

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

Yol XXXII, kaue 3 Fall 2018



# A Walk On The Wild Side ~ Leash Training Your Cat

Yes, you can train your cat to walk with a harness and leash! Well...maybe not *ALL* cats, but most cats. Starting when your baby is a kitten is easier, but adult cats usually catch on, too. Take a tip from professional trainers and use the reward system—immediately offer a small tasty treat when your cat shows a positive response to the training.

For equipment, you need a harness and a light-weight non-retractable leash. *Do not use a collar* to walk your cat. It is too easy for him to wiggle out of a collar and escape, and he could seriously damage his neck and windpipe in his struggles. Measure your cat around the chest so you can adjust the harness before buckling it on, and be sure the harness fits snuggly, with just enough space for you to insert two fingers under the straps.

Be patient and adjust your training to a series of baby steps. For example, put the harness near your cat and immediately reward him when he examines it. Then, touch him with the harness; reward him if he allows it. If not, don't insist—just leave the harness on the floor and try it again the next day. Buckle a harness strap around him—reward immediately. If he resists, wait a day and try again.

Continue these small goals until he has accepted the harness; then give him time to walk around the house while wearing it. Reward him when he takes that all-important first step. After that, attach and hold the leash. Encourage him to walk a step or two by holding a treat in front of him, but *don't drag him*! Unlike a dog,

a cat will not follow you, so you'll have to let him find his own path. Dogs follow, but Cats lead!

Again, patience is the key. Take it slow and easy—stop the day's training when either you or your cat begins to get frustrated. Remember, everything is new to him and it takes time for your cat to accept it all.



Search and YIP Volunteer Aiden

Once your cat is comfortable with an indoor adventure, you can attempt an outdoor walk. Remember to start small. In harness, with leash attached, entice your cat out the door onto your patio (don't forget the reward). Choose a time when things are quiet outside and there are few distractions. Be aware of his body language—he might be frightened at first, so be prepared to return inside if necessary.

Let him take his time to explore this exciting outdoor environment, but always stay with him. *Never leave your cat tethered alone outside*—he is too vulnerable to predators.

As your cat experiences the difference between simulated play vs. the real deal, his outdoor instincts and inner tiger will emerge. In the natural setting, you might see an entirely different side of your cat—

the wild side! You'll find yourself in a new world, with a curious explorer who will happily roam with you and still remain perfectly safe.

Many internet sites offer a more complete guide to leash training, including https://www.wikihow.com/Leash-Train-a-Cat or https://pethelpful.com/cats/Howto-Train-Your-Cat-to-Walk-on-a-Leash.

# Looking Forward...



The Animal League of Green Valley

32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting
For Members

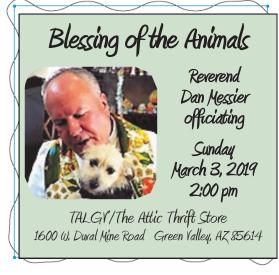
Friday Dec. 7, 2018 2 pm



Public is Invited

TALGV's Multipurpose Room 1600 W. Duval Mine Road Green Valley, AZ 85614









# 

# Life Is Short • Do Stuff That Matters

I volunteer for the love of animals—all animals great and small.

It gives purpose to my life, I feel so proud and fulfilled,

TALGV is a kind place in a world full of turmoil.

I'm a TALGV volunteer because...

Dogs are my life and they'll be waiting for me at the Rainbow Bridge.

It's the best show in town.

I love to help animals get into their forever homes,

I am needed and loved.

It's a way of giving back and filling a void.

All dogs want is you.

I love that all of TALGV's money goes to help animals.

With pets, all that other stuff is blocked out. It's a simple focus.

It keeps me in shape.

It's perfect because I have very little money, but I have lots of time and love to give.

I can talk about TALGV anywhere, and the people never get tired of hearing about the animals.

Taking care of the cats keeps me from filling my house with them,

I love that TALGV is a no-kill shelter.

Animals keep me happy.

I can't have a pet where I live.

The Outreach Program helped me.

I like to help people do a better job caring for animals.

This is the best therapy I could have.

It's so much fun to see dogs that have not been taken care of become marshmallows.

The animals give me so much.

I have never worked so hard in my life or been happier.

When I adopted my cat, I saw what a wonderful place TALGY is, and I wanted to be a part of it,

I volunteer so I get to see my wife.

I feel especially good every time a long-time animal gets adopted, and it's because TALGV keeps them, no matter how long it takes.

## 

## Treasures From The Attic Make Great Holiday Gifts



Crafts From the Heart have created beautiful hand-made steering wheel covers (\$20 each), floor-protecting pet dish mats (\$10 each) and quilted microwave-safe bowls (\$8) for sale in The Attic from now through December. After Thanksgiving, The Attic will feature Christmas earrings (\$10 per pair) individually crafted by jewelrymaker Jenell Ellis.



TALGV 2019 Tipsy
Calendar ~ \$10 ~
Adorable photos of
cats & dogs adopted
by our volunteers ~

available at The Attic & in TALGV's Lobby.

All profits from the sale of these items go to support the cats and dogs at TALGV.

Hurry in and get yours while supplies last!







Angel & Rocky (aka Star)

"Touching two lives at once." Those meaningful words are found on the website for Soldier's Best Friend, an Arizona-based nonprofit corporation devoted to helping U.S. military veterans living with combat-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury. To this purpose, and also to help the pet overpopulation problem, Soldier's Best Friend (SBF) chooses dogs from local shelters to become Service or Therapeutic Dogs. In recent months, several dogs chosen have been from TALGV.

Volunteers and visitors to TALGV may recognize some of our former residents who have become SBF dogs: Star (now Rocky), Rascal (now Bob), Hilda (now Jessie), Bellie (now Bailey), Stella, Kelli, Bessie (now Rema), Johnny (now Moab), Tonks, Sadie and Nala. How were these dogs chosen? What happens to our canine friends who go on this important journey? For answers, we asked Leslie Bryant, Service Dog Trainer, who

evaluated these TALGV dogs and selected them for SBF.

Leslie looks for "well rounded" dogs, between the ages of 1 and 3. The dog should not be dog or people aggressive, and ideally will gravitate to a human rather than preferring to go play with another dog. Dogs who meet these criteria will have hip x-rays—an indication of hip dysplasia would pose a problem for a dog who is going to be working on his or her feet almost every day. Additionally, Leslie evaluates TALGV dogs with specific veterans in mind, looking for a dog who will match a veteran's personality and may be close to the breed the veteran would like.



Mike & Bailey (aka Bellie)



Scott & Tonks



Jason & Jessie (aka Hilda)



Mike & Bob (aka Rascal)



Tommy & Kelli

# rting Our Veterans Become Soldiers' Best Friends

**By: Jennifer Symons** 

"From the restless nights to the difficult situations, I have something that has been an elusive possibility...
I have hope again."

~Ric/SBF Graduate~

Once chosen, the dogs go into foster homes to begin training for basic obedience and to ensure there is no previously undiscovered problem behavior. As part of the training, they go to dog-friendly stores to see how they handle the stress of being a service dog. If all goes well, each dog then has a meet and greet with a veteran and his or her family. The veteran decides to either enter training or wait for a different dog. Once paired, the dog lives with the veteran during the entire training process, usually six to nine months. After graduation, the dog officially belongs to the veteran. Incidentally,

when a pairing is made with one of our dogs, the veteran is told that their dog came from TALGV.

As explained on the SBF website, the dogs provide "constant support that can make it easier for veterans to readjust to civilian life and manage symptoms such as panic attacks, depression, flashbacks, irritability, reclusive behavior, anxiety, nightmares, uneasiness in crowded places, or suicidal thoughts." How can a dog accomplish this? There are basic functional tasks the dogs do for their veterans, such as picking objects up off the floor and helping in unstable walking conditions, and also there are the extraordinary things that dogs can do, such as making physical contact in the event of rising anxiety. A dog's touch, empathetic and gentle, can work wonders.

"From the restless nights to the difficult situations, I have something that has been an elusive possibility... I have hope again." This message from an SBF veteran who graduated training with his dog in 2014 is found at the SBF website: https://soldiersbestfriend.org Please take a look. You may recognize a TALGV dog who now shares life with a U.S. veteran, loved and in a forever home, giving a brave soldier the helpful and sometimes miraculous gifts a dog is happy to give.





Learning to be service dogs



Moab (aka Johnny) focuses on his trainer



Luis & Stella



# Waggin' Tails & Purrfect Endings



# News From Our Readers



#### **PIPER**

Adopted in August, Piper is getting along great with the dogs. She steals both dogs' beds all the time and also eats the dogs' food. Piper is super affectionate and loves to rub her head on my face. We're a happy family!

Kathy Anderson

### CASSIE (AKA ZELDA)



Cassie is 10-½ now, still doing well, and such a love. Here she is supervising "her" foster kittens.

Marge Humphreys

#### **FIONA**

Fiona is the "house cat" in the long-term section of Santa Rita Nursing

Home. All the residents and staff totally love her. She has made herself at home and walks the halls, going into resident rooms to spend time with people. A wonderful placement!

Amy Malkin Santa Rita Nursing Home



We adopted a wonderful 6-yearold Staffy dog named Kiki who is gentle and a good traveler. Our grandkids call her "Princess Kiki" and always want to talk to her when they call us. The youngest grandchild says he loves her "humongously." Thank you for training her—she is a joy and easy to take care of.

Sue & Don Thompson



## BUDDY (AKA BIG BOY) & MISTER

Back in March, we adopted Buddy to be my lap cat. As sweet & loving as he is, it seems he prefers David's lap. Buddy has FELV, so our choices for another cat were limited to Mister, a 15-year-old cat, blind & FELV positive, who didn't seem too interested in us. But I

took one look at him and thought that he looks so sad and who else will want him. So now we have Buddy, a 2-year-old youngster, and "Grandpa" Mister. And get this—Mister will hardly ever leave my lap, except to chase his toys, play with a ball, and every now and then take a swat at Buddy. I am more convinced than ever that you do not pick out cats—they pick you!

Helen & David Bell





Micki Darling It's



It's laundry day.



Let's see how much laundry we have.



Counting...



Too much laundry to count.



This doesn't seem right.



Much better



Whew! Finished at last!



Thank you, Biscuit, for laundering my shirt.



# Art Quiz

Who created this fabulous abstract painting?

Is it Jackson Pollack, Willem de Kooning, or Pablo Picasso?

Au contraire, art lovers—it is an original debut work by Spencer Canis, TALGV's resident master of minimalist abstract expression. Spencer (as he likes to be called) is the collarful leader of the Dog Pack, while pack members Kimber, Max, Lacy, Dave, Bruce, Socks & Baby Girl are talented artists who work their tails off just fur the fun of it.

Taking a cue from painters before him, Spencer prefers his canvases on the ground, where he can immerse himself in his art. Encouraged and assisted by TALGV volunteer Mikie Smith, the dog trainers and YIP volunteers, Spencer spent the dog days of summer chasing down his own unique style. Not comfortable with using a brush and easel (he claims they're "too restrictive"), Spencer applies a feet-first, full-body experience to create muttiple layers of primary color. In the highly competitive, dog-eat-dog world of art, his approach returns viewers to an earlier, more primitive, ruff-around-the-edges form of painting.





For a dog-gone exciting look at the artists in action at their creative best, go to TALGV's Facebook page: <a href="www.facebook.com/TALGV">www.facebook.com/TALGV</a> and scroll down to "Our Talented Dogs & their Picasso Project."

Spencer and the Dog Pack have generously donated their unique masterpieces to TALGV's collection. You have the oppawtunity of winning one of their paintings, currently on display in TALGV's lobby, at our Dec. 15 raffle drawing—tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Howl can you resist? Two more rare original works will be offered at the silent auction during TALGV's "Give Your Heart to the Animals" Casino Night on Feb. 16 at Quail Creek's Madera Ballroom.

Will these special events reach Jackson Pollock's record high of \$140 million for a similar canvas? TALGV can only hope.



## Fry's Shoppers Donate \$196.74

Did you know that Fry's Food Store offers a charitable rebate program, sharing \$50,000 among registered charities in four quarterly cycles? This summer, TALGV received \$196.74 from Fry's for the 77 households participating. With your help, we could do better! Imagine how

much this could be if every TALGV donor and every volunteer who shops at Fry's signed up!

It's easy to select TALGV as your designated charity:

- 1. Register your Fry's V.I.P. Card online at: www.FrysFood.com
- 2. Scroll to the bottom of their web page—under Community, click on Fry's Community Rewards
- 3. Create a Fry's V.I.P. online account by entering your e-mail address and card number
- 4. Designate TALGV as your community charity by using our account number <u>ER420</u> or our name <u>The Animal League of Green Valley</u>

When you shop, your receipt will automatically show that you are donating to TALGV.

Our cats & dogs thank you and Fry's!







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## A Home For Every Pet

1600 W. Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley, AZ 85614



Paw Prints Editor - Mary Ziegelbauer

# The Animal League of Green Valley

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Youth Intern Program - Jean Davis, Trudy

Shannon

#### TALGV accepts **DEBIT and CREDIT CARDS** for your purchases & donations







# KENNELS & THE ATTIC THRIFT STORE

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK** 10 am to 2 pm

#### **TELEPHONE**

Kennels: (520) 625-3170 Attic: (520) 625-2189 FAX: (520) 625-4684

#### **ADDRESS**

1600 W. Duval Mine Road Green Valley, AZ 85614

WEBSITE www.talgv.org

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

