

JUNE 2014

KINDRED *Spirits*



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



Humane
Society
of
Central Arizona

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeanette Chaney
Bill Enlund
Diane Enos
Ginger Ingram
Joy Richards
Samantha Spinelle

Sarah Hock
Executive Director

Shelter Administration
928 474-5590 Ext. 100

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



All of us at the Humane Society of Central Arizona are grateful to care for the animals in this now two-year old facility built through the efforts, dedication and generosity of the many citizens,

businesses, organizations and volunteers of Payson, the state of Arizona and friends across the southwest. The size of the shelter is comfortable for the animal population we serve, functions efficiently and is people friendly.

Unfortunately, the serious decline in operations donations received by HSCAZ, which are necessary to do the work that is the essence of our mission, to provide the care and support for the animals we serve. Our possible deficit is daunting. Among the many rising costs we are facing are those for dog

food, cat food, litter, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, medication, medical procedures, training, behavior assessments, office equipment and programs to track costs, transfers and adoption procedures, and the staff who care for the animals 365 days per year.

The Humane Society of Central Arizona is not affiliated or a part of the Arizona Humane Society (AHS), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), or any other shelter organization. We are a small town shelter, serving animals that come our way through the generosity of individuals, limited grants, businesses and community organizations. Compassion, commitment and resources make it all possible and we are hopeful that those who love animals across the rim country and beyond will consider assisting us with a small donation to ensure that we continue to have the resources to provide for each animal who enters our shelter.

On behalf of the board, staff and the animals we offer our gratitude.

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

PROUD OF OUR ALUMS

There wasn't a first date. It was Rocky the pit bull and his mom Trisha making new friends at the Payson Care Center. Rocky was adopted from the Humane Society of Central Arizona in July 2010. Trish had recently lost her Great Dane when she saw Rocky's picture in the Roundup. "He spoke to me," she says. Trisha came to HSCAZ to meet Rocky and fell in love. He was great with her other dog Daisy and two cats, and Trisha couldn't help but bring him home.



Rocky, Stephanie & Viola Friends

Trisha's husband was handicapped, having suffered a stroke. He missed Daisy and Rocky, so with the nurse's okay, Trisha brought them in for a visit.

Rocky is still in training. He is a young dog, with lots of energy and limited patience, so his visits are usually kept to an hour or less. He could learn a thing or two from Viola, who sat patiently in a wheelchair watching Rocky flirt with Stephanie. Viola is a long-time dog lover, and she looked forward to getting a kiss from Rocky herself. But Rocky was antsy. He'd been in the chair a while, and wanted to get up and explore. He hopped down and began roaming about the room. With a little encouragement, Rocky hopped back up in the chair. Viola held out her lips for a kiss, then cracked a big smile as Rocky obliged.





Kitten at two-weeks

WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?

Kitten Season

Kitten season is the time of year when cats give birth, flooding the Humane Society of Central Arizona and other animal shelters across the nation with homeless litters. It is really three seasons in one, starting in spring, peaking in late spring or early summer, and ending in fall. Unaltered cats are driven by their hormones and tend to sneak outdoors primarily in search of a mate. Mating just once has a domino effect that often results in hundreds of unwanted animals.

These unwanted cats and kittens turn up in large numbers at the local animal shelter including the Humane Society of Central Arizona and other rescue groups. At HSCAZ, our cat and kitten intake is more than double over the summer. Resources already hard to come by—like food, money, and space—are often stretched to the limit as we are inundated with homeless kittens. The risk of illness increases and the burden carries over to staff and vet services.

Five ways you can help:

1. Spay or neuter your cats. They can become pregnant at five months old. Kittens as young as two months and weighing two pounds can be safely altered. While it's always safest to keep your cat inside, it's especially important to do so before the cat is spayed or neutered. Keep your cats safe indoors and learn how to provide safe outdoor time.

2. Help the shelter during kitten season by donating supplies, money and your time.
3. Care for homeless or feral (not tame) cats and help manage this population in your neighborhood.
4. Become a foster cat parent.
5. Open your home to new cat or adopt a playmate for your existing pets.



Low-Cost Vet Clinic

If you drove by 411 West Main Street on April 12th, you saw hundreds of animals and their families lined up to receive low-cost vaccines and microchips. The event was a partnership between HSCAZ's mobile vet clinic and Main Street Animal Clinic. The four-hour event provided the following:

- 205 animals received rabies vaccines
- 111 dogs received their DH2PP-CV shot which protects against distemper, parainfluenza, parvovirus, adenovirus, canine coronavirus
- 51 dogs received their bordatella shot
- 19 animals received low-cost microchips
- 20 cats received their FVRCP which protects against Feline rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia
- 16 cats received their FeLV which protects them from Feline Leukemia.

Due to the demand in our community for these needed services – we hope to offer low-cost clinics twice a year.

HELPING HANDS HEALING HEARTS

Chandra Cushman has been promoted to Animal Services Manager and is responsible for all aspects of animal care, education and protocols necessary to advance the mission and core values of the Humane Society of Central Arizona.



Chandra Cushman

Her duties include the development and implementation of “best practices” for animal care and handling, ongoing staff and community education programs,

overseeing, directing and educating animal care staff and veterinarians. She oversees the animal care record keeping systems used for verification of medical entries, reports for BOD, municipalities, and ensures there is efficiency and budget oversight in the department. She interacts with shelters and rescue organizations throughout Arizona and surrounding states to make sure all possible means for animal placement are pursued. We celebrate Chandra's new position and her dedication to HSCAZ for over seven years.



Fundraiser May 9th at Falcon Crest B&B

Our Staff and Volunteers

Once again, our dedicated staff and volunteers stepped forward, gave of their time and made the 2014 Sunset Sounds and Wine Auction a success! Their smiles and first hand knowledge of what it takes to make a difference in the animal's lives we serve made the event even more welcoming. Whether it is cleaning a kennel, walking a dog, comforting a kitten, educating a forever family, or working a fundraiser - their hearts are in one place - finding joy in every task and knowing their reward might only be an innocent nuzzle or wagging tale.



Amy



Susan Frank with puppy



Paul Bates & Joy Richards



Larry Forsythe & Barbara Brenke



Rita

Sarah, Ginger & Jeanette

THRIFT SHOP & VINTAGE BOUTIQUE

Good Quality Donations are welcome during regular business hours. Look for the receiving sign on the east side of the building.

Monday - Saturday, 9 am to 4:30 pm

928.468.6419

RESCUED PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

We call them the Holbrook Girls



There were four of them. They were huddled outside in adjacent chain-link pens, two dogs to an enclosure. They lay in the dirt, fur matted and eyes watchful, surrounded by their own feces and scattered kibble. Their tails wagged tentatively as their caretaker approached. They were older dogs and took some time to struggle to their feet. Two of them came to the fence to greet the caretaker, then froze as they saw me walking behind her. One held her ground, lips curled back to expose her teeth in a snarl. Her eyes hardened; her head dropped; the fur on her back stood up. She began barking furiously, teeth bared. Her companion fled to the back of the enclosure and began to pace the fence in fear. The other two dogs wallowed in the dirt, afraid even to move. The caretaker turned to me. "These are the ones no one will take," she said. I could see why.

It was a hot, windy September afternoon in Holbrook. We had received a plea earlier in the week from one of our rescue partners. An animal shelter in Holbrook had lost their contracts and was going under. All of the dogs had to be placed or they would be put down at the end of the week. We had two kennels open, so I went out to take a look. The conditions were dismal. Dogs were housed outside in chain link pens, exposed to the elements. They had no visitors to speak of. Only the caretaker and a friend stopped by to feed and water them. They were otherwise alone.

The clock was running down. Rescues from all over the state had stepped up to take dogs. By the time I arrived, there were only these four in need of placement. The four were sisters, all from the same litter. They were seven years old, and had spent their entire lives in captivity, confined to small pens. They had never known life in a home; never known the gentle hand of a stranger; never ventured forth from their tiny enclosures. They were shut ins. They were institutionalized.

I watched the caretaker enter one of the pens. Tails began to thump, eyes brightened. One of the dogs pranced over to the caretaker, wiggling her hind end in glee. As she jumped and pawed for attention, her kennelmate approached slowly, tail low but wagging, a slight limp slowing her down. The caretaker looked at me apologetically. "They love me," she said. "They just don't know anybody else." As if to enunciate the point, the watchful dog at the fence began barking at me once again. I stepped into the enclosure and the watchdog tucked her tail and fled, still growling. "That's Topaz," the caretaker said. "She keeps an eye on the others."

Topaz heard her name and stopped. She cast a worried glance at the caretaker, then resumed growling at me from a distance. I thought to myself: They're not vicious. They know their names. They are comfortable living together. And they clearly love the person that spends time with them.

"I'll take them," I said.

"Which ones?" the caretaker replied.

"All of them."

They fled in panic as I tried to leash them. They had never experienced a leash before. I ended up cornering them with wire crates, and carrying the crated dogs to our van. Once back at the shelter, getting them back out was no better. One by one we pulled them from their crates, thrashing, squirming, darting away in fear. When held down for their veterinary exams, they simply gave up, as though they had resigned themselves to whatever horrible fate was to befall them. I couldn't blame them. They had not been well cared for. Bad teeth, ear infections, dew claws so long they had grown in a circle and pierced paws. We put collars on them and attached short leads to each collar, then left them in a yard overnight to calm down.

They spent the next 3 days in that yard. Slowly they discovered that all of these new people came with food, treats and blankets. Over the weeks and months that followed, their barriers were gradually broken down. We went from herding them from kennel to yard using pieces of fencing to covering the short distance walking on a leash. They were given a daily routine, and got to know many new faces. Dedicated volunteers sat in the yard, gently holding the girls by their short leads, doling out treats each time the girls were brave enough to allow petting. Their teeth were cleaned, infections treated, vaccines administered, baths given, broken dew claws removed.

Personalities emerged. Foxy was the first to let us in. She resumed her role as the wiggling lap dog I had witnessed in Holbrook. It seemed we couldn't walk across the yard without Foxy accosting us for attention. We call her the social director. Shelby was the next to come around. Perhaps driven by her favorite thing, she was soon willing to test the belly rubbing skills of all of these new people in her life. With an excited ah-roo-roo, she would waddle over to newcomers and immediately flop on her back. We call her the communicator.

Topaz was a little tougher. Wary by nature, she would hover nearby, checking to be sure these people were not harming her sisters. Each day, she'd get a little closer, until one day it was Topaz's head being petted. Now she follows her people calmly, waiting for her turn for attention. She still keeps a close eye on the goings on of the shelter. Tongue in cheek, we call her the enforcer.

And then there was Gretchen. She was the low dog

SHELTER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

10:00 am to 2 pm

Tuesday & Thursday

1:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Closed Sunday

LOOKING FOR LOVE & COMPANIONSHIP - PROFILE

Who: *Roxy*

Model: *Domestic Longhair/mix*

Age: *6 years & 3 mos*

Looking for: *Home with people and without pets. Does not like dogs.*

Experience: *Gets along with friendly cats.*

Characteristics: *Easygoing & affectionate. Prefers to do things on her own terms & enjoys her space.*

Please inquire about me at 928.474.5590



on the totem pole, afraid of everyone and everything, content to let her sisters handle all interaction. It took months to gain enough of her trust to simply touch her. We worried that she would always be a cowering wallflower. But suddenly, just this past April, and with

Jason & the girls



no warning, Gretchen began to play. She bounces across the yard doing a little dance with her front feet. We used to call her the nervous Nellie. That may have to change.

The girls were recently put up for adoption. Our volunteers have been taking them on regular walks, outings to Petsmart, and even adoption events. It has been a long road, and there is still work to do. Each new step in their transformation takes time. We have seen what they came from, and are inspired by what they have achieved. Someday, hopefully soon, the Holbrook Girls will sleep in their own

beds, in their own homes, and will make the right families very happy. Because it turns out, you can teach old dogs new tricks.

By Jason Carey



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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