

JUNE 2015

# 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

Joy Bates

Cathy Buckisch

Jeanette Chaney

Diane Enos

Ginger Ingram

Jan Parsons

Nancy Purkey

Samantha Spinelle

Sarah Hock

Executive Director

Shelter Administration  
928 474-5590

## SHELTER HOURS

Monday through Saturday

10:00 am to 3 pm

Closed Sunday

## GOODBYE FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Serving the Humane Society of Central Arizona as the Executive Director has been an honor and a privilege. Working with such dedicated people to better the lives of animals has been one of the most memorable moments of my career. I*

*have been awed and inspired by my HSCAZ team and the community on numerous occasions such as when we pulled together not only as an organization, but as a town to help the displaced animals and people from the Canal Apartments. The tremendous generosity and compassion in all forms has overflowed, and I am proud to have made HSCAZ and the Rim Community my home for the last several years. It is a blessing to have ended my time with the shelter on such a positive note with the success of the Music, Mutts, & Meowgarita's event. Officially I step down from my position as Executive Director effective June 5, 2015 to begin a new journey. I have accepted*

a position with PetSmart Charities as a Regional Adoption Program Manager. While it is heartbreaking to leave, I am looking forward to the new adventure of helping animals on a national level.

Since taking the position in 2010, we have reached many milestones and helped thousands of animals. We have come a long way and accomplished much in five years:

- Reduced the euthanasia rate from 56% to 6%.
- Completed the capitol campaign and move from the dilapidated "A-frame", into the new building.
- Created the first low-cost mobile clinic in Gila County.
- Developed a behavior department to help the animals who come into the shelter, but need a little help.
- Expanded programs servicing the public including the Humanitarian Hold program, spay/neuter vouchers, and a pet food bank new this year.

I look forward to watching HSCAZ grow as an organization. Thank you for the dedication and hard work making this organization what it is today and I am proud to have been a part of that.

*With Gratitude,*

*Sarah Hock, Executive Director*

## JOIN US FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL PINS FOR PAWS

Saturday, September 19th, 2015 at Beeline Bowl. Registration is at 3:30. For more information contact Cathy Buckisch ccbuck1@aol.com.



By Artist Mike Sivak

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING RECENT EVENTS!



**Music, Mutts & Meowgaritas** annual fundraiser Saturday, May 30th co-sponsored by The Rim Country Museum.

**D I Y design workshop hosted by Jeanette Chaney with Country**

**Design Style** was held on Saturday, June 6th. Jeanette showed guests how to re purpose treasures found at HSCAZ's Resale Store - proceeds benefited the animals in our shelter.

**Runnin with The Pups** Saturday, June 13th. Presented by the Old Bastards Motorcycle Club in Payson.

*A warm thank you to the many sponsors that have compassion for animals and making these events possible!*



## WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?

### Feeding Fido Pet Food Pantry

#HSCAZ believes that no one should have to choose between feeding their pets or feeding themselves, or worse, surrendering or abandoning their pet in the hopes that they will be rescued.

#HSCAZ's Feeding Fido program provides pet food for pet owners who are struggling to feed their pets due to financial hardship. Our goal is to help keep pets in their home and out of the shelter by providing assistance to those in need. We do require documentation to insure that our support is going where it is most needed.

#In order to receive free pet food, you must submit an application with all required

documents, and be approved prior to receiving food. Once approved, you will be eligible for a period of one year, providing you adhere to all of our guidelines. This program is designed as a temporary solution and will serve families on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications can be found online at our website [www.humanesocietycentralaz.org](http://www.humanesocietycentralaz.org), or at the shelter.

### #Teen T.A.I.L.S Youth Volunteer Program

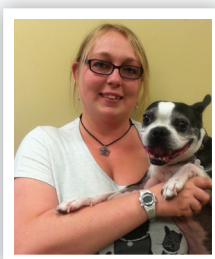
#Teen T.A.I.L.S. (Training with Animals to Impact their Lives) is a new program started by the Humane Society of Central Arizona. first session will begin this summer.

**October 10th, 2015** -The Third Annual Thrift Shop Benefit for sheltered animals and D I Y design workshop at the Humane Society of Central Arizona Resale Store. Sponsored by Country Design Style.

## HELPING HANDS HEALING HEARTS

### Staff Profile

Ka Trina Reese came to the Humane Society of Central Arizona in the spring of 2013 to adopt a companion animal. She had grown up with animals all her life and did not currently have a pet.



Ka Trina Reese

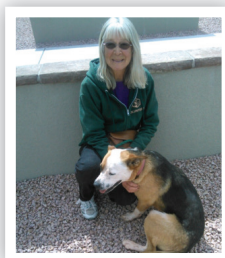
She decided she wanted to adopt a dog from the local humane society and ended up adopting a 9 year old Boston terrier named Baxter. Baxter had some health issues but Ka Trina nursed him back to health and he is now living a happy and healthy life.

In the fall of 2013, Ka Trina felt the need to help more homeless pets, so she became a volunteer and started walking dogs. It wasn't long after becoming a volunteer, that a new position became available at HSCAZ. In May of 2014, Ka Trina applied and interviewed for the Animal Records Specialist and got the job! She was now in charge of all animal related paperwork including intakes, adoptions and reclaims. Ka Trina caught on quickly to all of her new tasks and proved to be an asset to HSCAZ. In December of 2014, Ka Trina was promoted to Office Manager. Her duties still include those of the animal records, as well as running all aspects of the front office including ordering supplies, working directly with the front desk volunteers and assisting the public. When asked what she likes most about working for HSCAZ she said "Even though there are hard days here, the work we do for the

animals and the community make it all worth while. I have hopes that there will be a ripple affect in the community because of all the hard work HSCAZ does". Ka Trina is a positive person to have a round and is always willing to help out. She is dedicated, hard working and her passion shows in her work every day. We are very pleased to have Ka Trina as part of the team.

### Volunteer Profile

Debra (Debbie) Sanders is no greenhorn when it comes to working with, and wanting to help homeless and unwanted animals. Before moving to Payson



Debbie Sanders

in 2010, Debbie helped start up an animal shelter in Skagway, Alaska. Once in Arizona, it wasn't long before she became a volunteer for HSCAZ. Debbie has been a very active volunteer, and can usually be found at different adoption events passionately engaging potential adopters or around Payson walking dogs from the shelter. Debbie has even given two HSCAZ pets their Forever Homes-Chablis, a Devon Rex who was adopted in 2013 and Willow, a Miniature Australian Shepherd who was adopted a year later in 2014.

What she likes most about being a volunteer here at HSCAZ, she said that she likes the fact that we have a caring group of people here- the staff and the volunteers really push for the animals, and it shows. She said both the staff and the volunteers are on the same page when it comes to finding good homes for our homeless animals, and that makes all the difference.

## RESCUED PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

### Adoption Success Story by Chandra Cushman

Kirsten was one of 10 cats we took in from a terrible hoarding situation from Gisela in November of 2014. When she first came in, she was skin and bones and weighed just over 3 lbs. Most of the cats from this situation were thin



and starving but Kirsten took the cake. In fact, she lost almost a pound in the beginning before she started to put weight back on. After some medical testing, we found that Kirsten had a thyroid problem. We put her on medication and she slowly started to look and feel better. She went from a skin and bones 3 pound cat with sunken cheeks, to a healthy 6 pound cat with bright eyes and soft, fluffy fur.

Kirsten sat her at the shelter for months awaiting her fur-ever home. She greeted each person who would visit with a friendly meow, but months past with no sign of any interest. People loved her personality but were put off by the fact that she needed to be on medication for her thyroid for the rest of her life. Trying to adopt out animals with minor health issues really proves to be rather difficult. But then Chelsea came along. She and her grandmother saw Kirsten and fell in love. When we mentioned her thyroid meds, they didn't bat an eye. Medication was no issue to them because they have a dog that requires daily eye drops for the rest of his life, so what was one more animal to medicate?

Kirsten now enjoys sun bathing on the porch in her new home. She has made her self comfortable and often sleeps above her new mommy's head at night. She is very sweet and truly loved.



## RESCUED PETS CON'T

### Little Ricky by Jason Carey

The little white dog came to the back door, trailing behind a man who held his leash tightly. The man had a sad story to tell: his mother in an assisted living community, her small dog becoming increasingly aggressive to visitors. The dog had attempted to bite several people, and the assisted living center had declared that the dog must go. The family couldn't take the dog - he was aggressive after all.

Little Ricky stood quietly watching the discussion take place. His eyes were wide and wary, his body leaning as far away from these new people as he could possibly get. We looked back at a cute, fluffy little dog that had not likely spent much time around anyone that he didn't know. A staffer reached for him and he darted away, his lips curled back in a grimace, his body tense. He was not friendly. But he was not aggressive either. He was afraid. We took him.

Little Ricky tested our patience for a while.

His fluffy coat was so soft, it was hard to remember that he didn't want to cuddle. And his under bite was so cute, it was hard to remember that the same mouth contained sharp teeth. Ricky was a fear-biter. He wasn't confrontational. He didn't make eye contact. He didn't challenge. He waited until the people that made him nervous were past, then attacked their ankles with gusto. He was perfect for the lobby.

Lobby dogs need supervision. They tend to be in the lobby because they have problems. These might be something as benign as overly enthusiastic affection, or something as challenging as territorial aggression. Ricky wasn't territorial per se, but he did make a few visitors think twice about crossing the lobby area. His reputation as an ankle biter was well deserved.

Our breakthrough with Little Ricky came fairly easily. All of our dogs are introduced to other dogs as a part of the evaluation process. We quickly discovered that unlike many nervous dogs, Little Ricky absolutely loved the company of other dogs. He had a calm, relaxed demeanor with dogs that made him many friends. We used Ricky to teach dogs with "dog problems" how to interact. Maybe the solution to Ricky's "people problem" was to let him take cues from people-friendly dogs.

The lobby group grew. We started bringing Ricky's friends into the lobby with him, making each day a small dog play party. When people passed through, Ricky would dart away, hanging around the perimeter and watching for his opportunity. But it never came. Passersby would inevitably stop to love and cuddle Ricky's friendly friends. And if Ricky charged any ankles, there was always another little dog or two running blocker.



Little Ricky

Slowly but surely, Little Ricky's curiosity got the best of him. All of his dog buddies were loving this attention. Maybe, just maybe, there was something to this "people-friendly" business. His progress was slow at first. Ricky would creep up to a cuddle session, do a few laps around the perimeter, then run away when a friendly hand was extended. It didn't last long. Two months after he came to the shelter, he was attending adoption events. At first, his handlers were restricted to behavior staff; his interactions with people closely monitored. But after a Flagstaff event where a four year old girl plopped down in the grass next to him and pulled Little Ricky into her lap for a successful cuddle, we decided Ricky was over the worst of his issues. In addition to his dog helper duties, Ricky became a regular on the event circuit.

A few months later, Little Ricky was adopted. An elderly woman who lived alone needed a companion. Her kids saw Ricky at Petco and thought he would be perfect. She came back, Ricky climbed in her lap, and he was adopted immediately. We congratulated ourselves on Ricky's quick turnaround and his successful adoption. Unfortunately, Ricky's story was not yet complete. His adopter loved him dearly, but was going through some health problems herself. A month after the adoption, we picked Ricky up at his home. His adopter had gone into hospice care.

Her family was not able to care for him. Little Ricky's history was repeating itself.

There was one difference. When Ricky came back to the shelter, he was no longer afraid. He continued to meet new people, to help new dogs, and to attend adoption events. He was our go-to dog whenever a newcomer had problems making friends. He was not always outgoing, but never again did he show aggression. We knew Ricky's home was out there. It was just a matter of time.

Little Ricky's time came three months after his return. In April, a woman came in looking for a "lap dog." She saw Ricky and fell in love. When she went to the yard to meet him, Ricky did not share her enthusiasm. He was aloof and stand-offish, keeping his distance. We worried that her lap dog dream would be quashed by Ricky's uncertainty. She did not share our concern. After a brief discussion of Ricky's history, she was convinced that all he needed was a little time. Once again, Ricky was adopted.

Little Ricky came to visit last month. He was relaxed, well-groomed, and chubby. He followed his adopter faithfully, and graciously accepted affection from everyone in our lobby. He was calm, well-adjusted and happy to see us again. And he was equally happy to say goodbye after a brief visit. He was, after all, going home.

## MUSINGS

### Traveling by Car with Your Furry Companions.

#### A few important considerations:

- Book early if staying in a hotel - pet-friendly rooms are often limited.
- Reduce stress by making sure your pets are accustomed to their carriers well in advance of your travel.
- Pack copies of health certificates including rabies immunization records from veterinarian.
- Don't forget medications, food and extra water.
- Bring lots of toys and familiar beds.
- Exercise your pet before leaving home.
- Restrain carriers by securing with the car's seat belt.
- For their safety, pets should not be allowed to stick their heads out of the window or ride in the back of an open truck.
- Frequently make stops for exercise and elimination. Always make sure your pets have a collar with an ID tag and use a leash when outside of the car.
- Never leave your furry companions alone in the car.

## LOOKING FOR LOVE & COMPANIONSHIP - PROFILE



**Who:** Malinko

**Model:** Male - Terrier, American Pit Bull Mix

**Age:** One year & six mos.

**Looking for:** An athletic forever family with lots of energy, I will keep up! Eager to listen and learn from you.

**Experience:** I have quickly become the star of several play groups. Of course, my enthusiasm for new friends carries over to dogs, too.

**Characteristics:** I am a whole lot of fun-loving, people-kissing, dog-playing good times! I am super friendly with everyone I meet, even people who don't like dogs.

Please inquire about me at 928. 474.5590

## IN MEMORIAM

### Judy Signeski and Myrna Tipples

The board of directors, staff and volunteers are filled with much sadness over the recent passings of two of the Humane Society of Central Arizona's dearest friends. We miss you.



Humane  
Society  
of  
Central Arizona

**DONATE TODAY!**

**We ask for your support on  
behalf of the animals  
who share our journey.**

**PLEASE SAY YES!  
I WILL HELP...  
"BECAUSE THEY MATTER"**

Fill out the form and mail it to

HSCAZ at PO Box 242

Payson, AZ 85547

or donate online at

[www.humanesocietycentralaz.org](http://www.humanesocietycentralaz.org)

Sign-up to receive monthly updates via email

## HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA DONATION FORM

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I am enclosing my tax deductible gift of:

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