



# Paw Prints

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

Vol. XXXIX Issue 1 Spring 2020



## RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING

By: Jill Cruz

For the past seven years, I have conducted rattlesnake avoidance training in the Southern Arizona area in partnership with The Animal Experts--Jeff Carver and Marc Hammond--who have decades of wildlife experience between them. Safety is of the utmost importance to all of us, and these guys are the best. This year, from March through September, TALGV will be hosting our training sessions at their facility in Green Valley.

For those of you who don't know about this type of training, here's a summary. The Animal Experts bring in live, wild, *muzzled* rattlers. They handle the snakes; I handle your dog, using an electronic (aka "shock") collar and a long leash. We run the dog through several different scenarios, anticipating as many situations as possible.

The first scenario is snake scent on a scent towel, along with a fake snake. Why fake? Because for this first encounter, I want the dog's nose on the scent, without the risk of your dog backing away from a live snake. When your dog sniffs and gets a good scent of the snake, I administer a quick, aversive stimulation at a high level. Your dog will jump back or even try to run away.

The next scenario is training with an actual snake—one that is alive and rattling, but muzzled for everyone's protection. I'll walk your dog right up to it, but based on his previous experience, he will usually avoid it! Some dogs don't--if that's the case, I'll give the dog another stimulation to back him off the snake and learn to keep a safe distance.

Since rattlers like to hide, we try to trick the dog by putting snake scent in a bucket, planter, or similar container. If the dog gets too close, a corrective stimulation is given. Some rattler species, like the Mojave, can be aggressive, so The Animal Experts will mimic this using a live snake to

ensure that your dog backs off when a snake is coming at him. Jeff and Marc also bring in a rattler with its tail taped so it can't rattle. Snakes don't always give a warning, so we don't want your dog to depend on hearing a rattle. In each case, if your dog doesn't back away, another correction is given.

While this sounds like a lot of "shocking," most dogs only need one or two shocks during training and then avoid rattlers in all the other scenarios. Ten minutes of training can save your dog's life, and many dogs have prevented their owners from getting a snake bite by pulling away from a nearby snake. Although we teach avoidance and not an alert, a dog's panicked backing away from a bush or frantic barking in the backyard are often valuable by-products of this training.



### FAQs:

*What is the age limit?* A dog must be at least 6 months old.

*Do I need to retrain my dog yearly?* I always recommend a recheck the following year; some dogs need retraining yearly (like a Jack Russell!) but some retain it for the rest of their lives. We'll know more at the recheck.

*(Continued on page 2)*



# TALGV's 2020 Board of Directors



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Kareen Kell, Jane Vazquez,  
Norma Utne, Georgia Puttock,  
Betty Melby

Front Row:  
Ted Schultz, Treasurer;  
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Sandy Hanover, Secretary

Chat with TALGV President  
Kim Eisele and meet new board  
members Ted Schultz &  
Norma Utne in Paw Prints'  
Summer edition.

## *Rattlesnake* (Continued from page 1)



*Do you guarantee this training?* I'm unable to guarantee training as all dogs are different, and some

remember better than others, but I've had many good testimonials from clients. This is the most important training I do, and I sincerely believe it can help save a dog's life!

*My dog weighs 8 pounds; can you train him?* Yes! I have an electronic collar especially made for small dogs.

*Can you train a dog with a disability?* I've trained dogs that were blind, deaf, or missing a leg. Check with your veterinarian if your dog has a disability, illness or injury that makes any training questionable.

*Are TALGV dogs trained for snake avoidance?* Not yet, but for every session that sells out, The Animal Experts and I will train two TALGV dogs who are awaiting adoption.

Remember, Rattlesnake Avoidance Training can save the life of your canine companion! Please call me (Jill Cruz) at **832-216-5875** to register and reserve your appointment date. I hope to see you and your dog at a training session!



## ATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING CAN SAVE THE LIFE OF YOUR DOG

Call: **Jill Cruz 832-216-5875**

Cost: **\$90/dog**

Where: **The Animal League of Green Valley  
1600 W. Duval Mine Rd.  
Green Valley, AZ 85614**

Dates: **March 26 ~ April 9 ~ April 23 ~ May 7 ~ May 21 ~  
June 4 ~ June 18 ~ July 2 ~ July 16 ~ August 6 ~  
August 20 ~ Sept. 3 ~ Sept. 17**

Time: **Thursday evenings from 4-6 pm**

Who: **Jill Cruz Dog Training LLC & The Animal Experts**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

# Here's Earl...



After the cat wing lost Firouzi and Dinah (of *Cooking in the Kitchen with Dinah* fame), two of its longtime "meeters and greeters," the volunteers decided it was time to give another resident a chance—preferably one who might have a bit of trouble getting adopted. And then along came Earl, who had been abandoned by his owners at a local vet's office after they discovered he was FIV positive.

Earl is the perfect poster boy for a tomcat and looks like a fighter who has gone one round too many in the ring! His family provided no information about his past, but judging by his appearance, he has had one excitement-filled life and hasn't always come out on top in his matches. Fortunately, his personality never took a knock-out punch, as he is an absolute sweetheart who loves attention.

Being FIV positive, conventional wisdom dictates that he needs to either be an only cat or live with another FIV-

positive cat. But thinking is changing on this subject over time, and it's now agreed that both FeLV- and FIV-positive cats can live equally well in an environment with other cats as long as everyone gets along. And Earl gets along with everyone, so he left his quarantine room behind and joined the action.

He loves his new (indoor) freedom and takes his responsibilities seriously, making sure everyone has a chance to pet him and when he can, conning people into giving him a treat! He *has* turned into a bit of a food hog, though, and the volunteers have to make sure that he doesn't sneak into rooms and steal food, but we're pretty sure he's enjoying a life of luxury that he never thought he'd have!

Just one more reason to stop by and visit the cat wing...!

## Looking Forward...

### Pet Food Drive

Help the cats & dogs in our local community~  
Donate dry or canned pet food & treats to  
TALGV's Community Outreach Program



Your pet food donations  
gratefully accepted at  
The Attic Thrift Store  
or TALGV's lobby

Open Every Day  
10 am to 2 pm

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

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, April 27, 2020  
@Desert Hills Golf Club  
8:30 Shotgun Start

### Doin' It Fore The Animals

4-person scramble with 3 flights  
\$80 per golfer—includes driving range, green  
fee & cart, box lunch, flight winner prizes

Deadline for Registration is April 17  
Contact Sally Rankin  
srankin128@aol.com 713-806-7364







*In 2019, TALGV was supported by donations, memberships, grants, bequests, tributes, memorials and in-kind contributions. Your generous help provided the needy cats and dogs in our community with food, shelter and medical care, along with the hope of a forever home. Our animals depend on you—and you always support them.*

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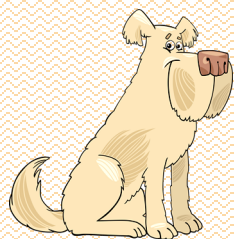
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(Continued on page 6)





# Waggin' Tails & Purrfect Endings

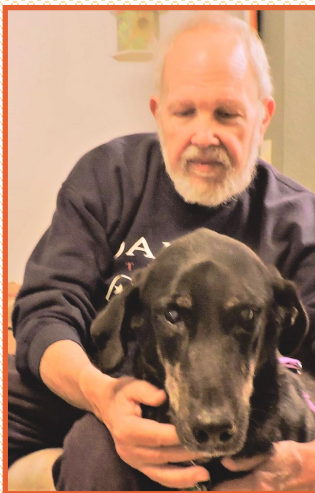
## News From Our Readers



### Buddy

While driving toward The Attic last December, I saw a TALGV volunteer walking Buddy, and something about the dog just hit me. He wasn't up for adoption yet (Buddy is diabetic and had to be stabilized first), but he did need a foster home. Carol & I were willing to take him in—it just seemed like the right thing to do.

I had gone through some serious medical problems last year, and didn't know if I'd ever have a dog again. Many wonderful people aided



my recovery (special thanks to physical therapist Stephanie Conlow), and fostering Buddy felt like a good way to "pay it forward."

Of course, we fell in love with him—and were happy to officially adopt him on Feb. 14—Valentine's Day! TALGV's Vet Care Support for Life will continue to cover the cost of his medication.

Buddy is a wonderful dog, and we're happy to have him as our companion.

Jim Beattie & Carol Heinrich

### A TAIL OF THREE KITTENS

Not only did we adopt this kitten, but we also adopted two more—Ginger Snap, Chess and Cinder. They're the sweetest and most perfect kittens ever!

Cindy Stidvent



### Ms. JANUARY

Ms. January loves wearing her PJs. When we have a cold snap, the dogs in our area wear all kinds of getups, so my neighbor thought Ms. January might be cold also. On went the "onesies." She will wear them all day, and during the night she can take them off herself. Ms. January makes this house a home, and we love her to pieces!

Annette & Gary Melzer



## Thank You, Donors!

(Continued from page 5)

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### \$1 to \$99

766 additional donors

We wish we had the space to list everyone—we appreciate **all of you!**

*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.*

TALGV does not sell, lease or share your donor information with any other organization



## 2019 in Review

Last year, thanks to *YOU*  
and your generous support,  
The Animal League of  
Green Valley was able to:



-  Care for and love **433** cats and **553** dogs.
-  Find forever homes for **379** cats and **451** dogs.
-  Reunite **8** cats and **75** dogs with their happy owners.
-  Raise **\$419,339** for animal care from The Attic Thrift Store.
-  Spend **\$36,987** on food for our animals.
-  Continue our Community Outreach Program, assisting **1200** families in our local area, providing **1000** pets with shots, nail trims and wellness checks at our Sunday Clinics, and spaying/neutering over **1,700** pets and **300** feral cats.
-  Keep costs low with **500** wonderful volunteers—and **NO** paid staff—who worked a total of **133,471** hours, the equivalent of **69** full-time employees.

# Give From Your Heart



Hey, Ms. Bad Hair Day!  
You talking to *ME*?



# For The Dogs & Cats







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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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Green Valley, AZ 85614  
**WEBSITE** [www.talgv.org](http://www.talgv.org)

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