

Paw Prints

Vol. XXVII, Issue 2

A Newsletter for the Friends and Supporters of The Animal League of Green Valley

Summer 2013

Getting Ready for the Big Move



Tipsy can't wait to see his new office!

This is a busy and exciting time for TALGV. Our expansion is nearing completion and we are preparing to move our 147 resident cats into their new quarters. Along with a new cat wing the building will also house adoption counseling rooms, a multipurpose room for volunteer training and Outreach education, and computer work stations.

The old cat wing will be converted to dog kennels to allow us to better provide for our canine friends. Clearing of the site has provided space for 10 new outdoor dog runs and more parking for visitors and volunteers.



The new outdoor dog runs have plenty of shade, swimming pools and exercise space. Our new building (upper left) is scheduled for completion in mid July.

Please come and visit any time to check on our progress and watch for news about our grand opening in October.

We are grateful to our many donors who have made this possible. Your continuing support is necessary as we strive to provide the best possible care for our residents and pay off the mortgage.

Y.I.P! Y.I.P! Hooray!

The Youth Intern Program is back for the third year, bigger and better than ever! Just as desperation was about to set in after the departure of our winter volunteers, school was out and the YIPS (Youth Intern Program Students) arrived. A record 72 teens chose to spend a generous portion of their summer vacation volunteering for the animals.

Starting at 7:00 a.m. 7 days a week, these amazing young volunteers can be found cleaning kennels, scooping litter boxes, washing floors, sweeping and then grooming, socializing, walking, feeding, and loving the over 150 cats and dogs that TALGV cares for every day.

Five of the YIPS are back for their 3rd year and 14 for their 2nd year. Thirty of the first year YIPS became eligible with their graduation from 8th grade in May, and many of them reported they had been waiting for two years to finally be old enough to participate.



The YIPS attended training the last week of May and began working the first week in June. In order to participate they must meet standards of conduct and dress, and commit to 32 volunteer hours, usually scheduled as one 4-hour shift a week for 8 weeks. This year many of the YIPS have chosen to work 2 or more shifts resulting in over 600 volunteer hours a week.

Their enthusiasm, cooperation, energy, courtesy and dedication speak volumes about today's young people and their values. The program officially ends the last week of July as most schools are back in session a week later. The cats, dogs, and adult volunteers love their YIPS and are looking forward to their participation whenever possible during the school year.



Penny Wortman

TALGV's Resident Caretaker

Penny has had pets all her life. This passion for animals lead her to actively pursue schooling and jobs that prepared her for the care and training of animals of all breeds and species. In fact, she currently has two Chihuahuas - a mother and daughter, named Jazzmine and Sarafina, and five birds, three of her own and two fosters. They all happily reside in Penny's apartment at TALGV.

Besides having her own menagerie, Penny has worked with the rehabilitation of wildlife, the free flight program at Sonora Desert Museum, and as a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) in several local animal hospitals. She has completed a "safe capture" course and studied animal behavior. Penny also takes continuing education credits to maintain her CVT license as well as working several animal related jobs in Tucson during the day. Penny's responsibilities as resident caretaker are to feed and medicate the animals in the evening, and to be onsite overnight for the general well-being of the animals and the facility. Penny is a loving and knowledgeable caregiver and a great addition to our TALGV family.

Helping Your Cat Stay Mentally Spry

Cats are living longer than ever before - it's not unusual for felines to reach their mid-to-late teens or even early twenties. A longer lifespan, however, can leave felines frazzled if their once-spry brains aren't properly stimulated. which is why it's important to focus on feline brain health.

Brain function studies in dogs proved that problem-solving activities kept canines sharp, connected to the world around them and even extended their lifespan. The old saying "use it or lose it" also applies to cats, so here are some simple tips for keeping your feline mentally fit well into her golden years.

- 1. Train the Brain Early.** To slow the progression of aging in the brain, make sure your cat is physically active and mentally engaged throughout her life - starting when she's a kitten.
- 2. Play Daily.** Cats thrive on routine, and building play into everyday life increases the chances that she'll stay active in later years. Homemade toys like wads of paper, socks stuffed with catnip and ribbons that you can drag on the floor cost little but bring huge rewards.
- 3. Keep Her Physique in Check.** Overweight cats avoid physical exertion and prefer sleep and lap time to brainteasers. To encourage exercise and problem solving, place food bowls at the top of stairs or cat trees.
- 4. Create Some Kitty TV.** Place bird feeders and birdbaths outside windows for your cat's viewing pleasure and brain-stimulating entertainment.
- 5. Build Obstacle Courses.** Set up cat trees, empty boxes, paper bags and other hiding spots, so your feline can lounge, climb and explore.



- 6. Adopt a Younger Pet.** A playful cat or dog, when introduced safely and correctly, can turn back the clock and inspire an old-timer to move her tail - and jump-start her sluggish brain.
 - 7. Offer a New Leash on Life.** Teach your cat to walk on a leash, so she can safely explore the yard - or simply use her brain to troubleshoot how to get out of the darn thing.
 - 8. Teach With Treats.** Call out "Fluffy, come!" Then turn on the can opener, and when the cat runs to you, reward her with a snack.
 - 9. Pick Up a Puzzle.** Toys that dispense treats mimic feline hunting behaviors, keeping cats entertained and mentally sharp.
 - 10. Make Treasure Hunts Out of Meals.** Hide saucers full of small amounts of food all over the house - and place them at different levels, so your cat must seek out the morsels.
- Once cats reach their senior years, their companionship becomes even more precious. If you pay attention to your kitty's mental health, you'll keep her connected with life - and you - as long as possible.



ADOPT AN OLDER CAT

"Senior Cat Warranty"



- ♥ **Free vet care for life for any cat 10+ yrs old**
- ♥ **Low maintenance sofa accessory**
- ♥ **Unlimited purring and cuddling**
- ♥ **Mellow "been there, done that" attitude**

Stop by and meet our older feline residents!

~ Discuss the Adoption Process ~

Awards and Recognition

2013 NON-PROFIT BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD



For 29 years, The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) has been providing shelter and care for cats and dogs in need in the Green Valley/Sahuarita community. In recent years TALGV has grown tremendously in both the numbers of animals helped and the kinds of services provided. Since 2008, TALGV has found homes through adoption for 3,557 pets from our area. In that same period it also provided outreach services for 1,856 pets whose families were in need of assistance. These services include free or low cost spay/neuter, veterinary care, and food.

More than 440 volunteers give freely of their time and effort, 365 days a year. In 2012, volunteers contributed more than 99,250 hours of their time, the equivalent of 61 full-time staff members. There is no paid staff at TALGV, only dedicated volunteers.

TALGV's mission is "A Home for Every Pet." This award honors all those in our community who have let TALGV know in so many ways (advocacy, volunteering, fostering, adopting, financial, in-kind services, media coverage, written and verbal feedback and encouragement, donating goods, shopping at our Attic Thrift Shop, etc.) that they support our mission and make it possible to provide the services needed to make every pet adoptable.

Our Champion

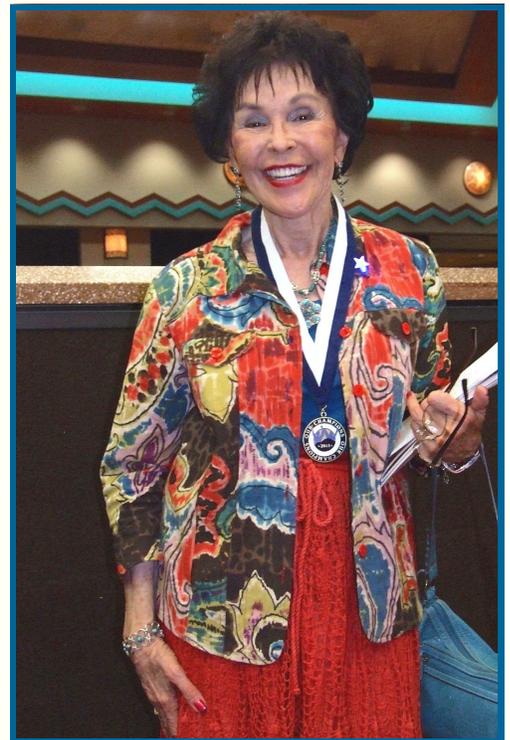
The *Green Valley News* and *Sahuarita Sun* honored 25 people who give back to the community at the Our Champions 2013 awards event on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Volunteers of all talents, ages and backgrounds were honored for coming together to make our community a better place for all.

TALGV President, Jean Davis, was nominated by TALGV's Board of Directors and was one of 25 Champions honored at this event.

In addition, TALGV was one of 12 local non-profit groups to also receive a monetary award.

CONGRATULATIONS, Jean! You are and always will be our Champion.



Celebrating Our Volunteers

Over 200 TALGV volunteers enjoyed the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 6, 2013, at the West Center. The theme was "Pets Light Up Our Lives, That's Why We Volunteer." Each volunteer received a TALGV t-shirt, free tickets for the raffle and a chance to win one of the beautiful glass votive centerpieces.



TALGV says
'Thank You'
to all our
wonderful volunteers.



Doin' It *Fore* the Animals 2013

Golfers, sponsors and volunteers came together to make our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament a success. We raised nearly \$7,000 for our expansion project. Our thanks to everyone who participated in this fun event. We hope to see you all again next year!





Mail from our friends...



Buster



We adopted Buster in July, 2005. He was 5 1/2 years old. He's now 12 1/2 years old and he is laying on my foot as I write. He was supposed to be an "awful" dog. He's been only an angel. Thank you for the hard work you do!

Richard and Constance Krug

Arthur



We just adopted a rescue kitty to keep Arthur (Ivanhoe) company. After four long weeks, he is no longer afraid of her. Arthur weighs in at 15 pounds and his new little sister (Tillie the Hun) at 7 pounds. She has him totally buffaloed. Arthur has thrived as our "little" boy. Thank you so very much for introducing us.

Sincerely,
Roberta Gardner & Rich Tompkins

Layla

Layla (adopted in July, 2010) and the cat, Millie, who washes Layla's face.
Michelle Schwerdtfeger



Little LuLu

We adopted 'Mystic' from TALGV in 2011. Today we call her 'Little LuLu'. She is a gem. We both adore her. Please keep up the great work. Thank you,

Rick and Kay Boundy



Robin



Our wild child is slowly but surely learning the ropes of civilized life. Her story about being raised by a pack of coyotes seems the most plausible. She passed a temperament test with flying colors at a doggie day care. She thinks her ears are her best feature. We are madly in love with this dog!

Take good care, Aviva Tirosh

Casey



Here is a picture of Casey, adopted December, 2008, and her neighborhood cat friend, Jack, lounging on Jack's patio. Love her more than ever. Thanks again!

Dale Nonemacher

Raji

Raji (formerly known as "Copper Dan") has taught us so much. He has become a very good friend to dogs and people alike. How fortunate we were that he came into our lives through TALGV, and fortunate that Jill helped to teach us how to work with this wonderful guy. Many thanks for all the work you do for the animals.

Cheers, Celeste Andresen & Jim Bergstrom



Juno



Hi! My name is Juno. You may remember me as "Claus". I love my new home. I live with my mom and dad, two brothers and a sister doggie friend. I keep hearing everybody say, "You're such a good boy!" and then they scratch my favorite scratching place, my ears. My boy says he's going to take me to college with him. A boy and his dog are never supposed to be separated. I'm so glad I found my fur-ever home so I don't have to worry about that kinda stuff. We can grow old together. This is for sure a "happily ever after" adoption and I have everyone at TALGV to thank. I woof you all, Juno

Cinder



Cinder is the best dog ever!!! She always has a smile on her face and is gentle, loving and very energetic. It is her daily job to sit by the sliding glass door and search for birds in the backyard. She takes her job very seriously. I am so very lucky to have found her at TALGV. She has changed my life for the better. They say that when you rescue a dog, the truth is that they rescue you. All are happy at the Salmon home!! Thanks again for all of your help and the services you do! Cindy Salmon

Bella



Just a few words on how Bella is doing. She and Tuffy play continually. She is learning new commands and catches on very quickly. Here is a picture of her on the ride to her new home. Thank you, she is a "love" and has crept her way into our hearts and Tuffy's too.

Joan, John and Tuffy



HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE



At TALGV's Attic Thrift Shop your gently used furniture, housewares, clothing, collectibles, jewelry and books are turned into housing, food and veterinary care for thousands of furry friends in our community. It is most helpful if donated items are clean and in good working order. Please call for pick up of larger items.

SHOP



Summer shopping in The Attic is cool and fun. Our prices are low and new items are always arriving. Daily discounts mean you can save even more. We can arrange delivery for large items. The Attic is open every day from 10AM - 2PM.

Shop 'til you drop!

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers are needed for receiving, sorting, pricing and restocking merchandise as well as cashiers, security and sales. Help is especially needed during the summer months when our winter volunteers are away.

A Dog's Last Will and Testament

(Author unknown)

Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, and give their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask....

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

My happy home.

My bowl, cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys.

The lap which I loved so much.

The hand that stroked my fur and the sweet voice which spoke my name.

I'd will to the sad scared shelter dog the place I had in my human's heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So when I die please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

Instead go find an unloved dog; one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to him.





Tipsy says, "People who say that money can't buy happiness have never paid an adoption fee."

Paw Prints Editor - Sharon Knight
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TALGV is a 501(c)(3)
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The Animal League of Green Valley

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