

The Tucson

January/February 2024

DOG



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

Cover Story:

No Rhyme or Reason:

**PACC's 5 Longest Stay Dogs
Need Forever Homes Today!**

Features:

**The Animal League of Green Valley Reports:
Kitten Season is Now Year-Round!
& The Importance of Spay and Neuter**

**Plan Ahead! Preparing For Our Pets Future
Wildfires, Hiking Accidents &
Circulating Viruses—Oh My!**

**Shrinking Tusks:
How Poachers are Influencing
the Evolution of Wildlife**

Cats & Horses Too!



This magazine is
FREE
to a good home.

BLAZE



THE TUCSON DOG MAGAZINE
PRESENTS THE 5TH ANNUAL



Sunday April 7th, 2024 10a-3p
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The Leader of the Pack Speaks

Dear Friends and Readers,

WELCOME 2024!! To begin, I want to thank my Tucson Dog family, friends, and readers for your support and express my endless gratitude to our Advertising Partners who without, we would not be here.

In recent weeks, I have been profoundly humbled by those who give their time, hearts, and money to fostering our pets in need. Although I have done my share of temporary fostering, I made the decision to foster a Mum with her seven 3 week old pups. It was an eye-opening experience with a mix of love, exhaustion, and adoration caring for these sweet babies and their lovely Momma. While they grew physically and into their own big personalities, my awe and admiration also grew for those who commit their lives to fostering. I could not have done this successfully without the aid of my friends, family, and PACC's ongoing support. If you're looking for a New Year's resolution and feel the desire to get involved in impacting the lives of our pets in need, contact any of our rescues and shelters listed in the animal resource guide and ask how you can help.

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

We are happy to announce **WOOFSTOCK 2024** Cover Dog Contest in January! So, dress up your rescue dog in his/her best WOOFstock costume and join in the fun! Look for our FaceBook Cover Dog Contest coming soon. The winner will receive a free pet portrait sitting and will be on the cover of the March/April Woofstock edition. **SAVE THE DATE! WOOFSTOCK Adopt-A-Thon 2024** will be held on Sunday, April 7th at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park. Check out the details on page 2. I'm thrilled about our cover story in this issue! We are featuring PACC's 5 longest residents. There is no rhyme or reason as to why they have been overlooked so we've shined the light on these amazing dogs to give them an extra boost in getting them out of shelter life and finding their well-deserved forever homes.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope the year to come is filled with Peace, Love, Furry Cuddles, and Biscuits!
Yours,

Heather McShea
Publisher & Editor-In-Chief



"We must remember that our actions towards animals reflect our humanity. It is our responsibility to be compassionate and kind."

-Velma Bronn Johnston

THANK YOU

FRANCINE, EMMA, JESSICA, & EKRAM
for your support of Dogtoberfest, The Tucson Dog
and all the pets in need of their forever homes.

DONATE

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

Please send donations and your story, if you'd like to share, to:
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In Memory of a Local Rescue Hero, Kelly Comstock

Story and Photos provided by Elizabeth Bailey



In her honor, a Celebration of Life was hosted by Tucson dog volunteer Mariana Parker on Nov 12 at The Shelter in Tucson. Over a hundred of Kelly's friends attended and many spoke in her memory. Guests purchased raffle tickets for items generously donated by Tucson businesses and rescue communities in support of pet rescue. Three of Kelly's favorite Tucson animal rescues each received \$1500 from her fundraiser. In addition, a plaque dedicated in her memory will be placed on prominent display at PACC.

The recipients of Kelly's Fundraiser included The Tucson Wildlife Center, The Tucson Trapping Team where Kelly also volunteered, and Tucson Cold Wet Noses.

Kelly was an innovator in the field of dog rescue who could see the potential in a shy or fearful dog sitting in the corner of a shelter kennel. Her passion led her to organize and start the Decompression Program at PACC to help dogs that were shut down and afraid in the chaos of shelter life. The Decompression Program is a group of volunteers who work exclusively with dogs that would otherwise be overlooked and not chosen for adoption. This program has saved hundreds of dogs by helping them overcome fear and show more of their true potential to be happy family pets.

Kelly also created several Facebook pages to inform the public and market both dogs and cats from PACC. She would spend many hours every week at PACC taking pictures of the dogs and cats and then writing bios of each to post online. As of today, the "PACC Pets Need You" Facebook page for dogs has grown to over 26,000 followers.

In addition to all of her life-saving work with PACC, Kelly was also a volunteer with the Tucson Trapping Team. This group is dedicated to saving lost dogs that are unable to be caught. Some are recently adopted and have escaped. The volunteers spend hours monitoring a humane trap until a dog is trapped and safely home again.

Through Kelly's love and her unwavering dedication, hundreds of dogs were saved in Pima County that would otherwise never have made it. Kelly was a true savior who will be remembered forever for her innovative approach to saving lives. She lives on in the lives of the dogs and cats she saved, and the memories of her fellow rescue heroes.

Kelly Comstock, long-time dedicated volunteer and Founder of the lifesaving Decompression Program at Pima Animal Care Center passed away August 23, 2023, in Tucson.



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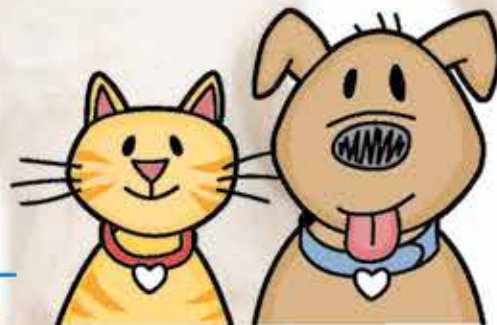


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Photo by M. Kloth

The Tucson **DOG**

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The Tucson Dog Staff & Writers



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



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



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



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



Rebecca West - Staff Writer - Rebecca is a freelance writer and editor for print and digital who loves to travel the globe. A life-long pet owner, she adores animals and has taken part in fostering dogs for military members during deployment. She has given many rescued and surrendered dogs the forever home they always wanted, and her two favorite canine quotes are, "Be the kind of person your dog thinks you are," and "My dog rescued me."



Bonnie Craig - Staff Writer - BonBonnie 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 Kienman's Kindness, a local therapy group that spreads kindness and also trains the Pima County Sheriff Therapy dog program. A Graduate from Indiana University and Applied Animal Behavior from University of Washington. He has four dogs; Archie, Lacey, Louis and Sabine, with the first two being therapy dogs. Email: completecaninetucson@gmail.com



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

THE TUCSON DOG

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The Tucson Dog reserves the right to editorial control of all articles, stories and letters to the Editor. The Tucson Dog assumes no responsibility for errors within its publication. The views herein do not necessarily represent the policies of The Tucson Dog and should not be construed as endorsements. The Tucson Dog was established in June 2017 and is a nonpartisan publication that is published bi-monthly by Heather McShea, Publisher/Editor. Entire contents copyright 2024 by The Tucson Dog. Layout, Design and Graphics by Prescott Design Pro, LLC — Linda Morris, Owner & Designer (928) 642-2609.

Calendar OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Wed. Jan. 3, 17 & 31, 4pm-5pm Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru Vaccine & Microchip Clinic

Low-cost dog/cat vaccines available (distemper/parvo, Bordetella/fvrpc) & microchipping. Cash, Venmo, Zelle, Apple Pay, checks accepted, no debit or credit cards. 2035 E. 17th St., 85719 Pathwaysforpaws.com/join-the-cause-clinics

Sat. Jan. 6, 10am-12pm Southern Arizona Beagle Rescue Playdate in the Park

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

Sat. Jan. 6, 11am-2pm Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary Petco Adoption Event

The 1st Saturday of each month we bring kitties who are ready for adoption, as well as info about us & other upcoming events, to the Petco at 5625 E. River Rd., Tucson 85750. Contact: (520) 571-7839

Sat. Jan. 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. Jan. 6, 11am-2pm Southern Arizona Reptile Rescue & Education Adoption Event

Come find your new scaly friend at the Park Place Mall Reptile Adoption Event! (808) 747-6556 for more info.

Sat. Jan. 6, 11am-2pm Humane Society of S. Arizona Pups in the Plaza Adoption Event

Visit PAWSH Park Place at 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., 85711 to meet your new best friend. Dogs will be available outside of the Victoria's Secret. Get 25% off all PAWSH Merchandise with your adoption.

Sun. Jan. 7, 2pm-4pm Sol Dog Lodge Foster Fair Event

The Sol Dog is hosting a foster fair on behalf of Lost Our Home to take place at 9665 N. Thornydale #140B, 85743. Wonderful people interested in being temporary fosters are invited to come & have questions answered by the Lost Our Home team.

Wed. Jan. 10 Beginning at 6am The Animal League of Green Valley Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic

Low-cost/no-cost spay/neuter options the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1600 W. Duval Mine Rd, Green Valley, AZ. 85614, provided in conjunction with ASAVETS. First come, first served. (520) 625-3170

Sat. Jan. 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. Jan. 13, 11am-2pm Southern Arizona Cat Rescue PetSmart Adoption Event

Most Saturdays you can find us at the PetSmart located at 4374 N. Oracle Rd. with adoptable kitties! Visit sacatrescue.org or FB/IG @sacatrescue for available cats, times, & possible schedule changes.

Sat. Jan. 20, 11am-2pm S. Arizona Reptile Rescue & Education Adoption Event at Bookman's East

Come view adoptable reptiles in the Kids' Books section on Speedway & Wilmot & talk with our adoption team member to see how to get your new scaly friend. Call or text (808) 747-6556 or email as at SoAZReptileRescue@yahoo.com.

Sat. Jan. 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. Jan. 20, 1pm-2pm Puppy Yoga at Barefoot Studio with Pathways for Paws

Enjoy yoga with adoptable puppies! Located at 7053 N. Oracle Rd., visit Barefoot Studio's website at barefootstudio.yoga for tickets! No experience required.

Sat. Jan. 20, 11am-3pm Pathways for Paws K9 Adoption Event at Bookman's East

Every 3rd Saturday the public is invited to come find their next furry friend at Bookman's East located in Tucson at 6230 E. Speedway Blvd.

Sun. Jan. 28, 6pm-8pm Paws-n-Heels 3rd Annual Fundraiser Drag Show for PACC

Produced by Friends of PACC, come support Pima County shelter animals at Barrio Brewing Co., 800 E. 16th St, Tucson, 85719. For ticket info & more details, keep your eyes peeled on their social media pages.

FEBRUARY

Sat. Feb. 3, 11am-2pm Humane Society of S. Arizona Pups in the Plaza Adoption Event

Visit PAWSH Park Place at 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., 85711 to meet your new best friend. Dogs will be available outside of the Victoria's Secret. Get 25% off all PAWSH Merchandise with your adoption.

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Wed. Feb. 7, 9:30am-11am Therapeutic Riding of Tucson Veterans Coffee Social

Come socialize with other Veterans, learn about what your community has to offer, & meet new people each Wednesday this month at TROT located at 8920 E. Woodland Rd., Tucson, 85749, where we'll have coffee, snacks, & laughter! No RSVP required.

Sat. Feb. 10, 1pm-2pm Kitten Yoga at Barefoot Studio with Southern Arizona Cat Rescue

Located at 7053 N. Oracle Rd., visit Barefoot Studio's website at barefootstudio.yoga for tickets! No experience needed; just come hang out with kittens!

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Wed. Feb. 14 & 28, 4pm-5pm Pathways for Paws Drive-Thru Vaccine & Microchip Clinic

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Sat. Feb. 17, 11am-2pm Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter Adoption Event at Bookman's East

The 3rd Saturday of each month we bring kitties who are ready for adoption, along with info about us & other upcoming events to Bookman's East at 6230 E. Broadway Blvd. Contact: (520) 571-7839

Sun. Feb 18, 10am-11:30 am Tucson Subaru Pets of Pima Parade & Friends of PACC Festival

Come strut your stuff down 4th Ave. during the 3rd Annual Pets of Pima Parade! You can walk on your own, with family, a group of friends, or in a team with coworkers at 2024. 4th Ave. District. petsofpimaparade.com

Fri. Feb. 23, 5pm-9pm 10th Annual Design for Dogs Fundraising Builders Event

A family-friendly event featuring a custom "design & build" doghouse competition with food, music, drinks, prizes & a silent auction benefitting the Arizona Animal Welfare League & the SPCA. For more info, visit designfordogs.org.

Sat. Feb. 24, Painting with Pigs at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary!

This one-of-a-kind activity will take place in the shaded area outside the Ironwood welcome center with friendly pig rescues keeping you company as you paint. A portion of proceeds from each ticket will go toward Ironwood's mission! 34656 E. Crystal Visions Rd., Marana, AZ (520) 579-8847 for more info

Sun. Feb 25, 4:30pm-9pm Tucson Wildlife's Center's Annual Fundraiser Benefit Born to Be Wild

Help support Tucson & Southern Arizona's only wildlife rescue hospital by attending their annual benefit including a silent auction, dinner, & live auction held at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. Visit tucsonwildlife.com/2024-benefit or call (520) 290-9453 for more info.



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Dogs Rehabilitating Dogs

Training

Adopting a Senior Dog Understanding, Training, and Expectations

Story by Jeremy Brown, *The Complete Canine*

Sadly, if you go to any shelter you will find many senior dogs waiting for a new “forever” home. Giving these guys a place to live out their last years can be a very rewarding experience and knowing what to expect will make yours and their experience even better.

Adopting a senior dog can

be substantially different from a puppy or a younger dog, so let’s look at some things that will set them up for success.

Some things you should consider are their healthcare, treatments if needed, nutritional options and exercise as well. Giving them a little more time and space to help them settle into their new life is always a great thing to do. Give them their own space, like a kennel or room that is quiet and even dark if they prefer. Training is an amazing tool to enhance relationships, build bonds, set expectations, and problem-solve as needed.

on “marking” the positive behaviors and the negative behaviors to simplify things for them. I typically use “yes” or a clicker for positive actions and “ehh ehh” or “no” depending on the handler, for the negative behaviors, but I find “ehh ehh” typically works better for most dogs. They don’t need to know every command in the book but some basics like “watch me”, “leave it” and “stay” could be pivotal for future situations. I’ve seen 10-year-old dogs become therapy dogs for the first time, as well as many other amazing accomplishments. So remember, just because they’re older, it doesn’t mean that they can’t learn anything new! They typically want to please us, so give them a reason to. Creating a bond with them allows for new experiences and training to become easier.



Lacey



Lacey

be substantially different from a puppy or a younger dog, so let’s look at some things that will set them up for success.

Some things you should consider are their healthcare, treatments if needed, nutritional options and exercise as well. Giving them a little more time and space to help them settle into their new life is always a great thing to do. Give them their own space, like a kennel or room that is quiet and even dark if they prefer. Training is an amazing tool to enhance relationships, build bonds, set expectations, and problem-solve as needed.

Understanding their past:

I love to evaluate these new situations and help bring success to the new family unit by trying our best to understand their behaviors based on their past and what we know about them. This allows us to make sure we don’t put them in situations that could be harmful to them or others.



Sandy

In many cases, we know their past, and this affords us to find the best possible tips and training to guide them through their new life. As often as not, we don’t know a great deal, if any, of their history and it could appear that they’ve endured more difficulties than most. Giving them extra time to adjust to their new space is important and having a place for themselves that’s safe and separated can make them feel more at ease. A covered kennel, a calming collar, a pheromone plug-in, and thunder shirts are just a few items that may help calm them and relieve the stress of a new environment. Consult a trainer to find the best possible way for each situation when needed. Remember that they are in a new environment and may be doing new activities for the first time. They may have been a dog who was left at home or in a yard so going to a busy place can be tough. If so, I suggest going slowly with socializing and outings. It may be a dog who is not comfortable or familiar with physical touch, it’s important that they become comfortable with human interaction so that Vet visits and grooming will be as safe and easy as possible. Reward-based training will help to show them when a situation, person, or action is a positive one.

Age is nothing but a number:

Training can be done at any stage of a canine’s life, and while sometimes it can be harder if they’ve practiced “bad” behaviors for a while, it’s still doable. Teaching new things, and practicing what they already know, will instill confidence and build trust in their new handler. Knowing when they are right and when they are wrong can be their biggest game changer, so we work



Marley

Suggestions and Considerations for a Senior Dog:

I always consider their health, if they need medications or have special needs, and what they’ve been through. Walks and exercise are still vital and can continue to extend their lives. I also like to use puzzles and feeding in a way that compels them to use their nose and brains to work harder than their bodies. Believe it or not, these types of exercises can burn more energy than a walk. Nose work and tricks classes can be fun to bring about movement and bring out natural behaviors without overdoing it physically. Socializing in their new life is something that I often talk

about. Understand that they might need you to train them or introduce them in a slower way to things they’ve never done before. For example, they may have never been to a groomer or a Veterinarian before, and walking on a leash or being around other dogs may be new to them. Please consider that if they’re in pain, they will have less patience with other dogs and people as well. Being a natural den animal, having their own space will help them thrive, therefore, kennel training can be one of the best things you can do for them. I always advise that their kennel is not a place for punishment, but a space where they have a quiet area that feels safe.

Setting boundaries and building your relationship are important factors when you do even a little training with a new senior family member. There are many variables when it comes to adoption, just remember to have realistic expectations and move as slowly as needed to help guide them through their new life. Old dogs can learn new tricks, remember that!

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

A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

All the dogs on these pages are available for adoption now. If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends, please contact the group listed with the picture.

Pima Animal Care Center

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

LOHI ID#A821448

I'm Lohi! I arrived as a stray in September, & I've been charming everyone since with my cute freckles & happy smile. I'm a 5 y/o boy who loves to play ball, walks (they say I walk very nicely on a leash!), & get a good butt rub. I'd like to meet any resident dogs to make sure we're going to be best buddies!



JACK ID#A825202

My name's Jack! I'm 5 y/o & I'm a bit scared in this big shelter; after all, I'm just a little guy! I can be shy at first, but I'm a sweet boy once I have the chance to get to know you. I've been sharing my kennel with other doggies since I got to PACC, & I would love to have a canine friend in my new home, too!



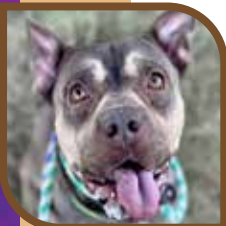
SHEBA ID#A593115

My name is Sheba! I'm an elegant older (8 y/o) Shepherd lady looking for a place where I can be pampered in my golden years! I am house & crate trained, & my volunteer friends say I'm very loving & affectionate, plus I know lots of commands, too!



MAGEE ID#A823381

If you're looking for a loving, playful, adorable companion, look no further than ME! I'm a 4 y/o boy found tied up in a vet clinic's parking lot, so I've been someone's dog before. I enjoy kisses, playtime with people & dogs, & walks. I also know tricks like "sit," "watch me," & "paw." I'm the complete package!



PACHECO ID#A803238

It's true what you've heard; I'm the best boy ever! I'm about 2 y/o, & according to folks here, I'm a FAVORITE! It's probably cuz I'm very sweet & have a goofy, adorable personality you can't help but love. I'd like to meet any potential doggy roommates before heading home to make sure it's a good fit.



BEAST

Thought to be around 9 y/o, I'm a pretty easygoing guy who gets along very well with other dogs. I have a heart murmur (not uncommon for dogs my age/breed) requiring medication, but otherwise I'm A-okay. I had a dental cleaning while in rescue & recovered very well. I'd love to love on you if you'd let me!



Humane Society of Southern Arizona

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

HORTENSE ID#935737

I'm a spirited 1.6 y/o Shepherd mix girl who weighs about 65 lbs. My ideal day consists of a mix of adventures and cuddle sessions. Always up for a good romp, when the sun sets, I transform into a sweet, affectionate companion, ready to shower my forever family with love.



NAYELI ID# 934553

I'm a bubbly 1 y/o pibble with a heart full of love & a tail that never stops wagging. A quick learner, with the right guidance, I'm ready to become the best companion you ever had. Playtime is my absolute favorite, but I love curling up with my humans for some quality cuddle time, too.



PRICKLY PEAR ID#932878

I'm a 4 y/o Australian cattle dog girl who loves attention & affection from humans. I'll need a dog intro due to my selectivity. My ideal home would be the only pet that will go slow with interactions until I adjust. I'm 28 lbs., current on shots, & spayed. Please ask about me.



The Animal League of Green Valley

Adoption fee: \$85 • Appts 10-2 daily • 520-625-3170

WALTER

I'm a 3 y/o, 75 lb. black Lab mix male who is tolerant of other dogs but I do prefer two-legged friends. I love walking & my crate (sometimes I even lie on top of it). If you want a well-behaved, mild-mannered, respectful & handsome guy, here I am! Please call about me.



LILA

I'm a 3 y/o Husky mix lady that is blind due to glaucoma. Even though I can't see, I can easily find my way around the house & I enjoy the company of other dogs. At TALGV I use the doggie door for potty breaks. My happiness is good food, a soft bed, & a family to love. Please call about me soon!



Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary

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

MAX

I'm a 3 y/o lab mix who'd do best as an only dog or another well-matched pup who shares my energy level & is ok with my "pushy" play style. I'm a GEM with people, super intelligent, & easy to train. I'd be great for a moderately active person / family with older kids. Housebroken & leash/crate trained, I'll need a secure yard. I'm also available for foster to adopt & come with a free training session!



From the Director's Desk



Kitten Season is Now Year-Round! The Importance of Spay and Neuter

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

WHEN IS KITTEN SEASON?

Cats are usually referred to as seasonal breeders. This means they typically have their heat cycles from February to August.

adopted from a shelter. As such, kittens are now sterilized as early as two months of age. To many people this seems too young; however, to not sterilize and run the risk of a kitten getting pregnant is too high of a risk to take.

Cats can get pregnant when they're as young as 4 months old and they can technically have up to 5 litters a year. Between 5 and 9 months of age, your female cat may begin to howl and crave more attention from you. This is referred to as going into heat. She is vocalizing her mating call, trying to attract a suitor. She can actually mate with several males during a single heat cycle. On average, cats give birth to four to six kittens in a litter and can have up to 250 kittens in their lifetime.

Nikki

Remember when people would refer to such a time period? People would associate spring and warming temperatures with frolicking kittens. Well, kitten season at The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) is now year-round. We have been taking in kittens every month for the past 36 months! Three years of non-stop kittens.

It all started in January 2021, when we took in 6 kittens who were all over 2 months old and 2 pounds. Those are the magic numbers to decide whether or not a kitten can stay in-house or whether it has to go in a foster home, where they get 24/7 care and attention. Neonatal kittens (birth to 3 weeks of age) must be bottle-fed if there is no mother. Thankfully, some foster parents are willing to bottle-feed kittens, which is a daunting job. The foster must be willing to feed every two hours. I can't imagine that these people get much sleep. We had 80 neonates come into TALGV this year. Some had mothers, but many did not.



Buzz - 2 weeks old



2 days old

As a responsible pet owner, you will want to spay/neuter your cat. Not only do you run the risk of having kittens, but your unspayed female is also at risk of developing a pyometra, a potentially fatal infection of the uterus, or ovarian cancer.

In 2021, TALGV had 185 kittens come in through their doors. Some were discovered as strays, some were relinquished by their owners, and yet others were found abandoned at the shelter, usually in cardboard boxes with holes punched in them. At the time, we were shocked at the number of kittens. That was until 2022 when 356 kittens were surrendered to TALGV. This was close to double the previous year. Thankfully, we will not double 2022's number for 2023. Through November of this year, we have taken in a total of 333 kittens. In June alone, we had 61 kittens come into TALGV, 41 of which had to go into foster homes. Amazingly, we had enough caring, dedicated foster volunteers to handle this immense number of kittens.



Whispurr



Cloud

If you need assistance with the cost of spaying or neutering your cat, TALGV can help. You may call our Outreach Department (520-625-3785) and get a certificate for certain veterinarians. You will have to pay a copay, but it is much less than the cost of spaying and neutering. Otherwise, there is a non-profit organization called ASAVET that TALGV

partners with. ASAVET is a non-profit mobile veterinary clinic that parks at TALGV once a month. It is first come, first serve. You get in line with your cat (in a carrier) or dog (on a leash). ASAVET takes about 25-30 animals. We will also throw in vaccinations. It is a great deal, and you will not have to worry about your cat having kittens.

For information about when ASAVET will next be at TALGV, please call our office at 520-625-3170

For more information about The Animal League of Green Valley go to <https://talgv.org/>



The Scratching Post: Cats for Adoption

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

Humane Society of Southern Arizona
Main Campus: 520-327-6088 ext. 173
Meet: 635 West Roger Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705



FANNI ID# 673756

I'm a sweet 13 y/o gal who loves getting pets & treats from my humans! I enjoy spending my days lounging on cat trees & chasing mouse toys & I adore ear scratches, chin rubs, & the occasional belly scratch or two. I'm looking for my forever home where I can be pampered.



MAMBO ID#668054

I'm a chonky 13 y/o boy on a weight-loss journey. Now, I have the agility to leap & engage in lively play with my toys again. Cuddling is a big part of me, & I find pure joy in sitting & listening to song birds. When I crave attention, you'll definitely hear me express myself, as I'm quite chatty.

The Animal League of Green Valley
Adoption fee: \$45 • TALGV Appts 10-2 daily • 520-625-3170



RENEGADE

I'm a handsome 3 y/o tabby boy who likes to have my striped coat brushed. Here at The League, I enjoy sleeping in my cubby & eating lots of good food. The volunteers are nice to me & I love it when they scratch my cheeks. If you'd like a mellow boy to pamper, please call about me.



AVILA

I'm a 13 y/o senior lady with a beautiful Tortoiseshell coat that comes with Vet Care Support for Life! After living at 4 different homes, I'm ready for a peaceful place with no other pets or kids. If you need a feline companion to share your quiet home & lap with, please call about meeting me.

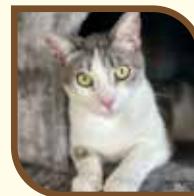
Pima Animal Care Center

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



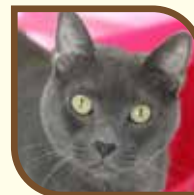
SCOOTER ID#A793439

I'm Scooter, & I'm about a year old. I'm an introvert, so I'm a little shy at first with new people, but I love my kitty friends & am known to enjoy a good cuddle here & there. I was hurt when I was a kitten & they say I have something called mild paresis in my hindlimbs, but it doesn't bother me; I still love to run & climb cat trees!



WONKA ID#A786135

My nicknames are Wonks, Wonky, & Wonkers. I'm about 1.5 y/o & hanging out in foster care. I've recovered from some injuries & am looking for a home. My foster mom says I'm a silly guy with a funny walk & a springy tail. I've been around other cats but I may prefer to be an only child.



GRAYSON ID#A821136

I'm 9 y/o Grayson, & as an older guy, shelter life has made me really anxious. I'm taking some medicine for anxiety these days, & it's helping a lot! Since then, staff have learned that I love attention & snacks! I'd really love a quiet home where I can unwind & receive some lovin'!



ELIXIR ID#A825611

I'm ready to be the magic elixir that makes your life great! I'm a 9 y/o gal recently surrendered. My family said I'm affectionate & described me as a "refrigerator gargoyle" who loves to keep an eye on things from above! I've done well with kids & other kitties in my previous home.



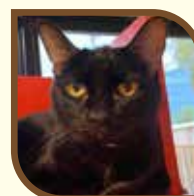
ARTI ID#A821373

I'm Arti. I'm just 8 months old, & I've lived most of my life outside. I came to PACC because I had a kitty cold, & they quickly learned I'm a total lovebug of a fella & will melt into your hands for love! I'd love to find a home where I can be a loved pet.

Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary

5278 E. 21st St., Tucson 85711

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



EMPRESS

Hi! My regal-self is called Empress (of course!) & I am 12 y/o. I came back to The Hermitage recently when my human couldn't care for me anymore. I love humans, cuddles, & scritchies! I don't like cats, dogs, or getting up early. Need a queen? I can help!



ABACUS

I'm Abacus, & I'm 16 y/o. I've had trouble finding my forever family, but I hope to find them soon. While I prefer to be an only-cat, I do love humans & snoozing on sunny spots & ear scritchies & treats! Come meet me & see if I can steal your heart!

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Cover Story

No Rhyme or Reason: PACC's 5 Longest Stay Dogs Need Forever Homes Today!

Story by: Rebecca West

Photographs by: Candice Eaton

Oftentimes, when it comes to shelter dogs, there is no rhyme or reason as to why some seem to get adopted relatively quickly, as opposed to others who can languish for months and even years before finding homes. It's a riddle rescues have been puzzling over with no clear answers as yet.

Many animals do not cope well in a shelter or kennel environment and, in turn, may appear shut down or aloof to visitors looking to adopt. When this happens, potential forever families can't see the true nature of the canine and all its potential. Others are just so excited at the prospect of someone to love they spaz out during introductions and can come across as too high-strung to consider. Some appear on an even keel with still no luck.

One thing all adopters should be aware of is that most animals will need at least a week to behave like their real selves after a decompression period. This could mean they are higher energy than first exhibited or the complete opposite. It helps when you can gather some insight from their day-to-day handlers on the inside before taking the plunge.

That's what we set about doing for the five wonderful doggos highlighted here that represent some of PACC's longest-stay canines that we have made our mission to see adopted in 2024. While there are dogs up for adoption at PACC that have technically been admitted before these five, those pups have had the benefit of stints in foster care, allowing them long stretches outside the shelter itself.

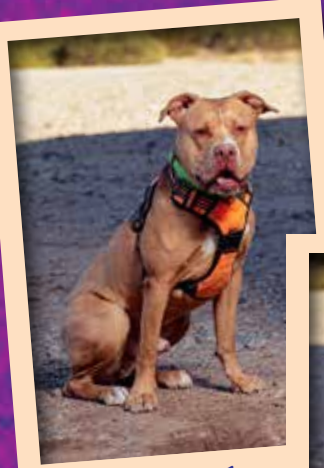
We're hoping our readers will share these animals' stories with friends, family, and acquaintances who might be looking for a furry friend of their own. To help persuade folks that now is as good a time as any to adopt, we've reached out to product and service providers in the area to donate their time, items, or talents to adopters to help sweeten the deal if they are adopted within the next four months. We've listed the perks at the bottom of the page, but they include free training sessions for interested parties.

Adoption

If you're interested in adopting any of these lovely puppies, email pacc.adopt@pima.gov for any questions regarding the adoption process. If you believe one of these animals is your lost pet, visit PACC during regular business hours to reclaim them or email pacclostfound@pima.gov.

If the animals are *successfully adopted by April 30, 2024, they are eligible to receive products and services from the following:

- The Complete Canine Training Center
- Capturing EveryBuddy Pet Photography
- Dogs-n-Donuts
- The Packs Snacks
- Bella's Gelato
- Sol Dog Lodge
- Gaia Provides
- Luna Scrub CBD products
- GreytEscape
- Stardog Style
- Animal Soul Connection
- Camp Bow Wow
- BarkBox
- My Spirits Journey Pet Reiki



Daruk
A781660



Blanca
A805459



Blaze
A804929



DARUK

A781660

Kennel #D011

Stats:

Neutered male Pit Bull Terrier

Weight: Approximately 57.00 lbs.

Age: About 1.11 years old

Daruk is a handsome, athletic dog who was rescued after getting caught in a fence. While he appreciated being brought to safety, truth be told, shelter life isn't for him. He's ready to pack his tennis balls and chew bones, and move into his forever home today.

Daruk's an affectionate boy who sometimes thinks he's lap-dog-sized and wants to squeeze in for some scratches, so make room! When meeting other dogs in the playgroup, he is social and tolerant. He can be a bit dog-selective, so he'd like to meet any resident dogs before heading home to ensure it's a good fit — and humbly requests that you have plenty of string cheese on hand!

Volunteer input:

"I've been walking Daruk 2-3 times a week, and he's doing great. He's always waiting eagerly at his kennel door to go out but is calm and easy to leash. He exits his kennel smoothly and is great out on his walk. He's athletic and strong but not a major puller. He's one of my favorite dogs to walk!"

"Daruk enjoys treats, especially string cheese. He's a fun boy who's working on cues. He is very focused and also gives great puppy kisses. He is very sweet and a real pleasure to walk."

"Today, I took Daruk for a walk. Walking loose leash, Daruk sat when asked, accepted treats gently, and sat calmly while I gave him head and ear scratches."

continued on next page



OREO

A809954
Kennel #D036

Stats:

Neutered male Pit Bull Terrier
Weight: Approximately 66.75 lbs.
Age: About 2.8 years old

Oreo came to PACC with an injury and spent some time in the clinic. When he first moved to the main shelter floor, he was a bit shell-shocked by the noise and all the hustle and bustle, but he gradually figured out the routine. An active fellow, if you're looking for a pal to join you on your explorations and adventures, Oreo's your guy!

Volunteer input:

"Oreo was quite stressed when he arrived, but he's mellowed into a wonderful walking companion. He is often up on the gate when I pass by but immediately drops with a solid four-on-the-floor when I move to open the door. He is calm as I enter and leashes easily. Once outside, he sets a quick pace in his explorations. He checks in regularly with good eye contact and will wait patiently for a treat (gentle mouth). On return, Oreo enters his kennel without any fuss, and unleashing is easy. He still needs some polish on his leash manners but is otherwise a fine dog who loves exploring."

"I met Oreo when he was first released from the clinic, and he had quite a few wounds and scars. Despite his injured appearance, I found him to be a delightful companion easy to spend time with. He's not that interested in other dogs when out walking, but he does enjoy exploring and seems to have a high prey drive for little critters (lizards, rodents, birds), so he'd do best in a home without small pets. He's a great little dude with a happy, adventurous outlook. Bet he'd love some couch time, too!"



dogs before heading home to ensure a good fit. Blanca's looking for a home with a secure yard and a family committed to keeping her safe.

Volunteer input:

"Blanca is an energetic, happy puppy. She jumps for joy when I approach her kennel, but with a few tossed treats, she settles with all four paws on the floor. She loves exploring all the interesting sights and smells, checking in regularly with good eye contact. She loves treats and will go into a solid 'sit' when she decides she needs a little snack. With a wagging tail and huge smile, it's very hard to say no. She takes treats gently, and once satisfied, she is ready and eager to continue our explorations.

"She is quite comfortable with touch, and I get a good tail wag when I call her a good girl. She was initially somewhat reactive to other dogs (some leash pulling), but that seems to have passed and is now responsive to verbal cues ('leave it'). Blanca is an intelligent young pup who would do great with an experienced partner who can guide her with some simple training. She will make a joyful companion for some lucky adopter."

continued on next page



BLANCA

A805459
Kennel #D036

Stats:

Spayed female
Pit Bull Terrier mix
Weight: Approximately 49.00 lbs.
Age: About 1.9 years old

Blanca is an incredible girl who arrived at PACC as a very skinny stray in need of feeding. She's definitely appreciating the regular meals she's getting now and has adjusted to the daily routine of shelter life. Blanca shares her kennel with another PACC pup, Oreo, and is overall tolerant when meeting other dogs in playgroup. She can be a bit shy but turns to handlers for reassurance and has built up her confidence.

In fact, she now assists in evaluations for incoming dogs and is considered a valuable helper dog who assists the handlers in determining where the incomers stand regarding temperament and confidence. She'd also like to meet any resident



Bing
A805396



Oreo
A809954



BING

A805396
Kennel #D053

Stats:

Neutered male Pit Bull Terrier mix
Weight: Approximately 62.50 lbs.
Age: About 5 years old

This handsome boy was found as a stray but kept popping up at the same home, looking for food and shelter. He's smart enough to ask for help when he needs it! Looking for a slower-paced lifestyle, he loves his daily walks, taking time to smell all the good smells and check out the sights. Bing isn't about life in the fast lane.

When initially meeting other dogs in playgroup, Bing mainly kept to himself, so he'd like to meet any resident dogs before heading home to ensure it's a good fit. Bing is more interested in people than other dogs. He enjoys off-site day trips and is comfortable and friendly, but doesn't go overboard when meeting people. In fact, he's very gentle and sweet, rolling at his own slower pace.

Volunteer input:

"I've walked Bing since he's been at PACC, and he's really come around. Bing was head-shy when he first came in, but the last time I had him out, we stopped for a bit, and he allowed me to pet all over his head and even nestled up against me. He's a very stoic guy, so I was so happy to see him both want and give affection. He walks well and likes to stop and smell quite a bit. I'm very fond of this guy and hopeful that his home is out there."

"I walk past Bing's kennel every day, and he barks at me for attention. I toss treats, and he can catch them in the air. I work on 'Bark-Shush' but mostly the 'Shush' part. When he barks, I let him sniff the treat. When he stops barking, I say 'yes' and give him the treat, and each day he is barking much less. He's a smart boy who learns quickly!"



BLAZE

A804929
Kennel #D196

Stats:

Neutered male Pit Bull Terrier mix
Weight: Approximately 65.00 lbs
Age: About 1.10 years old

Blaze is another sweet boy who is not cut out for shelter life. He's looking for a family who will help him continue to build his growing confidence and be patient with him as he adjusts to a new environment. He'd like to meet all members of the family before heading home. When meeting other dogs in playgroup, Blaze is playful but can be a bit of a bulldozer, so an introduction with any resident dogs is recommended.

In the shelter, he can come off as a bit reserved, but in a home environment he's a completely different pup, full of love and kisses. During walks, he can pull on his leash initially but settles down quickly. He's very playful and energetic and likes to chase lizards and play fetch with tennis balls. Due to his higher prey drive, he may not be well-suited to cats.

Volunteer input:

"I learned something new about Blaze: he likes to cuddle! Like all his usual walks, he was busy sniffing all the good smells. When I squatted down to pet him, he stopped what he was doing immediately and leaned against me. I massaged his ears, chest, and butt. I always knew he was sweet, and now he's officially a cuddler!"

"Blaze is a sweet guy who's easy to leash. Once away from the noisy kennels, he really relaxed. We went into the play yard, and once I sat down, Blaze immediately came over and rubbed his side against my legs for pets. He was really happy to get affection and seems like a sensitive guy. Very endearing personality and easy to bring back to his kennel."



Pets of Pima Parade & Friends of PACCC Festival

4th Ave District • Sun, Feb 18, 2024

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

Segments & Checkpoints



Raising Cane's Proce-sión de los Perros:

Dogs rule during this Parade segment. Hundreds of canines—cool, cuddly and cute—will strut their stuff down 6th Ave. Some will be all dressed up, and some will just be the adorable way nature made them. Among the highlights of the procession will be the march of the PACC Fosters and the ride of the wheelie dogs from A Loyal Companion.



TEP Cat Convoy:

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

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



Central Pet Prize

Packs: Register for the Parade and raise money to support PACC to win amazing prizes for you and your pets, including a unique keepsake called a Petsicle—a charming photo of your pet to Parade with. The more money you raise, the cooler the prizes! All prizes are courtesy of Central Pet.



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



CORBETT'S

TUCSON, AZ
PROVISIONS, PICKLEBALL, LIVE MUSIC, BEER GARDEN

Corbett's VIP Deck:

Offering a VIP experience with the best views of the parade, great food, and specially themed beverages, Corbett's elevated deck is the THE place to watch the parade and admired all the amazing pets. The VIP Deck will be an exclusive ticketed event with a max capacity of 150— so don't miss out!



Friends of PACCC Festival:

Stay after the Parade for more free fun. Featuring entertainment, activities, food trucks and adoptions, as well as dozens of vendors with pet-themed arts and crafts.



HSL Properties Adoption Extravaganza:

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



Festival Stage:

Great live entertainment, courtesy of Arizona Music Connection, along with the Pinups for PACC pageant. Contests and prizes can be found on the stage, immediately after the Parade.

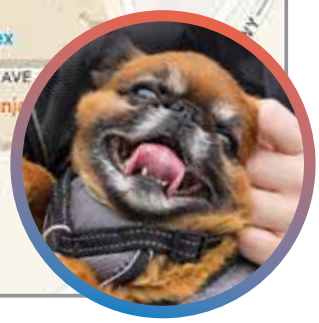


Pets of Pima Parade

Friends of PACCC Festival



Scan the QRC for the digital map & to sign up your PACK today!
PetsOfPimaParade.com



Form Your Pack!

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

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

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

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

Why is Friends of PACCC producing this event?

Friends of PACCC produces the Tucson Subaru Pets of Pima Parade & Friends of PACCC Festival, driven by a heartfelt mission: to support the lifesaving work of Pima Animal Care Center (PACC). Each registration helps aid homeless and vulnerable animals in our community. This event is more than a celebration of our bond with pets; it's a vital lifeline for those in need. Join us in creating a better future for our animal companions in Pima County. To learn more, scan the QRC above.

Event made possible by Friends of PACCC and these sponsors:



Donkeys for Protecting Sheep? Yup, & They're Darn Good at It!

Story by: Rebecca West

When it comes to guarding flocks, we're used to thinking of herding dogs born and bred for the purpose of overseeing the health and welfare of their charges, whether they be sheep or other forms of farm animals. They are devoted to their job and will fight to the death, if need be, to keep them safe.

One example is a 3-year-old great Pyrenees in Georgia named Casper, who made headlines last year after ferociously fighting off a large pack of coyotes to protect the flock of sheep in his care. Left on death's door after the brutal event, he was nursed back to health and is now in the running for a "Dog of the Year" competition due to his unwavering service. Casper is now one of five finalists for the American Farm Bureau's "Farm Dog of the Year: People's Choice Pup" contest.



As it turns out, it's not just dogs that make stellar livestock guardians. In recent years, donkeys have been making headlines for their contributions to farm or ranch work by stepping in as defenders to take on the role of kickass knights in shining armor when it comes to standing guard and protection. In fact, they are well suited for the position.

Not only are they as loud as a civil defense siren, but they've got sharp hooves, strong teeth, and can kick like a mule if need be. Sheep farmers have turned to them with increasing frequency here in the States and abroad over the last few decades. One recent example comes from a farm in Perth, Australia, where as many as 30 sheep were killed in one night by wild dogs. Since the farm owner, a man by the name of Butch Pilley, introduced two "trained donkeys" to work as guardian animals, not a single loss has been recorded on his property.

"The impact that the donkeys have had has been quite remarkable," admitted Pilley during one interview. Prior to that, the dogs had been slaughtering adult sheep and dozens of lambs on a regular basis. "One year, we lost around 250 lambs with a follow-on impact on ewes lambing in the



following years," he added. "So, the cost could easily add up to \$30,000, plus the stress of having to come down every morning and find your sheep dead or maimed."

Pilley and other local farmers had incurred significant losses in livestock from these wild dog attacks, resulting in economic, welfare, and even emotional costs. "You could come down to a paddock in the morning and find 20 to 30 sheep killed in one night," Pilley noted. Then, a small miracle came in the form of a trial sponsored by the Local Land Services (LLS) when they introduced the trained donkeys. The impact was immediate.

"Since we've started, there have been no attacks from wild dogs on sheep with the donkeys in the mob ... it's been a great outcome," stated Paul Gibb, LLS's biosecurity officer. "Donkeys are well-matched against a wild dog and can be quite aggressive. They can strike at a [wild] dog with their feet and grab it with their mouths, so they're very good defensive animals."

Anyone thinking of employing this deterrent method should know that there is one caveat: according to the LLS, while donkeys are very well suited for the job, they need to be carefully bonded with livestock before ushering them out there to act as hooved crime fighters. It's said that the donkey's herding instinct, combined with its inherent dislike and aggressiveness towards coyotes and dogs, can make it an effective livestock guard animal.



According to ontariosheep.org, "Donkeys are gaining in popularity due to their relatively low cost, minor maintenance requirements, longevity, and their compatibility with other predator control methods. Donkeys also offer the additional advantage in that they can be fed in much the same manner as sheep."

Today, sheep producers in Australia, the U.S., and western Canada have successfully used donkeys as guard animals, protecting sheep from predation by wolves, coyotes, and dogs. The Ontario Predator Study, 1995, reported that about 70 percent of the donkeys being used were rated as either excellent or good in terms of providing flock protection.

For a visual aid as to their prowess when it comes to herding/guarding skills, this video from A-Z Animals shows the level of security they can provide with this non-violent confrontation between a donkey and two relatively friendly-looking dogs that encounter the sheep in its care. You can access it via <https://a-z-animals.com/blog/see-a-donkey-protect-a-herd-of-sheep-from-2-pitbulls/>.



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National Make A Friend Day!

Story by Meganne Carpenter Regional Scout Camp Bow Wow Tucson East

Photo: Make A Friend Day CampBowWow



February 11th is National Make a Friend Day! Just like people, some dogs hit it off right away and some need time to get to know each other. To celebrate National Make a Friend Day, we wanted to share tips on proper dog-to-dog greetings and what to look for to help your pup make new friends this year.

Dog greetings are very different from human greetings, so it's important to be able to identify polite greetings in dogs. Signs to look for in a polite greeting:

- Curved bodies on approach
- Approaching at an angle (not straight on)
- Loose bodies and jaws
- Sniffing each other's rear ends
(This is a normal and healthy greeting for dogs)

Dogs who greet other dogs in an impolite or rude manner may do so for many reasons including overexcitement, fear, or simply not being exposed to other dogs enough to have learned what's polite. Impolite greetings should be interrupted and not allowed to continue. Signs to look for in an impolite greeting are:

- Approaching straight on (face to face)
- Rushing or stalking
- Stiff body posture
- Placing the head over the other dog's back or shoulders

When you start noticing these signs, separate the dogs immediately and decide if you would like to continue with the greeting.

Now that you know what to look for when introducing new friends to your pup, here are

some tips on how to facilitate a meet and greet with another dog.

- Walking dogs together first, one handler per dog, and keeping at least 10 ft between the dogs to start can help them check each other out before an official meeting
- Allowing slow, short greetings through a barrier (such as a fence) can be easier to control. Always make sure you have at least one person handling each dog you never want to try and introduce two dogs with just one person available.
- Use the 3-second rule for greetings, meaning, allow dogs to sniff for 3 seconds, then move the dogs apart. Reward dogs when they separate for a break to encourage the use of breaks in the future. Make sure you watch your dog's body language and stop a meet and greet if they become overstimulated, fearful, or uncomfortable with the other dog's approach.

Having a healthy social life is important for humans and dogs alike. Some great places to meet new friends with your pup are the dog park, doggy day care, puppy socials, dog-friendly community events, and walks around your neighborhood. We wish you and your pup the best while you search for new furry friends!

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Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue is 25 this year!

Story by Melissa Barrow, Photos provided by DLRR



A Labrador color palette

It's a celebration year for this Phoenix-based organization; they started in October of 1999, so they will celebrate their 25th year in October of 2024! The whole mission of this group revolves around their love for this breed and their determination not to see any of them homeless. Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue (DLRR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving, life-long homes for displaced Labrador Retrievers. They provide medical care and/or rehabilitation for the dogs and then match them with approved permanent homes. They also provide Labrador Retriever breed and training information on request, a service which greatly improves the odds of successful adoptions. They do their part to help eliminate animal overpopulation through public education, and by requiring the spaying and neutering of all of their rehomed dogs.

DLRR operates as a network of volunteers, which extends to Tucson and up North in Prescott and Flagstaff as well. To date, they've rehomed 5000 labs, rescued from a mix of shelters and owner surrenders from homes that were no longer able or willing to care for them. Due to the chronic problem of overcrowding



Marley and Milly — adoptable siblings

at shelters, DLRR is often the last refuge for Labs to avoid being euthanized.

DLRR is entirely funded through donations from the public, grants, and fundraising efforts by volunteers. Without these contributions and public support, DLRR would not be able to save so many dogs. DLRR is very proud to have maintained their guarantee that 100% of all donations go to the care and rehoming of these dogs, either to direct supplies and medical, or to the operating costs of running the nonprofit — no one gets a salary.

Every year, the American Kennel Club (AKC) rates the most popular dogs in the U.S. (based on registration statistics). There's a reason why Labrador Retrievers have spent 31 years at the top of AKC's list, (only bumped to number two for the first time by the French Bulldog in 2023) — they're affectionate, energetic, clever, fun, and adapt well to younger family members and other pets. Why, then, do so many of them wind up displaced? In other words, why is there such a need for DLRR to exist?

Board President Dan Grimm says there can be a variety of reasons, but the most common is a change in family circumstances like owner illness, financial challenges, or a housing change which leaves people no longer able to care for their dog friends. Other common reasons include the dog developing a medical condition too costly for the family budget, or eager new purchasers/adopters underestimating the level of time and care needed for this athletic

breed, which requires far more and varied exercise than most other breeds.



Labs love to swim and fetch!

DLRR takes in everything from puppies and healthy youngsters who are nearly adoption-ready, to severely injured or senior dogs with costly medical conditions. Some of the dogs they take in are suffering emotional and/or behavioral issues — either from the stress of the streets or shelters while homeless or from the trauma of separation from their family for whatever reason. These dogs may need decompression time in an approved boarding kennel and/or extended care from a qualified trainer before being approved for adoption.

Thankfully, DLRR is going stronger than ever in the fight to keep Labs healthy, housed and loved. Last year they rescued and rehomed approximately 200 dogs! Their supporters keep growing too, thanks in part to their biggest fundraiser of the year, the Corks and Collars gala. This dinner and silent auction features music, catering, wine, and beer from all local vendors, and

of course the chance to mix with some splendid Labs! Their 15th annual one last November 4th was the most successful yet, with 350+ attendees and over \$100k raised for AZ Labrador Retrievers!

DLRR's primary challenge is finding more help, so they welcome volunteers! The most important thing Dan would like readers to know is that while many people feel daunted by volunteering as a major time commitment, it doesn't have to mean 20 hours per week. Dan says that even if you just have one hour per month, that's still precious to DLRR! What you do there all depends on your time, skill level and interest. They have a wide variety of tasks, from walking dogs to administrative work. There are also fun ways to support them, including with a Fry's VIP card, and buying coffee from Grounds and Hounds Coffee Shop!



dasFOTOhaus photography by claudia johnstone

Chewee! (From DLRR Facebook photos)

To adopt or learn more creative ways to help, visit them at <https://dlrraz.org/> or follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/desertlab>



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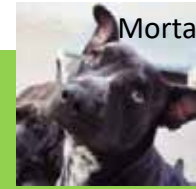
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Cookie's Treatment

Superhero to the Rescue! Meet the First Ever Parvo Treatment

Story by Melissa Barrow

Photos provided by The Fix Project of Long Beach, CA

On May 2nd, 2023, Elanco Animal Health announced the release of their new Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody (CPMA) treatment — exciting and hopeful news for dogs and dog lovers everywhere! This is the first and only USDA conditionally approved monoclonal antibody treatment against this devastating disease. Canine parvovirus (CPV, or parvo) is a deadly viral infection that generally affects puppies from 6 weeks to 6 months old, though older dogs can contract it. We've had a vaccine since 1980, but treatments for this dog-killing virus have been limited to supportive care (treating dehydration and vomiting). Such treatments are intensive and expensive, requiring 24-hour care and hospitalization for up to 5 days. This is stressful for veterinary staff, risks cross-contamination with other pets, and is cost-prohibitive to many who may lose their dog friends without it. This new CPMA is like a superhero zooming to the rescue! It shortens hospital stays and expenses and vastly improves survival rates for puppies and dogs.

An August 2023 survey commissioned by Elanco Animal Health polled 1,000 U.S. dog owners aged 18 and older. The survey found that "...despite 71% of dog owners saying they are familiar with parvovirus, only 54% of that group was able to correctly identify what parvo is — meaning only 44% of total dog owners actually know what parvo is. 20% had no idea which of the four provided statements best described parvo." These results clearly indicate the need for widespread public education about CPV, so here is a mini tutorial on parvo:

Canine parvovirus was first identified in 1978 when different countries began reporting a mystery virus killing dogs. By 1980, CPV-2 (the deadliest variant) had become a canine pandemic that killed millions of puppies and dogs globally. There are two types: the intestinal variety and a rarer version that targets the heart muscles. Parvo is highly contagious and is typically spread through direct contact with an infected dog or their fecal matter. It's also extremely resilient, survives on surfaces for days, and is resistant to high temperatures and standard cleaning methods. This enables it to spread in many surprising ways: on leashes, toys, food, and water dishes (especially those in public spaces like dog parks), used cages or bedding, and even the clothing or shoes of people who have had contact with an infected dog or stepped in infected feces or vomit. This handy graphic from CanineParvovirus.org is a useful diagram of this cycle. Their site has a lot of helpful info, including which cleansers can kill the virus.

Once contracted, the virus kills rapidly without veterinary intervention. Dehydration from diarrhea can lead to death in 3 days. In unvaccinated puppies and dogs, this disease has a 91% mortality rate. Certain breeds are more susceptible, including Rottweilers, Dobermans, Pit Bulls, German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, and English Springer Spaniels. Thanks to the vaccine, it's easily preventable by a series of immunizations starting at 6 weeks, followed by boosters for mature dogs every three years — the amount of time it takes for antibody protection to wane. Sadly, many dogs are never vaccinated due to a lack of awareness.

How Parvo Spreads



back to eating!

Back to the hopeful news: a California group was among the first clinics to receive doses of the new CPMA treatment. Launched in January 2023, the Fix Project is a non-profit clinic specializing in parvovirus as part of Fix Long Beach Pets' facility. Their heartwarming success story is Cookie, believed to be the first recipient of this new treatment. This 8-week-old pit bull mix was brought to them by her caretaker in July 2023, where she tested positive for CPV. She was able to receive an intravenous treatment of the CPMA within 30 minutes of diagnosis. Her

progress was rapid, and she was able to return to her family fully recovered in a matter of days!

The CPMA is a game changer, but it's far better to prevent infection in the first place! If you're contemplating bringing home a new puppy or dog family member, please be sure they are vaccinated! Most puppies are vaccinated at 6, 9, and 12 weeks. High-risk breeds may need a longer vaccination cycle. **Puppies should not be allowed to socialize with unfamiliar dogs until 2 weeks after their final vaccine cycle. Thank you, science, (and Elanco) for saving dog lives!



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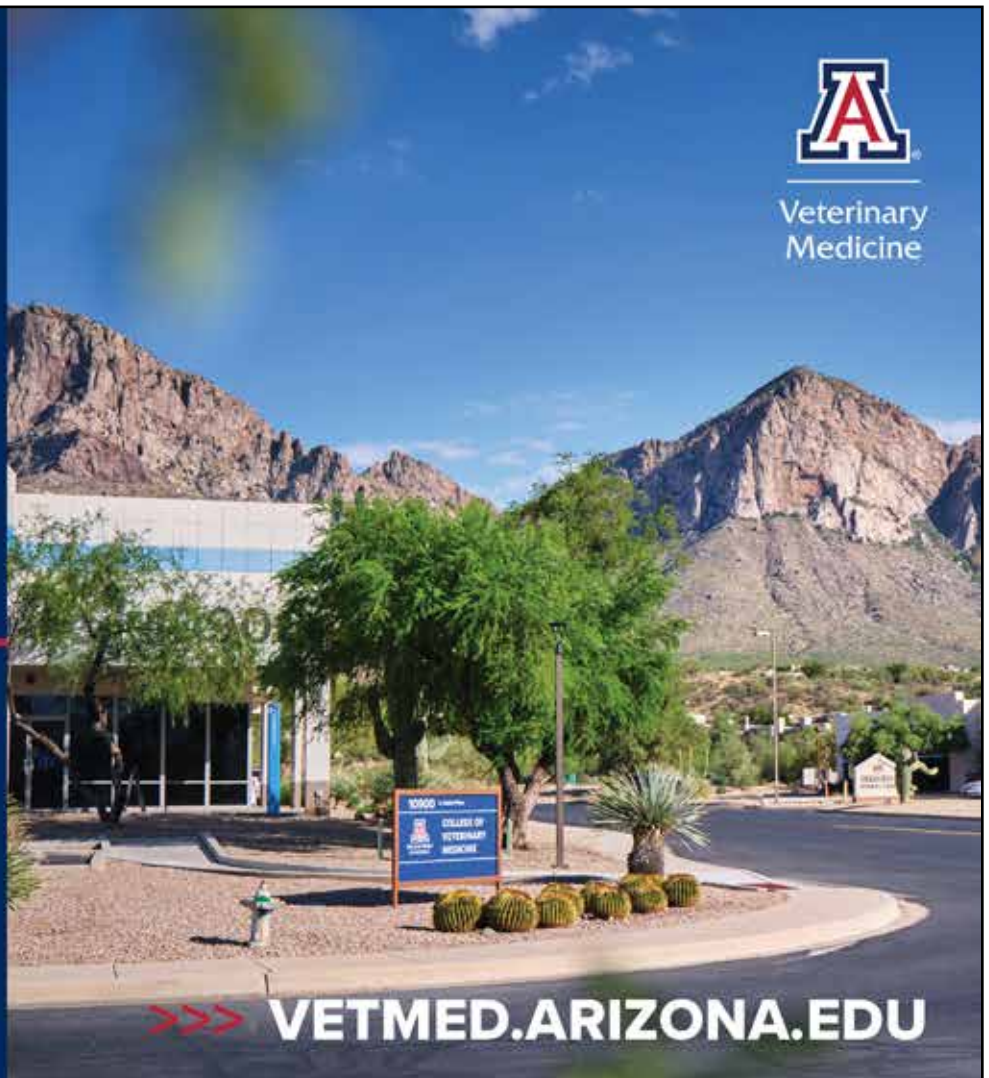
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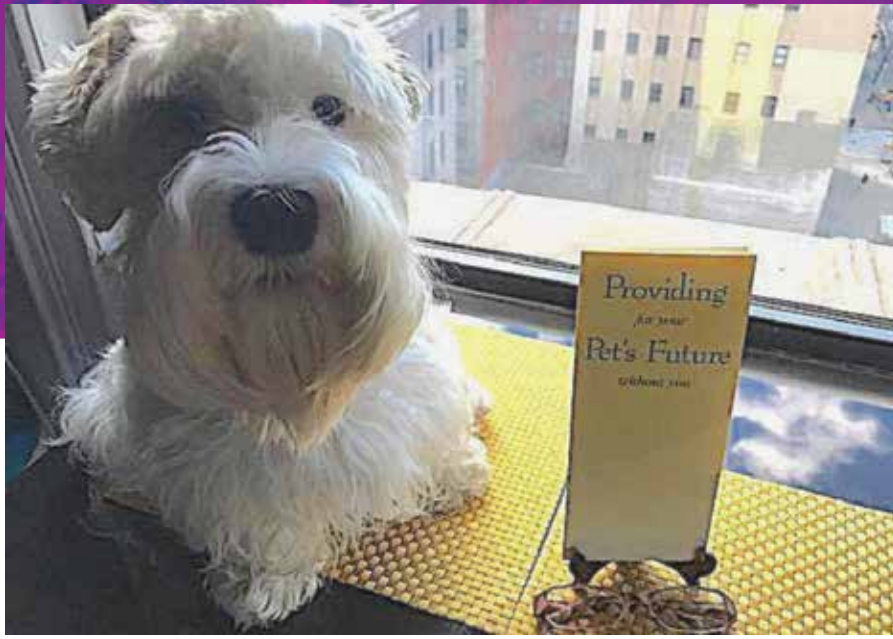
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Pip

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has many people thinking ahead, taking out life insurance policies, reassessing wills and trusts, and considering caregiver options for children and pets.

There are catastrophic events, people being displaced by wildfires, and contagious viruses no matter where you may live. We need to plan ahead and prepare our To-Go Bags for our families and our pets.

Unfortunately, nothing has challenged us more than preparing for the COVID-19, Pandemic and the lives that have already been affected.

What Preparations Do the Experts Advise for Our 4-Legged Family Members?

“We encourage all pet owners to identify caretakers who can help with pet care if they can no longer meet their responsibilities,” says Matt Bershader, president and CEO of the ASPCA, “This also helps plan ahead to reduce potential strain on shelters, since, sadly, if anyone must surrender their pets, shelters will be even more overwhelmed.” Pets should always be part of family emergency preparedness plans, Bershader notes.

How To Prepare For Temporary Caregivers For Our Pets

- Find two responsible friends or relatives who will serve as temporary caregivers.
- Provide your caregivers with keys to your home for feeding (location of food, leash, & collar) and care instructions, and any specific personality and behavior traits.
- Give your caregivers the name of your veterinarian and information about the temporary person or persons who will take your pet if needed.

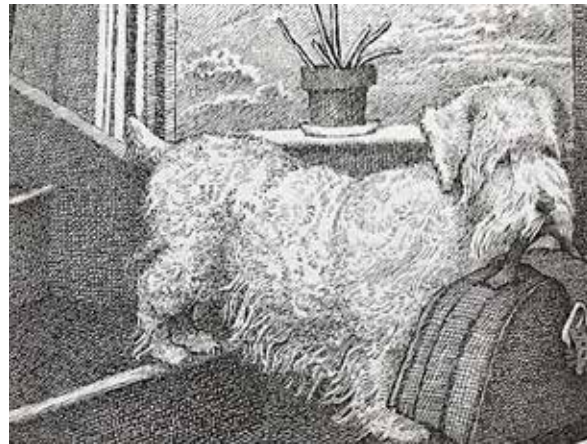
Plan Ahead! Preparing For Our Pets Future Wildfires & Hiking Accidents & Circulating Viruses – Oh My!

Story and photos provided by Bev Thompson
American Kennel Club Gazette Columnist; Dog Feature Writer

- Make a list of all contacts and their phone numbers to share with all temporary caregivers should they need to contact each other.
- Carry a wallet “alert card!”
- Keep an Updated Pet Medical History and Pet Health Record.

What if You Don't Have A Pet? Consider Adopting or Fostering a Pet. And Remember: Pets are Forever!

Americans are applying online and through phone interviews to foster and permanently adopt. Most of the shelters are by appointment only and some organizations with pets up for fostering or adoption can be seen via Zoom.



Why Now? Many adopters who did not have pets previous to the pandemic are now enjoying the benefits of having a new fur friend in a number of ways:

- Pets alleviated anxieties while trapped at home during the coronavirus lockdown and while sheltering in place.
- Ensures going outside for exercise.
- Gives people a way of ‘giving back’ during a crisis. Now that many people are working from home, it allows more time to responsibly take care of and spend quality time with a pet.

Pets Are Our Emotional Responders – With Health Benefits

Those of us with pets know what research says about the health benefits of pets; reduced blood pressure, increased cardiovascular health, less anxiety and depression, and encourages outdoor exercise to maintain better health. “You can take them for a walk, get fresh air, get vitamin D – there are wonderful health benefits from having a pet, and they can help you cope with the stress of an illness,” says Julie Kuenstle, vice president of communications for the Houston SPCA. Houston is one of the country’s largest animal shelters and is working on clearing shelters by increasing temporary pet fostering.

“Animals provide invaluable comfort and companionship, especially during times of crisis,” states Matt Bershader. Anyone who is thinking about adopting or fostering a pet from a local shelter, “should reach out to that shelter,” Bershader says.

EMERGENCY PET CAREGIVERS

NAME	_____
DAYTIME PHONE	_____
EVENING PHONE	_____
NAME	_____
DAYTIME PHONE	_____
EVENING PHONE	_____
NAME	_____
DAYTIME PHONE	_____
EVENING PHONE	_____
IF THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE CALL MY (circle one)	
PET SITTER	VETERINARIAN
NAME	PHONE NUMBER

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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PET'S NAME _____ TYPE OF ANIMAL _____

PET HEALTH RECORD

Pet Name _____ Sex _____

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SURGERY											

Photo credit provided by www.123pet.com

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www.hopeanimalshelter.net

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Ajo 85321
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info@pimapawsforlife.org
www.pimapawsforlife.org

The Hermitage Cat Rescue & Sanctuary
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(520) 571-7839
www.hermitagecatshelter.org

Local Rescues

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tucsonparrotrescue@gmail.com

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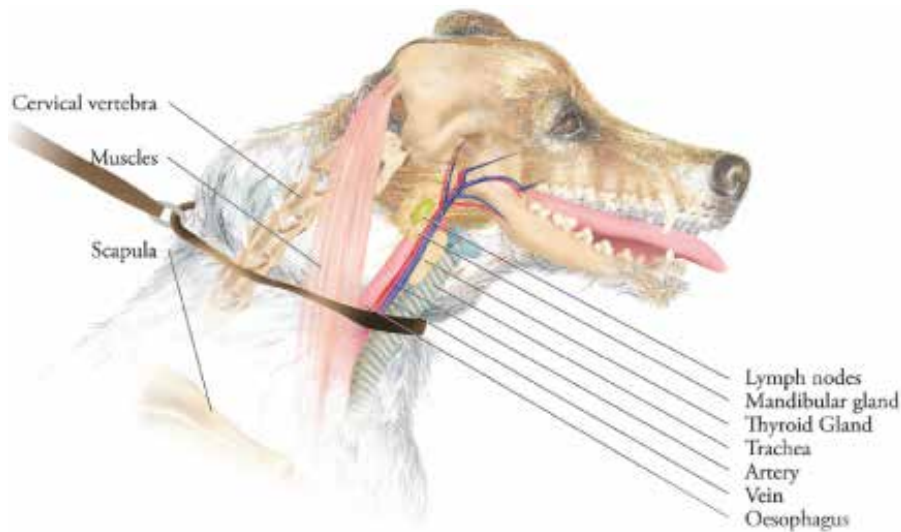
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Safer Strolls: Unleashing the Benefits of Walking Your Dog in a Harness

Story by Alison Martin,
Animal Soul Connection

Walking your furry companion is one of the most enjoyable activities for both you and your dog. However, choosing the right equipment for your dog is crucial to ensure their safety and comfort during these outings. While collars have traditionally been the go-to choice for many dog owners, they can have negative effects on your dog's well-being when used for walking.

One of the primary concerns with using collars for walking dogs is the potential for neck strain and injury. Collars are designed to fit around a dog's neck, and when a dog pulls or lunges on a leash, the pressure is concentrated on the neck area. This can lead to various problems, including tracheal damage, throat irritation, and neck injuries. Small dogs, in particular, are more susceptible to these issues due to their delicate neck structures.



Harnesses, on the other hand, distribute the force evenly across a dog's chest and back, reducing the risk of injury. This even distribution of force is especially beneficial for dogs that tend to pull during walks or have a strong prey drive.

Another concern associated with collars is the potential for respiratory issues. When a dog pulls on a collar, it can put pressure on their windpipe, leading to breathing difficulties. This is especially problematic for dogs with flat faces, such as Bulldogs and Pugs, who already have compromised airways.

Using a harness eliminates the risk of restricting your dog's breathing, as it doesn't put pressure on the neck area. This is essential for the overall health and well-being of your dog, especially during strenuous physical activities like running or hiking.

Some dogs are notorious for slipping out of their collars, especially if they are anxious or excited. This can be extremely dangerous, as it may lead to your dog running into traffic or getting lost. Harnesses provide a more secure and escape-proof option, reducing the risk of your dog breaking free during a walk.

While collars may be a convenient option for attaching identification tags, they are not the ideal choice for walking dogs. The negative effects of using collars can certainly outweigh their benefits. Harnesses offer a safer and



more comfortable alternative that can enhance the walking experience for both you and your dog.

When choosing a harness, make sure to measure your dog correctly to ensure a proper fit. There are various styles and designs available, so you can find one that suits your dog's specific needs and preferences. Prioritizing your dog's comfort and well-being during walks is essential for building a strong and positive bond between you and your furry friend. So, consider making the switch to a harness and enjoy stress-free and enjoyable walks with your beloved companion.

There are a few situations where it is generally recommended to use a harness over a collar:

- If your dog is a brachycephalic breed: Brachycephalic breed dogs typically have flatter faces and, as a result, respiratory issues that may be better managed with a harness.
- If your dog has a history of tracheal collapse: This is a medical condition where the trachea will fold in on itself causing trouble breathing and a cough.
- If you have a breed with risk factors for spinal problems: Long-bodied breeds such as dachshunds are very prone to slipped discs, a condition called intervertebral disc disease or (IVDD). Taking pressure off the neck and back by using a harness can help prevent further damage.
- If you have a dog with a history of orthopedic disease: Dogs with orthopedic disease can have a hard time getting up to walk so a harness can help support them more easily

Whether you use a harness or a collar for your dog depends on your dog's health, and ultimately, your vet's recommendation. Be sure to consult your vet to have a clear answer on which you should use to make sure that you keep your dog as healthy and safe as possible.



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

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How Poachers are Influencing the Evolution of Wildlife

Story by: Rebecca West



Rhinos (image by lanZA)

The bane of wildlife in Africa isn't necessarily apex predators higher up on the food chain but poachers. The revolting crimes continue unabated due to the lucrative trade netting between \$5- and \$23 billion annually, according to statistics from

the World Animal Foundation. Thousands of endangered animals die from poachers in Africa daily, and in protecting wildlife, approximately two rangers are killed each week.

The number of pachyderms killed each year is so shocking we'd rather not post the exact figures for fear you won't be able to read on, but the Center for Biological Diversity notes that nearly 30,000 species are driven to extinction annually (influenced by human behavior). While heart-wrenching, there is some news regarding this abhorrent trend that rhinoceros and elephants have started to undergo an evolutionary trend that could potentially save their lives, even if it does come with lasting impacts.

Rhino Horns

Not long ago, scientists began investigating whether poaching might be at the heart of the shrinking size of rhinoceros horns. Researcher Oscar Wilson set about measuring the overall length of horns from 80 images taken of rhinos between the years 1862 and 2018. They are housed on The Netherlands' Rhino Resource Center's website. The analysis included five different species of rhinos with varied horn lengths.

With the findings published in the scientific journal *People and Nature*, it was determined that the horns of all five species have shrunk in size during the period under investigation. The hypothesis is that since poachers prefer larger horns and kill the animals to get them — rather than employ tranquilizers — smaller-horned rhinos that are overlooked survive to pass along the shorter-horned trait to their offspring.

"We were really excited that we could find evidence from photographs that rhino horns have become shorter over time," Wilson was quoted as saying. "They're probably one of the hardest things to work on in natural history because of the security concerns."

Tuskless Elephants

Unfortunately, these findings parallel those of elephants, with up to 50 percent of females living in the East African country of Mozambique now finding

themselves tusk-free. It's been surmised that the phenomenon is likely the result of 15 years of civil war there when poachers had free rein to operate outside the law. Elephants use their tusks for such tasks as moving large, heavy objects, digging for water, stripping bark for food, and protecting themselves, so it's yet to be seen how this will impact them in the long run.

As with rhinoceros, large tusks attract poachers. In the 1970s in Mozambique's Gorongosa, less than a fifth of female elephants were tuskless. Researchers have learned it takes only a single genetic mutation for a female elephant to become tuskless. While the change is incredibly sad, these elephants are said to be five times more likely to survive, which is incredible in itself.

"Evolution is simply a change in heritable characteristics within a population over successive generations, and based on the results of our study, the shift toward tuskless-ness among female elephants at Gorongosa fits this definition perfectly," Ryan Long, an author of the study of the subject and an associate professor of wildlife sciences at the University of Idaho, informed CNN.



African Elephant (image by DKunert)

Moving with the Times

These surprising evolutionary changes are not without consequences to a third type of pachyderm, however, as it's been reported that in place of dwindling ivory supplies poachers are now targeting hippos for their teeth as a source of ivory. Even though the teeth are harder and shorter than tusks, making them more difficult to carve and not as bountiful in gross weight or size, it hasn't stopped them being hunted down.

What we can do as humans is to refuse to purchase items containing any of these body parts, but that's

proven difficult among many cultures that stubbornly refuse to get with the times. Until views on these barbaric practices can be changed, supporting their protection and boycotting products seems our only hope.

Elephant Retribution

If it makes you feel any better, elephants appear to be fighting back in more ways than evolutionary changes. It was reported recently that an elephant herd in South Africa's Kruger National Park



Hippo (image by Anilsharma26)

trampled a suspected rhino poacher to death in an angry flash mob-style killing. It was said the man was fleeing from park rangers when the elephants caught up with him. Afterward, rangers discovered a bag with a rifle and ax inside. Play stupid games, win stupid prizes...



Stray Cat spotted! (From SACR Instagram feed)]

If you follow the Instagram account of this local outfit, you may have been mystified last November by a few images sneaking randomly into their feed: a stuffed toy cat in various live settings, accompanied by a familiar rescue storyline: a stray reported around town; traps set for trap and release; safely captured, recovering from neutering. No, that plush cat is not a stand-in for the real stray who's too elusive for a photo op. The series symbolized a collaboration between Southern Arizona Cat Rescue (SACR) and Tucson's own Fangamer.com (enthusiastic purveyors of game merchandise) to raise awareness and funding for cat rescue via the popular 2022 video adventure game *Stray*, which features a street cat lost in an apocalyptic cybercity, trying to reunite with his cat colony. The two hosted a donation event with a pop-up shop last December at Fangamer's location on Speedway. This is one of the many fun, energetic ideas SACR employs to call attention to their work while sparking the interest and involvement of younger supporters previously less



SACR board and adoption team]

aware of the rescue world. Their creative approach has also included pasta dinners with live music, TikTok videos, and yoga with cats at Barefoot Studio!

SACR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which aims to rehabilitate and rehome at-risk kittens and cats from the streets. It was founded in 2019 by fifteen concerned citizens who met in a coffee shop. Director Melissa Lesinsky explains that all 15 knew each other from prior

experience in the rescue community. After gathering to brainstorm, they all agreed that the best way to make the biggest impact was to start their own organization. This close-knit, friendly group comprised of 5 board members, an adoption team, and a wide-ranging group of foster families, currently has no employees — they are 100% volunteer. All have other, often full-time day jobs in addition to the time they give to SACR. Like all rescue groups, they are perpetually in need of funding and more foster homes but have been most fortunate to have their current willing group of fosters that have been hanging tough since the beginning.

With the rampant animal overpopulation problem, there can't be too many rescue groups of any kind in any city. With several cat shelters in Tucson, one might think there is competition between them, but Melissa says that they all collaborate at some level in their work, most often by referring fosters to each other if they don't have a good match home at their own organization. Each nonprofit has its own focus; SACR's is mom's and kittens — they specialize in neonatal (newborn) care. They also provide other needed medical care, everything from viral treatment to amputation and paralysis therapy. Melissa herself lives with a paralyzed kitty who just turned six, is a constant delight, and definitely rules the household!

Southern AZ Cat Rescue Keepin' Kitties Outta the Streets

Story by Melissa Barrow, Images provided by SACR



Kitten Kaboodle

SACR has no brick and mortar location, rather, they exist as a network of foster homes. They do have a funding campaign underway for a new space — a big, exciting project called Hunter's Kitten Lounge — a proposed gathering place for humans and cats. Like many cat cafés throughout the U.S., this will be a place to spend time with cats and meet those up for adoption, which SACR has dubbed a "lounge" as it won't be a full, counter-service café, more of a cozy, living-room-style space with self-service coffee and prepackaged treats. They plan to feature a small, front retail space where guests can purchase items that support the nonprofit, while the main area will be an inviting space to read or do work amongst the cats, soaking up their calming, playful vibes and maybe falling in love with one to take home!



Saucerful of Snuggly

Originally slated for launch this fall, Hunter's Kitten Lounge has been pushed out to next year while they firm up details on a site which they have their eye on. If they obtain that space, they plan to open next spring. They are actively fundraising for the lounge, while also sometimes needing to pivot to fundraise for medical care, which is an ongoing need.



SACR Director Melissa Lesinski with Boardmembers Alex and Ann

The one thing that Melissa would like to say to readers is to please support your local rescue work in some way! Whether you support SACR or another organization, there are so many ways to do it, from donating, volunteering, or fostering to sharing social media posts and even just talking with friends and family about the ongoing crisis of

animal overpopulation, encouraging them to adopt, or otherwise support the vital work of rescuing abandoned animals from needless suffering.

To learn more, get involved, and see lots of photos of adorable kittens and beautiful cats, visit <https://sacatrescue.org/>, or show up to the Oracle Rd PetSmart for their adoption events most Saturdays. You can also follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sacatrescue> or Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/sacatrescue/>

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