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

Yol XXXII, Issue 1 Spring 2018





By: Blackberry, with help from Karly Gay

Greetings from Blackberry, the cat, in my new forever home. How I got here is quite a tale.

My favorite YIP (Youth Intern Program) volunteer, 16year-old Karly Gay, discovered my sweet side quite by chance. At TALGV, I wasn't very outgoing and seemed quite indifferent to humans. But, I had a weird quirk—I had to be asked, by name, to be loved. And the first time I met Karly, we made that special connection. As I basked in her lap, she discovered my wealth of untapped love. She began to hope that I would someday be hers.

There were some small problems. Her parents didn't want a cat and her younger 14-year-old sister was terrified of them. They already had a dog, constantly asking for attention and there are 8 kids in the family,

from 1 to 16 years old. All are very gentle, but a cat must be okay with being held and snuggled even gentle toddlers have trouble properly holding a cat and



Thanks to "The Dad" for taking my family's photo.

tend to love too long. Fortunately, Karly discovered that I was good with children. And I mean *really* good.

So, Karly hatched a plan and started to wear on the alpha female, extolling my many virtues. After a while, the Mom felt the finger of God poking her. Then Karly mentioned the idea of bringing me home to the alpha male, known as the Dad, and he said it would take the angel Gabriel himself coming down from heaven and ordering him to get a cat. Well, I'm no longer at TALGV, so you see how that worked out!

Decision made, but the Mom wanted to surprise Karly

at the end of Karly's TALGV shift. To do this, she made a great sacrifice and gave up her Friday morning activities for a cat she didn't even want and a daughter she loved. She got to TALGV when they opened, completed the adoption interview, and swore the adoption counselor to secrecy. The Mom was in and out by 11:00.

Karly was nearing the end of her shift when a gentleman came in and said he wanted to adopt both Tinker and me. Karly was devastated. She took Tinker out first, and then came back in to tell me goodbye. As she held me and whispered of her love, small tears leaked out—she was on the brink of a blubbering breakdown. And then suddenly, Karly's mom and fiveyear-old sister came into view holding a cat carrier. It was the most surreal moment of my life!

I went home and proved to be the perfect cat, adjusting quickly and purring frequently. I either worship or tolerate the kids, sleeping with one or more each night. The 3-year-old often holds me across his chest on the bed, my belly to the sky and his two arms crossed over me. Fully sprawled out I am as big as he is. I know it is a sign of deep toddler love, so I tolerate it, always keeping a clawless escape in mind.

I must admit it hasn't all been roses. It's a small house, and finding a way to keep the dog out of the litter box had been a challenge. The day the dog ate my litter was a dark day indeed. The alpha female was not pleased, and I was afraid that my stay hung in the balance. She has a very sensitive nose and it is only by order of God I am here in the first place. But, truth told, I really think the Mom secretly loves me.



(Continued on page 6)

Looking Forward...



DOIN' IT FORE THE ANIMALS

TALGV's 6th Annual Golf Tournament
Sunday, May 6 © Canoa Ranch Golf Club &

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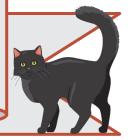


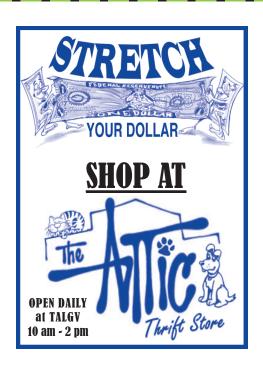


TALGV's Youth Intern Program (YIP)

Begins on May 29, 2018

Eligible students are those who will be in high school in the Fall Information & applications available SOON at area schools and at www.talgv.org







The Animal League of Green Valley was the delighted recipient of a check for \$1901.24 from Nicole Carrillo (on right), the owner of

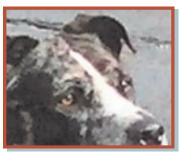
Rosie's Barkét, a doggie boutique in Tucson. TALGV had been selected to be the December recipient of Rosie's SHOW YOUR LOVE INITIATIVE. This check represented the generous donations from December shoppers who frequented the store.

327 E 7th St. Tucson, AZ 85705 520-304-1029 Open Daily 11 am-6 pm





By: Arne Maki



I first met our foster failure in the summer of 2015 when I was a volunteer dog walker. As I drove into the parking lot early one morning, I saw a funky-looking, hodge-podge colored dog in an outside kennel. I couldn't resist going

into the kennel to introduce myself. He did all the expected things that shelter dogs usually do to garner attention, including the "take-me-I-will-be-your-perfect-companion" look. Yup—they can really bore into one's psyche with those looks.

Finley was a year old at that time, friendly, energetic and eager to please. I found that out by walking him on my shift and postshift visits, and that got me to thinking that in conjunction with dog-walking, I could occasionally foster dogs. I talked with my wife and mentioned the possibility of fostering a dog for a week or so at a time. It had been five years since our last dog passed away, so she was suspicious that I might be attempting to sneak a dog into our quiet existence. I assured her that my intentions were noble and that I just wanted to provide a respite for shelter denizens and some training to help make them more adoptable. Happily,

Finley seemed to be a good candidate for the first foster attempt, so I made all the arrangements to become part of the foster program. When I received the go-ahead for fostering, Finley was still around. So there I was, clumsily buckling Finley into the back of the car to head out to his new temporary home.

she bought into what now seems like the elaborate

ruse she always suspected.

I kept him for a fun-filled week before returning him to the shelter. He did not want to go back and showed this by frenetic, high-pitched yelping. *Oh yeah*, I thought, *I did you a favor and now you're foisting this guilt thing on me*. Impervious to such cajolery, off I went, satisfied that I had done my part to help out this forlorn, stranded dog.

Soon after I returned him, Finley got in a ruckus with his kennelmate and was beaten up a bit, sustaining some injuries to his face and ears. When I told my wife about it, she reluctantly agreed to accept him back in our home for some convalescing; but again, she had her suspicions.

After a week of caring for him, I was halfheartedly on my way to return him, but stopped to have coffee at one of my usual spots. When I was ready to leave, I saw a woman holding a phone walking toward me through the parking lot. *That looks like my wife*, I thought. Indeed it was, and when she got to my table, she gave me the phone and asked me to call the Animal League to tell them we wanted to keep Finley permanently.

Finley has been with us now for over two years. With a lot of love, attention and some training, he has become an ideal family member. He is very affectionate, obedient

and friendly, plus being a good watch dog. Playing ball is his favorite activity though he literally will jump at the chance for *any* fun offered.

Just to set the record straight, did not intentionally finesse Finley into our foster failure family. Chalk it up to canine karma and his golden-brown, hypnotic eyes that sealed the deal. Or just maybe, after five years of not having a dog, we were destined to be foster failures.





A big shout-out to our wonderful donors!

Your generous help in 2017 provided food, shelter, training and medical care for needy dogs and cats in our community. TALGV received gifts in the form

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, but if we have omitted your name in error, please accept our apology.



You can bet our **Bacon** that TALGV does not sell, lease, or share donor information.

A Cat's Tale

(Continued from page 1)

The dog and I are still getting it sorted out. Karly said Frugal, the dog, is being a saint, with no desire to eat me but only to be my friend. I beg to disagree. Frugal "groomed" me once and I was terrified. I thought he was *tasting* me.

Remember how I mentioned a 14-year -old girl who was terrified of cats? She cried on the ride home because she was so scared of the thought of living with me. I have given her no reason to fear me, and her fear has lessened, but I still have my fun. My first week home, I found somewhere new to hide in her bedroom every day. She would hesitantly walk in and check my known hiding spots. Then she would relax, open her closet door...and Boom! Glowing pair of green eyes! Jolt of terror!

I tried it again today to see if it still worked. I hid in her underwear. It worked. After all, I'm still a cat and must make life interesting, but I'm pretty sure she secretly loves me, too. And I *know* Karly does!



My new life deserves a new name. I am now named after another black feline well known for his great wisdom, love, and patience with man cubs. He comes from the pages of *The Jungle Book*.



Lovable Louie

We depend on YOU!

Dinah

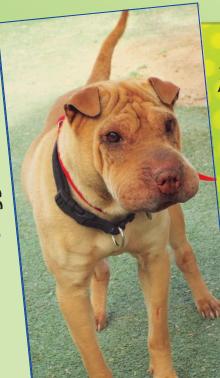
Sunny & Her Seven



2017 In Review

Your support and contributions in 2017 made it possible for TALGV to:

- ✓ Shelter 1248 animals—519 cats & 729 dogs
- ★ Arrange 1068 adoptions for 453 cats & 615 dogs—OUR BEST YEAR EVER!
- Reunite 20 cats & 61 dogs with their owners
- Spay or neuter more than 1500 pets through our Outreach Program
- Provide Outreach assistance for cats & dogs for 760 families in the community
- ★ Generate half of the year's proceeds from sales at The Attic Thrift Shop
- ✓ Alleviate overcrowding by providing foster care in the homes of 100 volunteer families
- Operate our shelter with **500** active volunteers...and NO paid staff...who worked a total of **135,583 hours**, the equivalent of **70 full-time** employees.



Please give generously for the animals





Elvis—he ain't nothing but a hound dog

Nugget





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