

DECEMBER 2013

KINDRED *Spirits*



Respect, grace, compassion and love for the animals who share our journey



OUR MISSION

To provide shelter and compassionate care for animals who are lost, abandoned or homeless; to ensure that animals who come into our care are nurtured in a loving space while healing from fear, physical or emotional trauma, mistreatment or loss of a caregiver; to place animals into appropriate and loving homes through adoptions; to improve the lives of animals through education and example; to promote spay and neuter of companion animals.

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Shelter Administration
928 474-5590 Ext. 100

A NEW YEAR FOR ZEPPELIN

He had come in as a stray - a large, rangy male with a suspicious demeanor. At first he showed promise, warming up to people and befriending several dogs. He had a unique look, large-muzzled with small, watchful eyes. He wasn't for everyone, but he was great with those he liked. Unfortunately, as the months progressed, those he liked became fewer and further between. He started losing weight, dropping from sixty-plus pounds to the mid fifties. He became



hostile to his dog friends, and then ceased making friends at all. He was snappish and distrustful with people, too.

We sent him to a foster home for a break. It was a short-term arrangement, but it did him a world of good. He came back relaxed, heavier, even willing to play with new dogs. But the progress was short lived. Within a week, Zeppelin began to deteriorate

again. His mood worsened; his weight dropped into the forties. Our behavior staffer had one conclusion: Zeppelin was dying of stress.

Zeppelin needed an immediate intervention. We moved him to the lobby full time, greeting people by day and sleeping in a crate at night. It was a trying time, both for Zeppelin and staff. He paced the lobby, urinated on everything, barked and growled at visitors, and refused to enter his crate. But we kept at it, and patience paid off. Within a week, Zeppelin began to relax. Within two, he was putting on weight.

And by the end of the month, he was reintroduced successfully to playtime with other dogs. We hung his kennel card in the lobby, and carefully managed his interactions with new people. Several volunteers regularly brought him to the lake for some "chill out time." And everyone who asked was told his story.

It took another 6 weeks in the lobby before Zeppelin went home. A young woman came in to look at dogs. She lived alone, and wanted a companion that would help her feel secure. As she told us her requirements, she had almost unconsciously drifted over to Zeppelin. And instead of his usual barking, he had pressed his head against her leg, asking to be petted. As she obliged, we told her Zeppelin's story, quirks and all. She went home to think things over, then picked him up the next day. Zeppelin walked out of the shelter, finally relaxed.

WALL OF HOPE

The Humane Society of Central Arizona teamed up with 3rd and 5th Graders from Julia Randall Elementary to design the 2013 Wall of Hope fundraising project. The Wall of Hope murals have been enjoyed by hundreds of shelter visitors over the past two months. The creativity and heart-warming individual messages have been an inspiration to all who have enjoyed this fundraising experience. The murals will remain on display until the all envelopes have been purchased and cleared from the boards.



Shelby Dixon,
5th grade class

WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?

Pins for Paws

The third annual Pins for Paws bowling event and dinner held on September 27th raised \$8,900. Everyone had a spectacular time and is looking forward to next year's challenge.

PetSmart Adoptions

Pets adopted through a relationship with Payson's new PetSmart have secured new forever homes for 45 cats and 9 dogs.


Mobile Vet Clinic

HSCAZ was recently given the opportunity to purchase a mobile veterinary clinic for a fraction of its value. The mobile unit will enable the shelter to provide, in most cases, more immediate medical services to the animals in our care. HSCAZ will spay and neuter, micro chip and treat animals in need of serious veterinary care. The surrendered, abandoned and lost animals temporarily staying at HSCAZ, will encounter less trauma being treated on-site. Many residents have expressed their desire to have their cats and dogs altered, but it isn't

something they can afford. A future goal for the new mobile veterinary program is to offer low-cost spay neuter services one or two days a week to the community. HSCAZ is



actively seeking a sponsor to support the clinic by rewrapping the outside with the Humane Society of Central Arizona logo and contact information. For now the outside says *Healing Hearts* and for now that works, because that is what we do.

 HSCAZ has recently received an in-kind grant from the ASPCA. We have been awarded 2 pallets of Del Monte's 9Lives dry cat food, made possible by the 9Lives Morris' Rescue Watch. This in-kind gift will accommodate the shelter cat food supply needs for an entire year.



HELPING HANDS HEALING HEARTS

Our Volunteers

As 2013 comes to a close, the staff at the Humane Society of Central Arizona would like to express our gratitude for the time and endless acts of kindness offered to the shelter and to the animals served.

Thank you for coming to walk dogs in the rain and snow.

Thank you for training, sorting, pick-ups, organizing, planning, cleaning, and offering your helping hand.

Thank you for coming in at the last minute to scoop litter boxes.

Thank you for repairing things.

Thank you for snuggling with kittens who were sick, comforting a scared dog, patiently sitting with an animal who needed a little extra love.

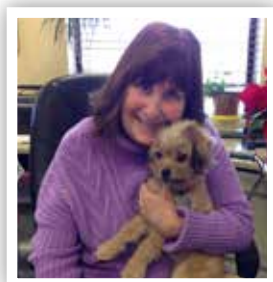
Thank you for answering the telephones.

Thank you for helping to clean kennels, doing laundry and playing with dogs in the yards.

Thank you for going the extra mile and for your encouraging smiles.

Thank you kind souls who give precious time to the animals and to our mission.

Thank you HSCAZ volunteers for all you do.



Laura Hurd

Volunteer Coordinator

We are happy to announce our new Volunteer Coordinator - Laura Hurd. Laura has joined our team to lead the volunteer program, improve and increase the communication flow between staff and volunteers, organize all activities involving volunteers, schedule for events, train and assist HSCAZ in growing the program. Next time you're in or near the shelter, please give Laura a warm welcome.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop & Vintage Boutique has been a huge success since its move to the 510 E. Main Street location. Sales generated at the Thrift Shop have nearly tripled. This means there is more money going to the shelter to help the animals in our care. None of this would be possible without your donated items, regular patrons and thoughtful donors.

A LOOK AHEAD

Arizona Gives Day - April 9th

Sunset Jazz & Wine Auction - May

Pins for Paws - September

Wall of Hope - October

Cocktails for Kitties & Canines - December

Additional information will be available on humanesocietycentralaz.org. Events and dates are subject to change.

SHELTER HOURS

Mon | Wed | Fri | Sat - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tues | Thur - 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Closed Sunday

RESCUED PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

By Jason Carey

In June of this year, Sarah and I visited a failed rescue that needed to place dogs in alternate facilities. HSCAZ is an open-intake shelter, so the decision was not one we took lightly. But one of the dogs had come from us, and we were committed to doing what we could for him.

We arrived at the site mid-morning and met with the two caretakers. The dogs were in chain-link pens, anywhere from 10'x10' to 20'x20' in size. Many were clearly under-socialized with virtually no human contact in years. We ended up taking five including one dog that had originally come from us named Zane.

Zane had been placed with the rescue in 2011. From that point on, he spent his days in a small wire pen. The facility was in the middle of nowhere, 45 minutes by dirt road from the nearest highway. He had no dog friends and no visitors. Zane lived outside in a small dog house, atop which he would perch and bark his warnings to the world. He didn't know any better than to protect his little enclosure. It was literally all he had.

We were told Zane was aggressive, and Zane certainly tried to give that impression. He stood and stared, growling and barking, daring us to come into his pen. But the show was short-lived. As soon as we entered, he ducked and ran, slinking into his little wooden house. It took two of us to lasso him and get him outside. He cowered along beside me, but as far away as the leash would allow, his chest low to the ground, snorting his displeasure, eyes wide and watchful.

Zane was kenneled in our stray wing. He needed some evaluation before being put up for adoption. His wariness lingered, but slowly he warmed to a few staff members. Zane had what we call "man issues." Most of his handful of trusted people were female. I moved him to the lobby periodically, so that he would be exposed to more people and activity. Most of the time, he would hide under my desk. He would cower if I reached to pet him, and growl at people and dogs that would approach.

After a week we took him out to the play yard to do the standard photo shoot. He stayed away from the photographers and hid behind my legs. Every time I walked, he was there, hiding. So I started to run, and a switch flipped somewhere in Zane's head, he ran with me, his furrowed brow relaxed; his big tongue flopped out of his face; his tail came out from under his belly; his watchful eyes softened. Zane got the "zoomies" – he ran and ran. And when he stopped, he climbed in my lap and licked my face. I thought we were over the hump. He had remembered how to be a dog. But Zane still had difficulty generalizing.

He had a trusted few people at the shelter where he could be a fun, friendly dog. He didn't show any desire to meet anyone else. Adopters passing his kennel would invariably be dissuaded, Zane standing at the gate barking loudly, eyes bugging out of his head. We'd ask interested adopters to meet him in the yard and there were no takers.

And then a guy – we called P – walked into our lobby, saying he'd seen Zane on the website and wanted to meet him. I thought "Good luck with

that". P was a big guy, made a lot of eye contact, upright, physically intimidating and was bald. Zane had a problem with bald guys. "Sure," I said, "but I have to warn you, he's pretty shy." I brought Zane out and he dropped immediately into a crouch, tail tucked between his legs, staring hard at P, growling. We went over to the play yard. I told P to just ignore Zane, that he'd come around in time. But he didn't. No amount of coaxing made an impression – Zane wouldn't run; he wouldn't play. He just stood about 20 feet away, watching P with suspicion. I asked P if he'd like to see some other dogs. "That's okay," he said, and I figured that was that.

But then P said, "He's the one." And so began the

longest adoption counseling session I have ever experienced. Several times a week, for months, P came to the shelter to spend time with Zane. At first, Zane was so frightened of P that I worried P might get bitten. I told P not to push it; to do something else and ignore Zane. So he would bring a book or some paperwork and just sit in our break room, reading quietly, sometimes for two hours or more. That progressed to an outdoor sitting area, and then to walks. But despite weeks of effort, Zane didn't seem to be warming to P. He was still wary and defensive. Our staff still had to bring Zane outside, as P couldn't approach Zane in his kennel.

While I appreciated the effort that P was putting in, it didn't seem to be making a dent. On the subject of another dog, P wasn't interested. Nor did he share my disappointment. "It's okay," P said, "he just needs more time," as upbeat as ever. "How about I take him for a day, instead of a few hours?" It was worth a shot.

They came back at the end of the day, and when asked how it went, P responded "Pretty well. He's not too sure about me, but Zane sure loves my truck!" P was in transition between his former home in Phoenix and a new job in Payson. P went to the valley several times a week. Zane started going with him. Somewhere during all of those miles down the road, Zane decided P wasn't so scary after all.

P asked if Zane was ready to adopt and I was still worried. Every time Zane came back to the shelter, even after the truck rides, he'd run from P to me or another staff member. I wasn't sure what it meant, but it gave me pause. I suggested to P we'd do a foster-to-adopt arrangement. He would keep Zane for a few weeks to see how he settled in. We went over socialization, walks, feeding, crate training, potential problems and how to avoid them. P nodded with a no problem.

I went to P's new apartment today. Zane ran to the door to welcome me. His tail was wagging; he jumped in my lap. And then P welcomed me inside. Zane turned and trotted back to P, his tail wagging softly, his whole body relaxed. P sat in an armchair, and Zane stood next to him, his head resting on P's leg. P moved to the floor, and Zane happily crawled into his lap. We talked for a while, going over the adoption paperwork. P told me how Zane had met all the neighbors and was making lots of friends. When I stood to leave, Zane didn't follow or even move. He remained comfortably in P's lap and watched me go.

P was right. Zane just needed some time.

Far too often, I hear animal advocates say things like "I hate people" or "People suck." And it's true that working in a shelter or in rescue, you see some pretty horrible situations. But it's also people that redeem those situations. People put the time, effort, money and love into making things right again. People like P fix dogs like Zane. Some people do terrible things. But not all people. We can not become so jaded as to forget the people who care. For it is the people like P who deserve our utmost gratitude and respect. They are the ones who open their homes and hearts and truly save the animals.



Zane and Jason



LOOKING FOR LOVE &

COMPANIONSHIP - PROFILE

Who: *Bootsie*

Model: *Domestic Short hair*

Age: *2 years, 3 months*

Looking for: *Cats and kids. Do not like dogs.*

Experience: *First came into the shelter as a surrender and was adopted out. But had to return because my mom's new landlords weren't cat people.*

Characteristics: *I'm a lovable girl.*

Please inquire about me at 928.474.5590

HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA DONATION FORM



Have You Ever Considered Planned Giving?

Your gifts matter and help support the welfare of animals in our care and we are grateful to you.

Fill out the form and mail it to
HSCAZ at PO Box 242
Payson, AZ 85547
or donate online at
www.humanesocietycentralaz.org
Sign-up to receive monthly updates via email



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