

# Paw Prints



from The Animal League of Green Valley

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## Adopting a Special Needs Pet



Well over a year ago, an emaciated and dehydrated cat was found in a parking lot in Sahuarita and brought to TALGV. It didn't take long for the volunteers to discover that he was blind, most likely caused by toxoplasmosis acquired from eating infected birds and mice while trying to survive on the streets. Because of his vision loss, he had to be confined to a cage for his own protection. One day near the end of July, I noticed him and realized that although he was getting plenty of food and attention, he really didn't have much of a "quality of life." I decided to take him home to see if he would interact with me and the outside world (and all my other critters!). The staff was overjoyed that Trill might be allowed to roam in a more open area and be a bit more free, and readily agreed to let me give it a try.

It was slow going at first. He had some medical set backs: neutering, two surgeries to remove painful, malignant tumors in his ear, and a much-needed teeth cleaning, but once those procedures were behind him, he became more and more curious about his surroundings.

He immediately became friends with my dogs, Spirit and Lyla, and loves to groom them (so far, no "doggie hair balls")! He had to be taught how to safely jump off the bed or a lap, and since he enjoyed flying through the air, he needed to be pointed in a direction where he wouldn't crash into anything. He is also co-existing nicely with my two 15-year-old cats, Shasta (adopted from TALGV when she was 12), and Smokey, who lost his sight in October 2008.

In the past few months, Trill has blossomed into a loving "kitten" (now 12 years old and 13 pounds!), who is enjoying life possibly as never before – I think he's making up for his "lost youth." He is a real comedian and will bat at and chew on anything that moves, often attacking the dogs' wagging tails. They are amazingly patient with him – I think they know he has been through a lot.

He demands playtime with his beloved catnip mouse pole toy at least twice a day and also likes to stand on his hind legs and bat at "ghosts" with his front paws or just leap into the air to show how happy he is. He adores chewing on shoelaces and doesn't mind if your feet are in the shoes or not!



Although he has learned his way around my house, he still runs into walls on occasion, but he is an endless source of pleasure and entertainment. I've often said that if he had normal vision, he would be a real feline "Dennis the Menace"!

One thing I have learned from both Trill and Smokey is that adding a special needs or older pet to your family will not only bring joy to your life, but it can totally transform an animal from being frightened and depressed after an injury or losing a home of many years into a wonderfully, grateful companion. These lost souls still have plenty of love to share if given the chance. Please consider taking one into your home and your heart.

Vicki Turner, TALGV Dog Handler Coordinator

### 6th Annual Quail Creek Run/Walk Feb. 27, 2010 Benefiting TALGV & the Community Food Bank 12 Participating TALGV Dogs



Thanks  
Quail Creek



# HAPPY TAILS

Artie Collins & Terry Nelson



## Yodie

Yodie was one of the saddest cases ever to come to TALGV. She was a five-month-old puppy who'd been shut up in an abandoned house in the desert and left to die. Ryan, a hunter who was walking in the desert, heard a noise coming from the house, opened the door to investigate and found her, trembling, infested with mange, starving and dehydrated, but still able to wag her tail. Ryan brought her to the League, and

the League went to work. Pet Pals donned protective garments, washed her and dried her, gave her medication for the mange, wrapped her in blankets and fed her--carefully, at first--then more as she was able to handle it.

Several months later, Yodie was finally well enough to be put up for adoption, a small, ten-month-old tan and black shepherd mix girl, just growing into her happy puppy stage because she finally felt so good! Her "before" picture was painful to look at, but you'd never recognize the "after" Yodie.

Julie and Ken wandered into the League one day, spotted Yodie and fell in love, a feeling that Yodie happily reciprocated. She went home with Ken and Julie that very day.

Today, five months later, reports on Yodie are glowing. Ken takes her to the back yard and rough houses, she loves tug-of-war with the tug toy, she's gradually making detente with the house kitty, and she sleeps in a kennel in Ken and Julie's bedroom. She's a happy, healthy little girl, and she returns the love every day. They can't imagine life without her.



## *Kelly and Cranberry A Love Story*

Kelly, a 12-week-old brown-and-white tabby kitten, was brought to us in August, 2008 after her mom was rescued by Mario Aguilar, the longtime Green Valley news photographer. Moxie, her mom, was expecting, and Kelly, along with her four siblings, was taken care of by Mario until, sadly, he was diagnosed with a debilitating disease and could no longer take care of them.

Kelly was very shy and intimidated by the other cats and stayed hidden, out of sight, for months, while all her siblings found good homes. Then, along came Cranberry, a very distinguished-looking four year old long-haired gentleman who had been adopted but returned when the resident cat in his new home wouldn't accept him.

Kelly and Cranberry ended up sharing a room along with a number of other cats but somehow found each other and almost immediately bonded. Maybe it was Cranberry's "soft side" to take pity on this tiny, frightened little kitten, for they became inseparable. They ate, slept and snuggled together, and Cranberry showed his tiny charge how to be a sociable, well-adjusted cat.

Then, another stroke of luck! A wonderful, kind lady who had just lost her 16-year-old companion came in to TALGV looking to share her life with another cat. Little did she know she would be leaving with two!

Jeanne saw Kelly and Cranberry and fell in love. Once she saw how bonded and close they were, she couldn't think of separating them, and they are a constant joy to her now. Kelly is still a shy kitty, but will occasionally sit in Jeanne's lap while she is on the couch, so she is slowly coming around...thanks to Cranberry!



## Stop the suffering Spay and Neuter Your Pets

An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of her puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to **391,300** animals in 7 years.

An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of her kittens, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to **385,000** animals in 7 years.

We can never find enough homes for them.

Most will end up in animal shelters.

Millions of healthy, loving dogs and cats will face an early death as a form of animal control.

Please help us, spay and neuter your pets.



### A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

Recently a local citizen contacted our office with a "problem". This "problem" is similar to those encountered by most local and national shelters on a daily basis. The caller had 2 female dogs he'd taken in from friends who could no longer keep them. He was told the dogs had been spayed and were just too fat. Soon however, they presented him with a total of 17 puppies. Seventeen eager little lives to add to the thousands of homeless dogs and puppies already vying for a limited number of loving homes available in Pima County. Eventually, TALGV ended up with 9 of the puppies and the mama dogs' owner was referred to our Outreach Spay/Neuter Program.

You probably have never heard of this program, but it is one of TALGV's most important pro-active community ventures in our ongoing effort to stem the growing tide of unwanted companion animals in our community. This program provides people in our area with information on low cost and no cost spay/neuter options available for their animals. Time and time again we encounter people who desperately want to spay or neuter their pets, but they just don't have the extra funds to pay for the costly surgery. One of TALGV's main goals is to assist people in keeping their animals in their homes whenever possible and providing this surgery not only cuts down on unwanted litters but makes it easier for people to keep their pets. Since the inception of this program in March of 2008 through mid-December 2009, TALGV has sponsored over 340 spays and neuters in our area with the help of veterinary clinics in Tucson, Rio Rico, Nogales, and Arivaca.

But there is much more to be done if we are to become a "no-kill" community; a community where wonderful pets are never euthanized simply because there aren't enough homes for them. Rescue is of vital importance but we are only able to help a few lucky ones, and this alone does not solve the pet overpopulation problem. To further reduce the number of homeless animals locally we must promote responsible pet ownership including low and no cost spay/neuter options.

If you haven't already checked out the spay/neuter poster hanging across from the kennels in TALGV's west wing you can see it printed above. It contains a powerful message on how exceedingly important each and every spay or neuter is. TALGV has already been responsible for preventing the births of thousands of unwanted pets locally but we know we must do much more. With your support, we can make a significant impact by helping local pet owners and in so doing, decrease the number of adoptable animals abandoned and euthanized in our community simply because there aren't enough homes for them.

Nancy Arnold, Spay/Neuter Outreach Coordinator



Order your pet-friendly license plate today. Go to [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com) or call the ADOT MVD office nearest you. Specialty plates cost \$25 and \$17 of that will be transferred to a *spay/neuter fund* that finances surgical sterilization of dogs and cats throughout Arizona.

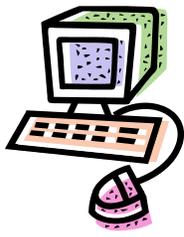
#### THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPAY/NEUTER GRANTS:

Greater Green Valley  
Community Council

Arizona Pet Friendly  
License Plate Fund

Green Valley Country Fair  
White Elephant

Red Acre Foundation



Become an iGive and help raise \$\$ for TALGV. It's easy! Just install the iGive toolbar on your home page and use iGive for searching and shopping on the www. Every time you search through iGive TALGV gets a penny and those pennies add up. Whenever the total gets to \$75 TALGV gets a check from iGive. There are discounts available and extra \$\$ for TALGV when you make a purchase through iGive.

Go to: <http://www.iSearchiGive.com> to download the iGive toolbar and get started earning cash for TALGV today!



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(520) 625-3170

**FAX**  
(520) 625-4684

**KENNELS and ATTIC THRIFT SHOP**

**New Hours: Open 7 Days a Week  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**WEBSITE**  
[www.talgv.org](http://www.talgv.org)

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*TALGV is a 501(c)(3)  
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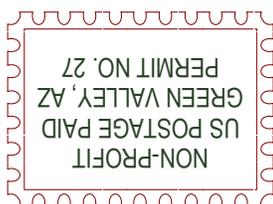
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Tipsy says,  
"Thank you for voting every day for  
TALGV at The Animal Rescue Site!  
[www.theanimalrescuesite.com](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com)"



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