



# Pit Bulls – Dispelling the Myth

## The Truth About One of America's Most Popular Breeds

The Pit Bull's innate love of people is part of his heritage. In 19<sup>th</sup> century England the Pit Bull, known as the Stafford, was created from Bulldog and terrier breeds and specifically bred not to be aggressive toward people. Today the Pit Bull is prized for his courage, intellect, tenacity, and especially for his love of friends and family. Pit Bulls are wiggly, cuddly, affectionate dogs; they like to remind you regularly of how they feel about you, and in general this means a lot of tail wagging and kissing.

Long before they were known as fighter dogs, Pit Bulls were family dogs. The breed has a particular fondness for children. In England the Pit Bull or Stafford is affectionately called “the

nanny dog" for his desire to play with and watch over children. Remember Petey, the mascot pup with the black eye patch in "The Little Rascals"? Petey was a Pit Bull.

The “Pit Bull” isn’t an actual breed at all, but a slang term that current American culture uses to describe many large/stocky dogs that have a big head, cropped ears, brindle coat or eye patch. The true breeds most commonly labeled as Pit Bulls are American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Unfortunately, the Pit Bull became popular with a subculture that has exploited this breed by forcing them into dog fighting rings. With the explosion of Pit Bull breeders, thousands of Pit Bulls have ended up in shelters across the country, topping the list of the most euthanized pet. No other breed in history has been so misunderstood or made the villain as long or as often as the Pit Bull. Sadly, these trends continue today, 20 years after they started. At the same time, millions of Pit Bulls are living peacefully as adored family pets in homes throughout the country.

## PIT BULL FACTS

**Pit Bulls always test high as one of the most stable breeds of dogs in the country.**

Pit Bulls have temperaments similar to Golden Retrievers, Beagles or other popular dogs. In a recent study of 122 dog breeds, Pit Bulls achieved a passing rate similar to Golden Retrievers ... 83.9%, Beagles ... 78.2%, and Golden Retrievers ... 83.2%. The American Temperament Test Society of the United States, rates Pit Bulls as one of the top five most stable dogs. Because of this, they are extremely patient and tolerant of children.

**Pit Bulls are athletic and love to get out and play.**

It's important to remember that Pit Bulls are terriers – they're energetic and ready to go from zero to full throttle in a second. They're a happy-go-lucky breed and great to come home to. Informed, experienced owners who enjoy a wide variety of activities often love the athletic, nimble Pit Bull.

**Pit Bulls are easy to train. All they want to do is please you.**

The highly intelligent Pit Bull, like all dogs, wants an in-charge owner who can make and enforce rules, provide socialization, and at least basic obedience training. Pit Bulls are extremely easy to train. Because they are so sensitive to your feelings, verbal training comes easily with this breed. Pit Bulls want to please you and can be as active as you want to be, no matter what you're doing.

## Pit Bulls can live with other dogs and/or cats.

Pit Bulls coexist comfortably with other pets when raised with them in a properly supervised household. With proper training handling, and supervision your Pit Bull can learn to live peacefully in the company of other dogs and often cats as well.

## Pit Bulls are great family dogs.

Pit bulls thrive on interaction with their family and will languish if shut away. They love their owners and are a shadow around the house. They crave attention and companionship and have a great zest for life. Pit Bulls are the equivalent of people who are always happy.

The reality is that Pit Bulls are intelligent, loyal and loving companions. All they ask is that we return their love in a secure and forever home.

## Crickett

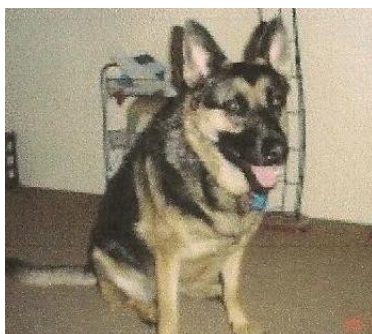


"Crickett", now going on 17 years of age, has been living with me for about 8 months. We have become soul mates. She seems to be enjoying a second childhood and is in good health. When she is not sleeping she purrs or talks up a storm. Wish I could understand all she tells me - but I am learning! Thanks for keeping her for me!

Trude Raymond

## Carly

It's been a while since I've given you an update on my sweet little girl, Carly, the dog I adopted from TALGV back in December 2008. Carly and I are inseparable. My job involves a lot of traveling and Carly is having a blast flying to and fro. Carly goes on the plane



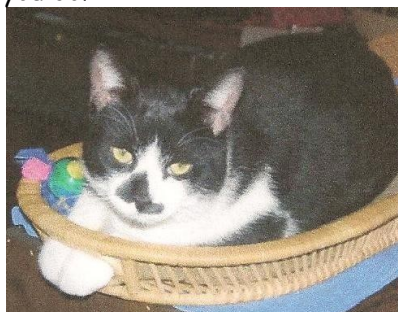
with me and on one flight the woman sitting next to me, who was obviously stressed by flying, grabbed on to Carly during our descent and didn't let go until we got to the gate! Carly makes friends wherever she goes. My life has been enhanced so much by Carly. She is the most wonderful, sweet little girl I've ever known. It's such a privilege to share my life with her. I will always be grateful to you for letting me adopt Carly.

Best Regards, Carole Reese

## Scotty

As you can see, Scotty is adjusting well. Here he is perched above my desk. Our other cats are put out, but tolerant about the new arrival. Keep up the great work you do!

Susie Clark



If you've adopted a pet from TALGV we'd love to hear from you...or your pet! Send letters and photos to our mailing address or email to the editor: [sharknight@cox.net](mailto:sharknight@cox.net)

## Bobby

Had to send you a note and photo of Bobby (formerly Happy). He's named Lochinvar Bobby after one of Albert Payson Terhune's books I read all the time as a kid. He is a treat and so-o-o good. We're very happy! I have composed a poem...

*Bobby is so well-behaved,*

*And friendly to one and all.*

*He walks on the leash so nicely and well.*

*Obey's too, so walking's a ball.*

*No need to scold or correct,*

*Already knows what he should do.*

*We love him so much, but the best thing of all,*

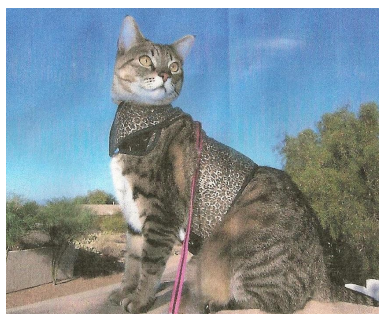
*Is that Bobby seems so happy too.*

I have also enclosed a donation to help in the great job you do at TALGV.

Gene and Kristine Young



## Puebla



We adopted our cat, Puebla, in June, 2010. He is the most wonderful and affectionate cat! We have trained him to walk on a leash in the back yard. He is very friendly and purrs a lot! You do wonderful work at the

Green Valley shelter and we wish you luck in your new building project.

Sincerely,

Richard and Dorothy Bailey

## Benny

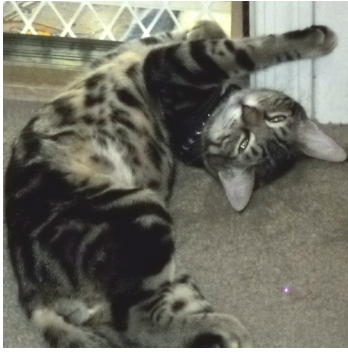
Thank you for Benny!!!





## Freckles

In June, 2009, my sister and I came from Tucson with the expectation of adopting a kitten. When we left I owned a beautiful little kitty. Freckles is two years old now. He has out-grown his freckles but not his name. He gets along great with the dogs. He is



just a beautiful and fun cat to be with. I love him very much and he returns the love. Thank you very much for letting me adopt such a great cat...my best friend Freckles!

Richard Blyth

## Max

Here is a photo of Max (Jinx). We found out Max is a miniature Australian shepherd. When we got Max from you he weighed 19 lbs. He is now a muscular 31 pounds, is strong and uses all four legs! Max is a perfect match for our family! Chalk us up for one perfect adoption!

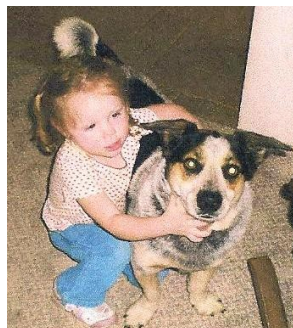


Sincerely,  
Traci & Rick Eller

## Rowdy

It is more than two years since Roscoe came to live with us. He's had a name change and is now Rowdy which fits his personality. He loves his stuffed animal, my mother's Jack Russell Terrier, and my two great grand kids. He lets them do just about anything to him. He is the best guard dog. If someone is in the yard he's their friend but if they're outside the yard you can be sure he's going to bark at them. We have four cats, two cats that he just loves to pick on and in turn they wash his ears. I am retired now and he's so happy to have me home. You couldn't ask for a more loving friend. Thanks for all you do for our four-legged friends.

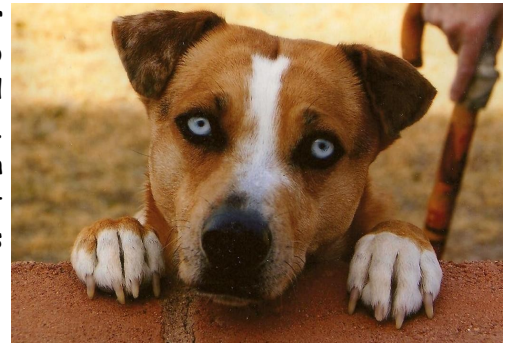
With best regards,  
Linda Ratliff



## Harriet

Enclosed is a picture of our sweet Harriet. We are very grateful for your fine services to the animals and the community. Harriet has been with us for about a year now and is loved by all.

Ruth Hauck



## Bruce



To all of you who loved and hugged Bruce and took care of him...Many thanks for making him the wonderful boy that he is. He is a snuggle bunny and a true joy.

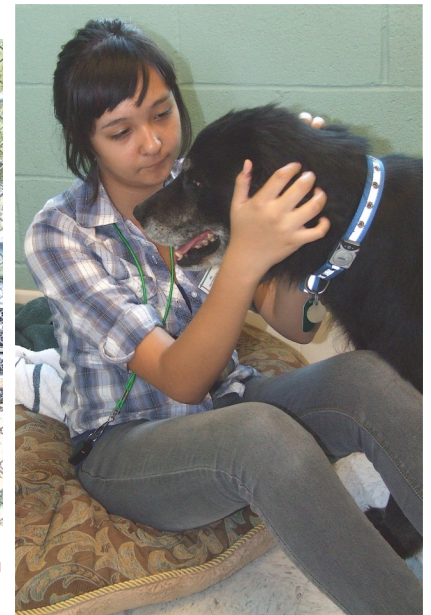
Thank you.  
Happiness to All,  
Chuck & Carol Haynes  
and Bruce the Goose!

## Sadie

I am writing to thank you for taking care of Sadie during her time at TALGV before we adopted her and during her spay surgery in February. I was touched by the out-pouring of love and caring I saw in the recovery room. It humbled me to see so many people taking care of those animals when they most needed it. I will be forever grateful for the attention that was paid to Sadie so that she was comfortable there without me. Sadie is 10 months old and over 70 pounds! She is a great dog. Thank you for all you do for the animals! May God bless all of you and all the animals that come into your care. You are doing good work, and I for one am grateful for it. So is Sadie.

Sincerely,  
Maryann Ambrose





**‘YIPS’ are AWESOME!**

TALGV’s new **Youth Intern Program**, developed by TALGV volunteer, Petra Gross, began on May 31, 2011. That’s when 49 newly trained teenage volunteers arrived to help fill the vacancies left by the departure of many adult volunteers who are winter visitors here in Green Valley.

There was some apprehension on the part of all involved as the YIPs, as they are called, arrived for work. The teens were not sure what was expected of them, and the adult volunteers and coordinators wondered how these young people would fit into daily life at TALGV.

On duty for at least four hours a day, one or more days a week, the teens soon proved that they are enthusiastic, hard-working, dedicated and responsible volunteers. They scoop cat litter, pick up dog poop, mop floors, wash dishes and do laundry. Working diligently, they complete all their work promptly allowing plenty of time for the dogs and cats to receive lots of love and attention from both the YIPs and the adult volunteers.

Sharing their love for the animals, the YIPs and their fellow adult volunteers quickly realized how much they have in common. All are committed to the welfare of the animals at TALGV, to the importance of spaying and neutering, and to educating the public about responsible pet ownership so there will one day be “A HOME FOR EVERY PET”.

The apprehension has turned to admiration and as one TALGV volunteer said, “We now have new faith in the next generation and what they can accomplish.”

The hope is that the teens will choose to continue volunteering at TALGV on weekends and during school vacations, and when they return next summer they will be joined by even more YIP volunteers.

***LEND A HAND...VOLUNTEER!***

**Volunteer Opportunities at TALGV:**

**Attic Sales**

**Dog Walking**

**Cleaning**

**Attic Sorting**

**Foster Care**

**Receptionist**

**Cat & Dog Care**

**Technician**

**Clerical**

**Grooming**

**Gardener**

**Data Entry**

**Pet Socializing**

**Handyperson**

**Computer Geek**



**Make someone’s day - ask them to volunteer.**







# COMING SOON!

## TALGV'S ATTIC THRIFT STORE EXPANSION CELEBRATION



Exciting changes are coming to TALGV's Attic Thrift Store. The Attic is one of our major sources of income thanks to our many loyal shoppers and donors. Our newly enclosed courtyard will open soon, increasing the size of our sales floor area and providing a better shopping experience for our customers. These improvements will also help us to raise funds for our much needed animal area expansion.

Working closely with architect Matt Hamilton and contractor Terry Duncan, we have kept the integrity of the original courtyard intact while adding some very valuable enclosed and covered floor space.

Our opening day celebrations will include special sales, hourly raffles, and food. Some of our wonderful animals will be joining us to help celebrate. We will also be featuring the plans for our animal area expansion coming in 2012.

Listen to KGVY radio, keep an eye on the *Green Valley News*, the *Sahuarita Sun* and our website for more information on dates and times for our Expansion Celebration.

### WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



## TALGV Board of Directors Welcomes New Member

Geoff Knight became a member of TALGV's Board of Directors in June, accepting the appointment following the resignation of Joyce McGhie. Geoff will continue as Information Technology Coordinator.

Geoff was born in England. After completing a mechanical engineering degree he was drafted into the Royal Air Force and served two years in Libya where he learned to love the desert. Upon returning home he began his career with British Coal Corporation, received an MSc in engineering, eventually becoming director of research and development. His work involved extensive travel in eastern and western Europe, Russia, China, Australia and the USA. He and his wife, Sharon, were married in 1985 and lived in England until Geoff retired in 1989. They moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where Geoff worked as a consultant and became a U.S. citizen.

Geoff and Sharon moved to Tucson in 1993 and Geoff worked with Tucson high school students in the Junior Achievement program. In 1999, Geoff and Sharon left for Nova Scotia, Canada, to be near family and were quickly immersed in the local community. Geoff joined the Board of Directors of the Colchester Community Workshops Foundation to facilitate the development of a 20,000 sq.ft. vocational training workshop to accommodate up to 100 mentally challenged adults. Geoff's responsibilities included determining the location of the new facility, the conceptual design of the building, the evaluation of construction bids, the placing of contracts and overseeing the construction and commissioning of the finished building.

Geoff and Sharon returned to Arizona in 2005 and decided that Green Valley was perfect for them. They discovered The Animal League soon after they arrived when their cat, Smokey, went missing and a stray cat took up residence at their home. Once settled in their new home, they began looking for volunteer opportunities in Green Valley. Being animal lovers, TALGV was an obvious choice. Now, Zoe and Max, two TALGV adoptees rule the roost. Geoff can be found most afternoons at TALGV working diligently on our database.

# We're Growing and We Need More Space



This photo by Isaiah Mueller  
YIP Volunteer



Our building expansion project is moving forward and none too soon. The number of homeless animals is increasing and our current facilities are over-capacity. Thanks to the unrelenting hard work and dedication of our volunteers, we have been able to keep these animals healthy and well-socialized.

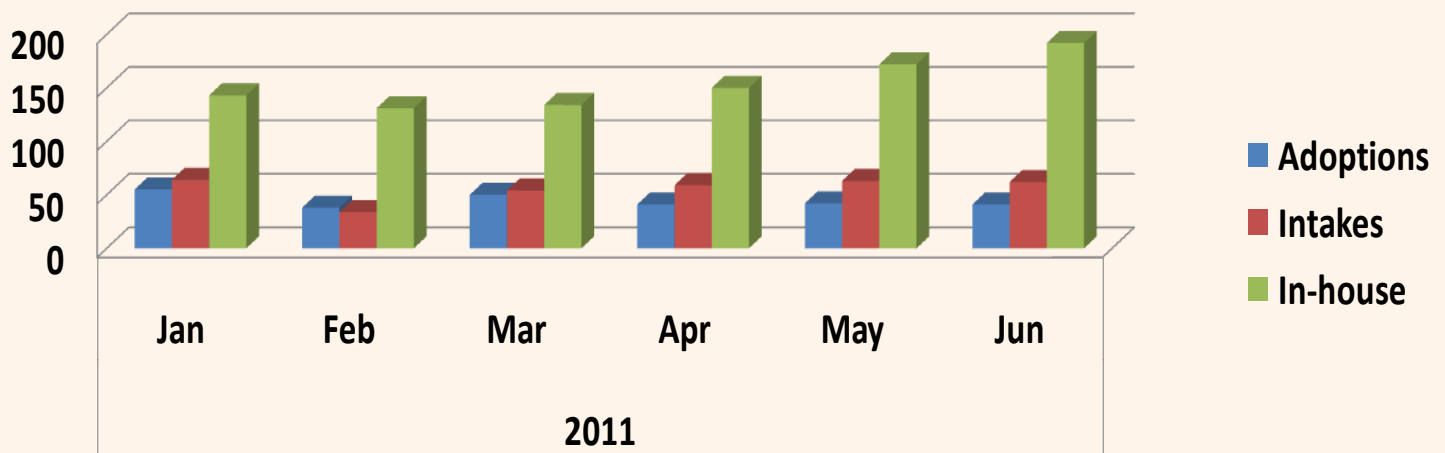
We are very grateful to the many organizations, businesses, and individuals who have responded to our request for funds for this project. We currently have approximately one-third of the amount needed and are optimistic that the groundbreaking will occur in early 2012. We will complete as much of the project as finances will allow. In addition to more and friendlier animal housing, we are in great need of space to hold meetings and conduct training, to contain our increasingly necessary information technology department, and to provide veterinary facilities to care for the many health needs of our residents.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of animals needing to be sheltered (see graph below), and we are doing everything possible to not have to turn them away. The Animal League of Green Valley has found homes for 2,791 homeless pets since January 2007, but this is not enough. In addition to expanding our facilities, we must address the pet overpopulation problem at its source, so to this end we have been increasing our free and low cost spay and neuter outreach program as rapidly as funding will permit. Last year TALGV was able to provide spay/neuter for over 400 cats and dogs whose owners could not afford it.

Thanks again to TALGV's supporters who have backed our efforts with monetary donations and as donors and shoppers in our Attic Thrift Store, we are moving toward the day when there will be "A HOME FOR EVERY PET". Your continuing support is much needed and most appreciated.

Jean Davis, TALGV President

## ANIMALS IN, OUT & IN-CARE AT TALGV





# Help Raise \$\$\$ for TALGV!

If you have a computer you can help



The new "Animal Rescue Site Shelter Challenge" began on July 4 and continues through September 12. We have a good chance to win this round as our two biggest competitors have already won once this year.

## Two ways to vote...

**#1** Go to [www.theanimalrescuesite.com](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com)

- Click on the purple "click here to give" tab.
- When the next window appears, click on the "VOTE TODAY" icon at the top of the page.
- Scroll down to "Search and vote for a shelter".
- Type in "The Animal League of Green Valley", "AZ" and "Green Valley".
- Click on the "VOTE" tab.
- Confirm your vote by typing in the letters and numbers shown.
- For a daily email reminder, go to "register and get a free gift" in the upper left hand column of the home page.

**#2** Go to TALGV's website, [www.talgv.org](http://www.talgv.org)

- Click on "Vote for Us" and follow the prompts.

**If EVERYONE votes EVERYDAY  
we can pull ahead of the competition and WIN!**



## How iGive Works...

iGive really is as simple as it sounds. iGive members can generate donations by shopping at any of our 920+ stores, or by simply using our internet search engine. There are no costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees.

**SHOP, SEARCH, & RAISE \$\$ for TALGV**

**Go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)  
and get started today!**

**DOGS,  
CATS,  
KIDS?**



**Is owning dogs  
and cats better than having kids?**

## Dogs and cats...

- eat less
- don't ask for money all the time
- are easier to train
- normally come when called
- never ask to drive the car
- don't want to wear your clothes
- don't have to buy the latest fashions
- don't need a gazillion dollars for college and
- if they get pregnant, you can sell their children ....





**Tipsy Says...**

"If I say 'Pretty please' will you  
donate to our building fund?"

"THANK YOU!"

**Paw Prints Editor - Sharon Knight**

**Photographer - Georgia Puttock**

TALGV is a 501(c)(3)  
Not for Profit  
Organization



**The Animal League of Green Valley**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** - Jean Davis

**Vice President** - Nancy Arnold

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Carol Buckles

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Georgia Puttock, Ann Slagter

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Tammy Patrick, Norma Utne, Ann Wyland  
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**Pet Therapy Visits** - Marilyn Harris

**Photography** - Georgia Puttock

**Publications** - Trudy Shannon

**Spay/Neuter In-House** - Lois Hallinan

**Spay/Neuter Outreach** - Nancy Arnold

**Volunteer** - Joan Matti

**Web Master** - Barry Cogan

Bob Puttock, Assistant

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**KENNELS and ATTIC THRIFT SHOP**

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

WEBSITE

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