow Bridge wall at the store.

Training

Having a Safe, Happy & Healthy Holiday Season

Story By Jen Lisk, Jenny Cain & Jeremy Brown of *The Complete Canine*



The holiday season is a time of joy, laughter, and family, furry ones included. But amid the celebrations, the sights, smells, and routines in our homes change dramatically. From rich foods to sparkling décor, it's easy for our pets to get into trouble without us realizing it.

Taking a few proactive steps can make all the difference in keeping your pets safe, healthy, and calm through the hustle and bustle of the holidays.



Common Toxic Holiday Plants

Even small nibbles can cause illness:

- ❖ Poinsettia
- ❖ Mistletoe
- ❖ Holly
- ❖ Amaryllis
- ❖ Lily
- ❖ Ivy



Holiday Dangers to Consider

- ❖ **Poisonous items:** Certain foods, plants, and decorations can be toxic or dangerous if chewed or swallowed.
- ❖ **Too much of a good thing:** Avoid sharing fatty foods, bones, or rawhide treats. Moderation matters!
- ❖ **Holiday decorations:** Tinsel, ornaments, ribbons, and cords can all become choking or entanglement hazards.
- ❖ **Overstimulation:** The holidays can be chaotic. Practice calm listening and obedience in busy environments.

Poisonous Foods to Watch Out For

Keep these foods out of paw's reach:

- ❖ Chocolate
- ❖ High-fat or salty foods (gravy, ham drippings, etc.)
- ❖ Garlic
- ❖ Grapes and raisins
- ❖ Xylitol (found in sugar-free gum and candy)
- ❖ Onions



Pet First Aid and CPR: A Lifesaving Skill

Accidents can happen when we least expect them. Knowing how to perform pet CPR or basic first aid can make all the difference if your dog chokes, swallows something dangerous, or goes into distress.

In a Pet CPR Course, You'll Learn How To:

- ❖ Recognize different types of collapse or unconsciousness
- ❖ Monitor and identify signs of shock
- ❖ Identify signs of cardiac arrest
- ❖ Check for a pulse
- ❖ Give rescue breaths and chest compressions
- ❖ Confidently and effectively administer CPR

These classes are open to everyone, no prerequisites required and are available both online and in person. Even a basic understanding of first aid can buy precious time in an emergency until you reach a vet.

Training and Behavior Prep Before Guests Arrive

A little preparation can prevent big problems once the doorbell starts ringing. The excitement of visitors, decorations, and extra energy can easily overwhelm pets.

For more information contact *The Complete Canine* at:
www.completecaninetucson.com



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Alison Martin

(308) 391.1540

alison@animalsoulconnection.com

www.animalsoulconnection.com

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Tucson, AZ 85739

520-742-6476

www.campbowwow.com/tucson

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Nokillpimacounty.org

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520-655-DOGS (3647)

www.campbowwow.com/tucson-east

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Green Valley 85614 • (520) 625-3170
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www.hermitagecatshelter.org

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(520) 349-8637 or (520) 250-5080
www.safeanimals.com

Saving at Risk Animals

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Information@soazbeaglerescue.com

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www.tucsoncauseforcanines.org

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info@tucsonrescuenow.org

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Equine Sanctuaries

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wildheartsforscrow@gmail.com
www.wildheartsrescue.org

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

Feral Cat Assistance

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www.ironwoodpigs.org

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Pima County Pet Licensing • (520) 724-5969

**Town of Marana Animal Care Services
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Town of Sahuarita Animal Care Services & Pet Licensing
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We and ALL the animals thank you!