

SEPTEMBER 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

Chandra Cushman
Executive Director

Shelter Administration
928 474-5590

SHELTER HOURS

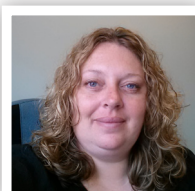
Monday through Saturday
10:00 am to 3 pm
Closed Sunday

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Chandra Cushman has been a valuable team member at the Humane Society of Central Arizona, since 2007, where she began her career as an Animal Care Tech. Over the years,

Chandra's hard work and dedication paved the way for her to move all of the way up from cleaning kennels into managerial roles. Eight years later, she was offered the position of Executive Director.

She humbly speaks about the clapboard house on McLane Rd. which was HSCAZ's home for more than 33 years. When people comment they hardly even remember the old building she quickly replies, "a day doesn't go by when I don't think about the old shelter facility and how stressful the conditions were on the dogs, cats, volunteers and staff." She was



there full-time, and credits many of her life lessons to seeing how it was possible, especially at the start of the recession, for so many things to change for the good. Quietly she watched volunteers cheerfully work and the board of directors lead a successful building campaign. The bar is clearly set high for her stepping into the footprints of the three Executive Directors she previously worked for and now to take HSCAZ to new heights.

As Executive Director, Chandra is responsible for developing and directing all programs, activities and operations necessary to advance the mission and core values of HSCAZ including organizational structure, budgeting, fundraising and community development. Chandra's vision for the future of the shelter includes:

- Growing the spay/neuter program through grant efforts to include southern Gila County
- Maintaining the shelter's low euthanasia rate
- Expanding low-cost medical services to the public utilizing the mobile clinic *con't on page two*



By Artist Mike Sivak

SEPTEMBER 19TH IS PINS FOR PAWS

Join us Saturday, September 19th at Beeline Bowl. Registration is at 3:30. A delicious buffet dinner is being catered by Gerardo's immediately following bowling. Fabulous raffle prizes and silent auction items will be on display. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Last year this casual and fun event raised \$10,000 for the shelter and we hope to break that record. For more information and to register for bowling contact Cathy Buckisch at ccbuck1@aol.com.

THRIFT SHOP BENEFIT

Saturday, October 10th, 2015 marks the third annual Thrift Benefit for sheltered animals and D I Y design workshop. The event will take place at the Humane Society of Central Arizona Resale Store and is sponsored by Country Design Style. Designer Jeanette Chaney will demonstrate how to repurpose treasures found at HSCAZ's Resale Store - proceeds will benefit the animals in our shelter.

Jeanette founded the Thrift Benefit for Sheltered Animals in October 2013. Each October she hosts a link party with other bloggers and quarterly she hosts local events at HSCAZ's Resale Store. She is focused on bringing awareness to the amazing thrift stores that benefit animal rescues and to the volunteers that run them.



DUST OFF THOSE BOOTS!

Canines, Cats & Cowboys is the theme for the 2016 late spring fundraiser. The date and location TBA.



WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?

Memorial and Honor Stones

Plans to design a memorial and honor reflective walkway area close to the shelter are underway. This will be a place to honor your beloved animals in a permanent setting. Research is being conducted to ensure the engraved stones will last for generations and represent the memory of your lovable companion. The cost for engraved Memorial and Honor stones along with additional information will be posted at humanesocietycentralaz.org soon.

Recycling Program

HSCAZ's aluminum can recycling program is set to expand by offering additional can drop-off locations beyond Payson. Volunteer Dennis Ferguson has stepped up to assist and grow this program.



For years, the can recycling program has been a very important grass roots effort for HSCAZ to offset costs in operating the shelter. Please continue to support this program.

Board of Director's appointment

Ginger Ingram, having served on the Board of Directors for the past six years, has been elected Chairman, a rein passed down by Diane Enos. As a board member, Ginger began working on behalf of HSCAZ's Thrift Store - before and during its move into the Payson Women's Club building on Main Street. She was then nominated to oversee the interior finishing touches in the new facilities, fall 2012. Her three-year Chairmanship began July 1st.



Ginger Ingram

HELPING HANDS HEALING HEARTS

Staff Profiles

Annie Bamber is HSCAZ's Outreach Programs Coordinator. Annie began working for the Humane Society of Central Arizona in mid-June. Her responsibilities include helping to grow and support HSCAZ's volunteer and humane education programs, volunteer recognition and training, and coordinating special events.



Turnip & Annie

Originally from Boston, Annie was employed by Boston Medical Center and attained extensive experience with non-profit organizations. She has lived in Payson for the past six years and loves it here. Previously she worked for a veterinary clinic for four years where she gained knowledge working with animals and assisting in practice management. Annie is looking to expand the volunteer program and will be actively recruiting and training this fall.

Payson in August of 2013 and worked for a local veterinary clinic for two years. DJ brings a wide expanse of veterinary experience to our shelter. His expertise and high levels of care will be extremely beneficial to the dogs and cats who call this shelter home.

Volunteer Profile

Linda Kazmier is relatively new to Payson; but not to volunteering. Previously a resident of Phoenix, Linda volunteered countless hours for HALO Animal Rescue. For HSCAZ she divides her time between the Resale Store where she helps raise money to insure the success of the shelter and in the shelter by socializing with our cats to promote their adoptability. Linda's favorite part of volunteering for HSCAZ is when a shelter pet goes to their forever home and seeing how the community embraces our mission at the shelter.

Linda is an advocate for adopting older animals that may not be as desirable to some. She currently has two older rescue cats, Kato and Orkie. She really enjoys living in Payson because of the genuine concern and love the community has for their furry friends. Hearing the positive feedback concerning the shelter around town brings her a personal sense of joy and accomplishment. Linda prefers not to be thanked for all her efforts put forth; but rather thank the shelter for the opportunity to volunteer. If you or anyone you know is interested in assisting us in the ongoing compassionate care for the animals who are lost, homeless or abandoned and in our shelter... please contact Annie Bamber Outreach Programs Coordinator at 928-474-5590 ext. 100.



Linda & Missy

Executive Director *con't from page one*

- Spending time in the community educating youth and adults on responsible animal care
- Inviting the community to be an active partner in our shelter activities
- Fine-tuning Feeding Fido's Pet Food Pantry- a program she designed in her position as Animal Services Manager.

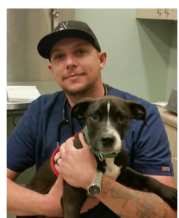
Chandra is a member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA) and is actively furthering her experience and education in the Animal Welfare industry. Her enthusiasm and compassion to improve the lives of the animals served at the shelter is without question contagious.

KINDRED SPIRITS COMMITTEE

We are looking for Kindred Spirits Committee members to assist us with upcoming event planning, and creative fundraising activities. Please contact Chandra Cushman or Annie Bamber for an application and information.



Volunteer Rita & Bull



DJ & Sadie the pup

The Humane Society of Central Arizona is pleased to introduce our newest member of the team; veterinary technician, **DJ Palmer**. DJ has 10 years of veterinary technician experience and is also well-versed in obedience training, boarding, and handling working K9s. DJ is originally from Tubac, Arizona where he worked for The Animal Care Center of Green Valley for numerous years. He moved to

RESCUED PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

Stellar by Jason Carey

He was a healthy, dapper little miniature Pinscher. His name was Stellar. By all accounts, he was a nasty little dog.

Stellar came to us from a rescue group. In exchange for several of our older dogs that were having difficulty getting placed, we would take a couple of their "problem children". We made no promises. Some cases can be worked out; others prove too difficult to rehabilitate. Stellar's reputation was unpleasant – a biter with several cases on record. But there was something about his peppy personality that made us want to try.

When he came to Payson, Stellar quickly went about re-establishing his reputation in new surroundings. He was fiercely defensive of his space and belongings. His kennel, bed, blanket and bowl were his security in an uncertain situation. We tried different housing and handling protocols. None seemed to help. Within a month, he had bitten our veterinarian. Two months later, he bit a volunteer. With a growing record of aggressive behavior, Stellar was running out of options.

We asked ourselves if he was worth the continued effort. It was not ethical to put more people at risk. A few mitigating factors made the difference. Stellar was small; he was incredibly cute; and once away from his kennel, he made friends with people and animals very easily. Our Behavior Programs Manager decided to take Stellar home as a foster to see if his problem behaviors could be mitigated in a less stressful environment.

Stellar's improvement was remarkably swift. With two people and four larger dogs to answer to, Stellar received a quick lesson in unacceptable behavior! Outright aggression was quickly corrected; posturing was otherwise ignored. Stellar made a quick transition to lap dog, eager to worm his way onto furniture and when allowed, on the bed. He learned to share space with the other dogs, too. He was a happy, loving little dog once he settled into a home.

When Stellar came back to the shelter, his socialization continued. He spent time in the lobby with a rotating group of small dogs. He even became "walking buddies" with Poppet the cat. If he had one glaring impediment to adoption, it was that Stellar continued to growl, bark and otherwise drive people away when they visited his kennel.

We decided that Stellar would need a special adopter, someone willing to look past first impressions and take a chance on his home behavior. We figured his marketing would need to address this special adopter directly. So we pulled no punches with Stellar's biography. It was a gamble – calling out all of a dog's faults will turn away all but the most committed adopter. But as luck would have it, that adopter saw him online and just had to meet the "little rascal"!

They were a large family, with older kids, dogs, cats

and livestock. The whole family stopped by to meet Stellar. It was slow at first. He didn't warm in the shelter or in the yard. We all went for a walk, stopped off site and sat in a circle with Stellar in the middle. Everyone in the family took turns offering treats. The opportunity for "goodies" changed Stellar's demeanor for the better. He warmed quickly to mother and son. Dad and daughter had less success, but mom had already decided. If Stellar could get along with their dogs, the adoption was a done deal! We scheduled a home visit for the following week.

The two large male labs that greeted Stellar at the gate could not believe this little min-pin wanted to pick a fight. Stellar walked into their yard with some trepidation. And per his usual routine, trepidation had to be covered up with a show of force. The big dogs weren't having it. We took the whole clan for a walk so the dogs could settle down. Once Stellar got over his initial fears, the dogs were off leash running the yard in no time. To the labs, he was an amusing distraction.

We went back in the house to finalize the adoption. Stellar hopped up on the couch and curled up in a ball next to his new mom. He kept one eye on his new crate, blanket and other possessions and slowly drifted off to sleep.

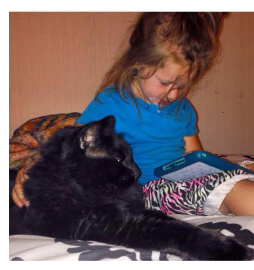
Tyler's new home by Chandra Cushman

Tyler came in as a stray in July 2014. He was a sweet and calm cat and we were sure he would be adopted out in no time, but it took five months. The adopters had another cat and Tyler does well with other cats so we weren't worried at all. A few weeks later, Tyler was returned because he and the other cat were just not getting along. In fact, Tyler was so stressed out that he was starting to pull out his own hair. After a few weeks of medical observation, everything seemed fine with him and his hair was starting to grow back. We

placed him up for adoption again. The weeks turned in to months and again and we were baffled that this sweet and handsome cat was still available for adoption. But then a lady named Tarriantiara and her children came in looking to adopt a cat that would be affectionate and easygoing with the children. They went into the cat house and spotted Tyler and fell instantly in love. Tyler, now Snape (the name change came about after the kids watched a Harry Potter marathon) finally found his forever home. His new family has been giving us regular updates on Tyler (Snape) and this is what they have to say, "Tyler is doing fantastic! He and Minerva are learning to tolerate each other and even slept at opposite ends of my bed today. He isn't pulling his hair out or having accidents and he doesn't even mind Jada at all. He's stolen my bed and sleeps on the towels in the linen closet. He likes his bowl refilled after just a few bites and he doesn't mind Jada's kisses. He is so chill here. I think he was definitely meant to be ours. Most cats don't ask a 3 year old for attention. Hopefully people will understand that shelter animals aren't in there because they are bad and that what one person sees as a behavior problem simply isn't in someone else's home."



Mom, Stellar & two big brothers



Tyler (Snape) & Jada

MUSING

Everyone agrees puppies and kittens are precious and adorable. However, there is immense gratification in adopting and caring for a senior pet as they grow older. A few considerations prior to making that decision:

1. Enthusiasm for activities is still high, but seniors often ignore pain. It is important to take slower and shorter walks filled with lots of stopping for sniff breaks.
2. Keep their days stimulated with car rides, toys made from knotted socks and t-shirts, or even better new toys.
3. Offer daily petting sessions with lots of tender love, extra vet visits to address possible issues, accessible and comfortable places to rest.
4. Consider adopting a more youthful adult companion to keep your senior socializing and increasing their activity which may have a positive effect on their quality of life.

LOOKING FOR LOVE & COMPANIONSHIP - PROFILE

Who: JC

Model: Alaskan Malamute mix

Age: 7 ½ years old

Looking for: A place to call home.

Experience: Resident at HSCAZ since February 2, 2015 and I have been through some rough times, but have learned to adjust.

Characteristics: I am a friendly, outgoing boy with a quirky personality. Kind of a lesson in contradictions. I love to be petted - not a fan of grooming. I love going for walks - don't like to be held. I love to ride in the car - but not to the vet. I love to play fetch - don't ask me to share with other dogs. I like to be left alone when I eat. Working hard to learn how to play with other dogs, however I don't mind going for a walk with them. Learning more everyday on how to share my people and my toys.

Please inquire about me at 928.474.5590





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

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