

Kindred Spirits Newsletter

MARCH 2016

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

Ginger Ingram
Cathy Buckisch
Janet Parsons
Diane Enos
Joy Bates
Wendy Larchick

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chandra Cushman

SHELTER ADMINISTRATION

928-474-5590
605 W. Wilson Court
Payson, AZ 85541

SHELTER HOURS

Monday through Saturday
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Closed Sunday



**RESPECT, GRACE, COMPASSION AND LOVE
FOR THE ANIMALS WHO SHARE OUR JOURNEY**

Upcoming Events

April 5— Arizona Gives Day
April 16— Low-Cost Vaccine Clinic from 8 AM to noon at the shelter
May 21— Cowboys, Critters and Cocktails (check back for more information!)

FROM THE DIRECTOR



It has been an absolute pleasure being the new Executive Director. I accepted the position in July of 2015 and have worked for the Humane Society of Central Arizona for 9 years now. I started off cleaning kennels and worked hard to get to where I am now. I feel blessed to be able to work with such hardworking and dedicated staff and volunteers. They truly love the animals here and their compassion is contagious. I am grateful for the donors and supporters that help keep the doors open and provide necessary funding and support for the animals that have no voice. Being a part of such an amazing team is inspirational and compelling. Since I've been in my position, here are some of the things we have accomplished:

- Recycled over 15,000 lbs. of aluminum cans
- Received a \$96,262.50 grant from PetSmart Charities for a Low Income Voucher Program to assist Payson residents with spay/neuter services, wellness exams and routine vaccinations.
- Our Mobile Clinic finally went offsite to provide spay and neuter surgeries for Globe residents.
- We've done a lot of reorganizing this past year leading to all HSCAZ staff taking on more responsibilities to increase cross training and teamwork to better care for animals and to better serve the Rim Country community.

2015 Stats

- Brought in 790 animals
- Serviced 436 animals through the Mobile Clinic
- 94% live release rate

Looking forward I would like to accomplish:

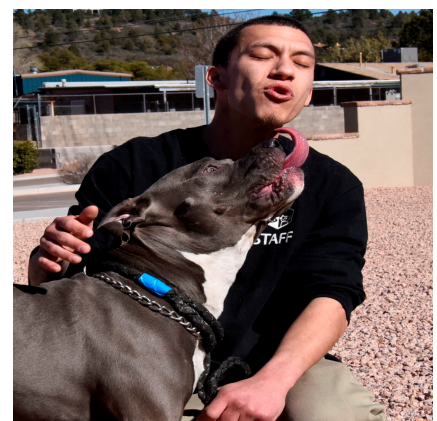
- The Mobile clinic to travel to underserved areas such as Young and Tonto Basin.
- Secure the present and future of HSCAZ by applying for more grants and increasing fundraising efforts.
- Offering educational services to the community regarding proper pet care and training.

I look forward to the future and to all the positive changes that are still to come.

With Gratitude,

Chandra

Chandra Cushman
Executive Director



Chris and Grrr

STAFF PROFILE: Dr. Sheena Christensen, DVM



Dr. Sheena Christensen was born and raised in central Iowa and is a graduate of Iowa State University. Go Cyclones! She has had a love of animals since she was little, but it was when her family moved out to an acreage and became home to all the stray cats around that she realized veterinary medicine might be a career choice for her.

During veterinary school she developed a deep love for surgery. This combined with her passion for shelter medicine and international travel led to many trips abroad to help with high volume spay/neuter clinics. She has had the pleasure of helping in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Jamaica on multiple occasions. Since moving to Arizona she has also had the pleasure of becoming a Board

Member for the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association and most recently has joined the Executive Committee of this board as the secretary/treasurer. Dr. Sheena loves her work with shelter animals and plans to continue these efforts both at home and abroad. The animals at the shelter sure love her too!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Betty Raveling



Betty Raveling has been volunteering for HSCAZ since 2003. Betty has always helped fundraise for the shelter and still continues to do so. If there is an event going on either in town or at the shelter, you will almost always see Betty there helping out. She helped

open the first Humane Society Resale Store and then helped move to our new location at 510 W. Main Street. Betty has a huge presence at the Resale Store. Her specialty is working the registers and greeting customers. When she is not busy with the customers, she can be found vacuuming, dusting, organizing and helping

keep the store sparkling. Betty also brings in supplies as needed and even water for the other volunteers. Her generosity is overwhelming. We are thankful to have such an amazing group of volunteers that help keep the shelter running. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Annie at 928-474-5590.

HSCAZ Resale Store



Our Resale Store is located at 510 W. Main Street. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. This store is one of the main sources of revenue for the shelter. We take donations of all kinds and can even pick up larger donations. The store is maintained by dedicated staff and lots of volun-

teers who really pride themselves on keeping the store clean and helping turn a profit for the shelter. A lot of days you can also meet some of our adoptable dogs at the store. They love going there to play with volunteers and meet the public. There are always some great deals at the store. All dona-

tions are considered tax deductible. This month we have a large assortment of new prom dresses in all different sizes. You can also shop via our online eBay store. The web address is www.ebay.com/usr/paysonhumanesociety

Please stop in and visit our beautiful store.

Rescued Pets and Their People

Tater by Jason Carey

"That dog is really vicious." It was an all too frequent refrain as people left the dog kennels and came back to the lobby. Knowing the truth, we often tried to explain, but our words usually fell on deaf ears. It was hard to blame anyone for their misconceptions. The dog would stand still at his kennel gate, a wary eye on new visitors. He watched them come down the line, and became increasingly agitated as they got nearer. By the time anyone stopped at his kennel, he was barking, spinning and showing his teeth. Understandably, no one wanted to meet him.

Tater was a beautiful young dog with a confidence problem. He came to us in July 2013, seized from a hoarding situation in which nearly a dozen large dogs were impounded. As with many of the dogs that come to the shelter, we didn't know for sure what he was. What we did know was that he was a stunning dog - a beautiful red brown brindle with almond eyes, expressive ears and a muscular build. Tater didn't know he was so pretty. When he came to us he didn't know much of anything.

He was always a bit shy. It took him a while to warm up. He didn't understand how to play with people, or that it was even an option. Fetch was out of the question. Leashes were viewed with apprehension. But he was calm, gentle, and incredibly affectionate with a little encouragement. We didn't think he'd be at the shelter long. We were wrong.

More than two years later, Tater was still with us. He had watched other dogs come and go. Many of them were his friends. He had an easygoing charm with female dogs that made him our "go to" dog for new girls. He had become friendly with many staff members and volunteers. He had weathered cold

winters, the occasional illness, a spider bite, and the general stress of living in a kennel. He had also become increasingly introverted and frightened of the outside world. He loved the people he knew, but didn't see any reason to broaden his social circle. He could leap a six foot fence with little effort, only to run back to the front of the shelter and wait to be let in. He bonded strongly to one of our staff, and would follow Rod anywhere. Anywhere except home. The shelter was the only home or stability that Tater knew.

It is an occasional and unfortunate occurrence. Some dogs become most comfortable in the shelter. It can be noisy and chaotic, but the shelter is also familiar. Meals come at regular times; the same people stop by every day; the same yards have the same smells, the same kennel, the same routine. For dogs like Tater, the shelter might be the best place they've ever lived.

We tried to coax Tater out of his shell. He could be lured down to the lake by certain dog walkers, especially if one of his female dog friends came along. He would quiet down in his kennel when a volunteer sat with him during adoption hours. He would explore the off-site yard happily when encouraged by the scent of hidden treats. He would not ride or sit in a car. Adoption events sent him into a near panic. If a dog could be diagnosed agoraphobic, Tater fit the bill.

Two and a half years is a long time to wait. Many dogs would have lost hope in a kennel, become despondent or aggressive from sheer stress. Tater had started to defend his "house" with aggressive displays, but he was gentle as could be if anyone so much as opened his kennel door. But he was afraid to make new friends, so discouraging potential adopters suited him just

fine. Yet despite his shows, people couldn't help but be drawn to his appearance. We would take him to the yard for adopters and he would ignore or avoid them, ducking his head and submitting to touch but scooting away the first chance he got. Time after time, people would leave disappointed, sure that they would be the ones to bring him out of his shell. Tater bonded strongly and was a devoted companion, but he had already devoted himself to his shelter people.

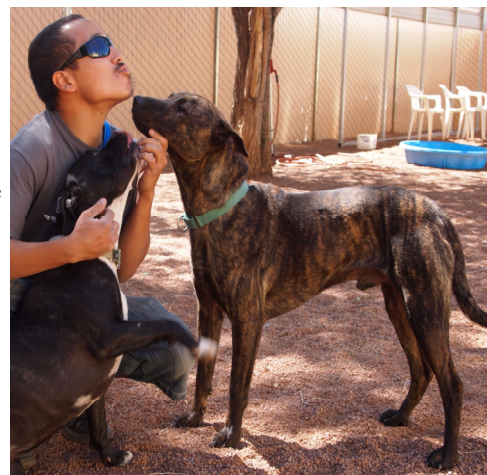
We began to lose hope. Tater didn't seem adoptable. How would we place a dog that didn't want to be placed? We tried marketing him with photo shoots and personals ads. We sent out pleas on social media for this "diamond in the rough." Tater responded by becoming more camera shy, more reluctant to go for walks, more indifferent to the people that responded to our efforts. It was starting to look like Tater might have to live out his life at a sanctuary. Reluctantly, we began putting together the paperwork.

As is so often the case, luck changes just when hope is lost. Tater's came on a day like any other. There was nothing special to mark the event. There was no fanfare or excitement. There were just two special people that walked into the shelter looking for a friend for their dog. They had some experience with shy dogs, having rescued their current dog and spent months on her rehabilitation. They were open to non-aggressive "issues." They were open to work. They were open so long as their selective dog approved. They might be open to Tater.

Tater went out to the yard with them. He followed his usual customs. He skirted the people with indifference and hit it off quickly with the other dog. They were on the fence, watching the dogs play. It seemed like a good fit, but what if he didn't warm to them? How much work was it going to take? And then Tater did something unusual, something very un-Tater. He approached the couple slowly, ducked his head and stood next to the woman. She reached her hand out and touched him. He did not shy away. Tater was going home.



Tater and his new family



Tater and Jesse



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

Sign-up to receive monthly updates via email

HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA DONATION FORM

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Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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- OR -

Please charge my _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Discover Card

in the amount of \$_____ for a one time gift or a monthly gift of

\$_____ starting on _____ until I cancel.
(month/year)

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Name on Card _____ Sec _____

Signature _____

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