On December 31, Jean Davis will be retiring from TALGV's Board of Directors after 17 years. We thought we'd take this opportunity to talk to her about the changes she's seen in shelter care and animal welfare over the years.

# TALGU Won't Be The Same Without Her!

"Find a job you love, and you'll never work another day in your life." I have been blessed with two careers in my life that I have loved: being a teacher at Continental School for 30 years and volunteering at The Animal League of Green

Valley for 17 years and still counting. When I began volunteering in 2003, founder Margaret Roesch had already devoted over 20 years to TALGV and assured its sustainability with the completion and occupancy of its first building in 2001. I have been honored to serve as TALGV's president since 2005 and am immeasurably grateful and humble to have been in the right place at the right time.

Over the ensuing years, we have refined and reaffirmed our core tenets as a nonprofit, all-volunteer, no-kill dog and cat shelter, with the mission of *A Home for* Every Pet that oversees all that we do.

I am asked what I think my most notable accomplishments are. In short, I believe

that they have been to listen to our volunteers and our community and then to reinforce, adjust, enable, and implement the ideas and plans that have support and will further our mission.

Those ideas and the financial support from our loyal Green Valley family, surrounding communities, friends from afar, and our Attic Thrift Store donors and shoppers have enabled us to expand our facility from its original 6,520 square feet to its present 14,650 square feet—the most recent addition being "Shakespeare's Room" in 2018. Our annual adoption rate has steadily increased from 96 in 2004 to over 1000 for the first time in 2016. Our awesome

volunteers now number in the 600's with 131,106 volunteer hours clocked in 2018.

The implementation of ideas and dreams from our

volunteers has put TALGV in the forefront as a microcosm of progress in shelter care. Such programs as vet care support for life for elderly and special needs animals, training reimbursements offered with dog adoptions, a proactive free spay and neuter program, and a community outreach program that includes food, training, and veterinary care to help families keep their pets when times are hard are now being addressed by the larger animal welfare community.

You may notice that I have not used a single name except for that of our founder. It hurts my heart to not do so, but where to start and where to stop? It is one of my core beliefs that every volunteer is essential to TALGV. I have lived their challenges

and successes on a daily basis, and now for the continued success and vitality of The Animal League of Green Valley, it is important that the baton be passed. There is much yet to be accomplished, and there always will be as new challenges and opportunities present themselves in our guest for A Home for Every Pet.





## Leeking Forward...













### **Hiking With Elo**

### **These Paws Were Made For Walking**

By: Hannah Lucia Farrell

As a "dog mama" living in Tucson, I love nothing more than to get out on the trail with Elo, my canine hiking buddy adopted from TALGV, along with my other buddies Chelsea and Huck. I was at first frustrated by the apparent lack of dog-friendly trails in the area, since most of the popular and easily accessible trails are off limits to dogs. However, with a little research and exploration, I found some incredible spots for doggie outdoor adventures all throughout the year. Here are some of my favorites. Enjoy!

### Josephine Saddle Loop (Old Baldy & Super Trail)

6.5 mile loop Moderate Difficulty
Good all year round, but has snow in the winter

These popular and well-signed trails start from the end of the Madera Canyon recreation area. You can take the loop starting with either trail—Old Baldy is shorter, steeper, and shadier; Super Trail is longer, flatter, and more exposed. Both hikes are a lovely reprieve from the summer heat of Tucson; the trails are cooler and have shade, a perennial creek, wildlife, and wind-tousled pines.

#### Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead

Part of the Arizona Trail Easy-moderate difference Best in Fall, Winter & Spring

This portion of the Arizona Trail (AZT) is located east of Tucson near Vail. From the parking lot, I recommend hiking south on the AZT—this route includes Cienega Creek, which has water most of the year. You rapidly descend into a beautiful riparian area with mature cottonwood, sycamore, and willow. Approximately 1/4 mile after entering the riparian area, you'll arrive at Cienega Creek. Rather than following the creek downstream (which requires a permit from Pima County), be sure to follow the AZT sign and exit the canyon to the right. The route traverses some upland trail, then crosses Rincon Creek (which can have thigh deep flow some times of the year), and heads towards the Rincon Mountains. I like to take Elo here for a mellow hike and some hang time by a

creek, but you can certainly make this a longer

hike if you want.

### **Bog Springs/Kent Springs Loop**

5.1 mile loop Moderate Difficulty
Good all year round, but has snow in the winter

This trail takes off from Madera Canyon, with parking in the Bog Springs campground. The trail starts around 4,000 ft, has a fair amount of elevation change, and alternates from shaded woodlands to exposed stretches of trail with views over Green Valley. Elo and I didn't realize there would be this much snow in the spring after a rainstorm in Tucson!

#### Kentucky Camp near Sonoita

7.1 miles out-and-back (total miles) Moderate Best in Fall, Winter & Spring

Moderate difficulty

Located on the east side of the Santa Ritas, the trail is accessed off Highway 83. The drive down Gardner Canyon Road on the way to the trailhead is spectacular, with numerous camping options along the way. At Gardner Trailhead (where the Arizona Trail crosses Gardner Canyon Road), the trail goes south towards Sonoita/Patagonia or north towards Kentucky Camp through rolling grass-covered hills spotted with oak, juniper, and yucca. You get an interesting perspective of the

Santa Rita mountains throughout this hike, and the Arizona Trail is well marked.

Go to https://hlfarrell.wixsite.com
to find many more dog-friendly hikes in
the Tucson area recommended by
The Dog Mama and her hiking buddies.

# Love and Let

An Inside Look At A Foster Family

By: Michelle Moll



Michelle Moll holding Scarlet, Rhett, Gerald, Mel & Ash

"But, I could NEVER give them up."

This is far and away the number one thing I hear when someone finds out we foster baby kittens. After all, it's impossible not to bond with these gorgeous, tiny creatures.

It's actually funny – when I first receive a new litter of babies, I feel no real connection to them. This

happens every time. Sure, they are cute, but they are also a lot of responsibility and work. My house smells like Fancy Feast. My resident cats feel slightly resentful. So does my husband.

But sure enough, after a few days, their little personalities emerge. Little by little, we imprint on each other. I make up really dumb nicknames and sing them songs. I don't get too mad when they get the dreaded "poop foot" (you puppy people know what I mean, too). I take a million photos and annoy everyone on my Facebook feed.

I choose my favorite. Yet, I say... "We aren't keeping you!"
Because for every foster animal we end up keeping (it's called a "Foster Failure" in the shelter biz, and yep, we've done it), that's one animal I can't help later. Foster pets must return to the shelter to find their forever family – and that's not us.

Do we miss them? Absolutely. But we truly take comfort in knowing that we have done our part in raising them to be wonderful pets, and that we can open our home (and spare bathroom) to the next batch of lovelies. Fostering is a way I can contribute, even though I live somewhat far from TALGV, have kids, work from home, and can't show up to the shelter several days a week.

People are often surprised at how involved our kids are with the foster kittens. At ages 10 (Ella) and 12 (Tessa), our girls are an enormous help with "the babies." They scoop litter boxes, feed, bathe, and of course, love on the kitties like they are our own. Fostering teaches our children responsibility, compassion, and it's great motivation to get them up for school in the morning! The kittens have also been a fantastic ice-breaker when new friends come over to play.

Fostering through TALGV is the way to go if you are interested in trying it out. First of all, they will provide you with everything you need, from blankets and bowls to food and medications. You can borrow Kongs and play tunnels, bottles and toys.

Secondly, the shelter does the hard work of finding your

foster animal her new home. Because

TALGV is a well-established organization, people know to look there for their next pet. The shelter does all of the screening and adoption paperwork, and they do their very best to find great homes.

The shelter needs fosters for lots of different situations. I happened to choose baby kittens because, well ... they're *KITTENS!* But there are so

many other dogs, cats, puppies and kittens that need you—some for just a few days and others for much longer. Many animals just get so stressed out at the shelter, but in a home environment, they truly shine! Can you polish one of these diamonds in the rough?



Ella with Mel (Gone With The Wind litter)

Learn more about fostering opportunities at TALGV: https://talgv.org/fostering/ and become a foster family by filling out a Volunteer Application.



Tessa and the *Shoe* litter—Spatz, Loafer, Siletto, Croc & Uggs



### **Z** Raffle Items

Ibanez 25 Scale Acoustic/Electric Guitar w/ Salman Hard Shell Case



Raffle Tickets Available Nov. 11 thru Dec. 16 \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Drawing on Dec. 17

All proceeds used to benefit TALGVs animals



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The Attic Thrift Store

Open Daily 10 am-2 pm @ The Animal League of Green Valley

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

### TALGY's Outreach Program

## Helping Family Pets In Our Community

Pets are an integral part of people's families. The TALGV Community Outreach Program is dedicated to helping families through tough times, allowing people to keep their pets in their own homes and out of shelters. We cover a broad range of services including our Sunday Clinic, held at TALGV and open to the public; spaying/neutering; donations of food and pet equipment; pet transportation; assistance with unexpected vet bills and medications; and palliative care or euthanasia. Since January 2019, Outreach has received 1400 phone calls for information and help, not including requests for spay/neutering.



reduced-cost spay/neutering services are vital to control the population of unwanted pets. We provide certificates good for free S/N at participating vet clinics and through ASAVET, which brings its own personnel and equipment to TALGV once a month. More than half of our costs for this are reimbursed by Pima County. So far this year, 1200 animals were spay/ neutered through our Outreach Program.

Our crew
of drivers provides
transportation to and from vet
appointments for people who cannot
drive. We also deliver donated food
and medications to help with the cost
of maintaining family pets. Often,
just a small amount of aid is sufficient
to keep the pet within the family's
home instead of being
relinquished to a shelter, surely
a win-win situation for
all involved.



Outreach volunteers try
to assist people who can't
afford necessary medical help for
their pets. Several vets in the area
generously give us discounts on some
medical procedures, which enables us to
provide care at a lower cost. If the family
meets specific criteria, we can assist
with unexpected vet bills,
palliative care for aging or sick
pets, and euthanasia
when necessary.

To learn more about our Community Outreach Program, watch the video at

www.talgv.org
Just click on OUTREACH at
the top right of our home
page. To contact us, call
520-625-3785

and leave a message.



When we are unable to provide services, we try to refer people to other organizations for assistance. We also coordinate services with "Keeping Families Together," a program administered by Pima Animal Care Center, to make sure people can get the medical help they need to keep their pets healthy and in a loving home.

At our Sunday Clinic,
we offer shots for cats and
dogs on a walk-in basis. We also
worm puppies and kittens, trim
nails, clean ears, and offer certificates
for free spay or neuter services.
Dogs are fitted with harnesses and
given leashes; and we provide
carriers for cats. And always, we
work with owners to help
them properly care
for their pets.



## Tubac



As told to: Marla Settlemeyer

Hi—My name is Jack, and I am a very happy four-year-old Heeler who was adopted from The Animal League of Green Valley. This is my story.

For many days I was alone, wandering the streets of Green Valley with a chewedoff rope attached to my collar, looking

for the place I used to call home. I am not sure what happened—was the gate left opened, did my master move away? It was cold, and I was lonely. Finally, some caring people found me and took me to TALGV, where the volunteers named me Sarge. I was loved and warm and safe there.

Over the course of months, I was first adopted by a family who returned me

saying I was too aggressive. Then another family adopted me, but I was returned again. I'm not sure why—I like people and I am VERY friendly. I'm not aggressive like they said I was, not even towards cats. I just like to play and follow people around. I am a heeler—a cattle dog—so we tend to be very protective of those who take care of us, and we want to keep our pack together.

In October of 2017, some friendly people stopped at TALGV. They were on their way to Tubac to celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Their much -loved heeler Lucy had gone to the Rainbow Bridge a few months earlier, and they thought they were ready to open their hearts again. They met one dog and tried really hard to interact and play with him, but nothing worked. Fortunately for me, that match was not meant to be.

Then the magic happened. When I was brought into the meeting room, I saw the lady first, sitting on the floor, and it was love at first sight for both of us! This was my person—I was sure of it. Then I saw her guy, and I really knew it was love. The look, the smell, and his gentle touch on my face made my heart burst with joy—"these are my forever people!"

At my wonderful new home, my family renamed me Tubac Jack (Jack for short). My guy and I ride in his truck and hang out in his workshop. This is where I was meant to be! And oh, did I forget to mention the two cats, Snickers and Mousers? It took some time but they both have accepted me, and the little black one and I have even touched noses! Thank you TALGV for taking me in and finding my family. I am now home—forever.







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### **A Home For Every Pet**

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



Remember Checho? Now in his FOREVER HOME, he marched with TALGV in the 2019 County Fair White Elephant Parade.

Paw Prints Editor - Mary Ziegelbauer

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### **ADDRESS**

1600 W. Duval Mine Road Green Valley, AZ 85614

WEBSITE www.talgv.org

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

