

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



Yol XXXIV Issue 2 Summer 2020

## Trusting in Grace The Rescue of Scooby & Shaggy

Told by: Nanci Mitchell

When Scooby and Shaggy were rescued and first brought to TALGV last October, they were about 18 months old and did not seem to know anything about getting along with people—in fact they were terrified of people. Previously, the brothers had been running loose in a neighborhood for several months, and, to the best of our knowledge, had never walked on a leash or lived inside. They were not socialized, didn't trust humans, and did not want to be touched. Although they seemed sweet, the two dogs were extremely fearful and would back away from anyone who tried to come close.

Every day for months many TALGV volunteers sat in their kennel trying desperately to make Scooby and Shaggy understand that no one would harm them. They finally started to accept treats from a person's hand, but if you reached out to touch them, they acted as if they had received an electric shock and backed away as quickly as possible.

It wasn't long before Scooby and Shaggy were badly in need of a bath and grooming, but they had to be sedated in order to accomplish it. While they were "out," the volunteers put ID collars on them, checked their physical condition, and gave them their vaccinations.

With adequate nutrition and successful grooming, the pair looked much better, but still remained fearful and untouchable. The volunteers tried everything they could think of—including two volunteers sleeping overnight with the dogs in their kennels to











make them more comfortable with humans close to them. All these efforts helped tremendously, Scooby and Shaggy started acting happier and became more approachable. But still, after half a year at TALGV, the brothers remained so wary that nobody had been able to put a leash on either dog.

Nanci, a new volunteer, and Grace, her golden retriever with a warm heart and the instincts of a service dog, thought that the presence of another dog might help ease Scooby's and Shaggy's anxieties. In April, they began daily visits to work with the brothers. Shaggy caught on quickly—Nanci would sit in his kennel and roll a ball, Grace would bring it back, and Shaggy would follow Grace. It wasn't long before Shaggy would chase the ball himself, even though he wasn't quite up to retrieving it yet. Scooby took longer but Grace & Nanci returned every day and kept trying.

Frequently, they worked on reinforcing "target training," something that Scooby and Shaggy had previously been taught from one of the volunteer trainers. A volunteer would extend her finger and say "nose," and when one of the brothers touched it with his nose, that lucky dog would receive a treat. Scooby and Shaggy, who were very food motivated, wanted those treats, but were nervous about getting too close to a volunteer. However, Grace's specialty was taking treats from people's hands, and she modeled that behavior well—and often! Before long, the brothers were touching a

## Looking Forward...











## **Meet the Newest Board Members**





I was born and raised in Middletown, CT. After serving in the US Army from 1965 to 1968, I attended Quinnipiac University, where I received a BS in Marketing and Economics in 1972. At the University of Chicago, I received my MBA in 1974 in Accounting and Finance. As a CPA, I spent my entire working career in the Chicago area, first in public accounting and then in private industry, and ended my career with my own financial services consulting business.

Before retiring and moving to Green Valley in 2008, I lived in Naperville, IL, a western suburb of Chicago. I have three grown children—a daughter and two sons. My hobbies are golf and fishing. I keep busy watching baseball and hockey (once they start playing again) and am a Cubs and Blackhawks fan. I also enjoy taking advantage of the GVR recreational opportunities and play horseshoes and water volleyball.

My wife, Christina, and I very much enjoy Green Valley. We both are active volunteers at TALGV plus other clubs and organizations with which we are involved. Christina volunteers in the Attic and is on the Special Events Committee. We have a dog, a shih tzu poodle mix, named Sugar Puff, that we adopted from TALGV last year. She is such a sweet dog that we kept the name the volunteers gave her--it's a perfect fit.

My volunteer service at TALGV started about three years ago. I was Assistant Treasurer for two years and helped with the organization of the accounting processes and system. I became Treasurer and a Board member this year.

The volunteers are hardworking and dedicated and I enjoy being part of the team. I see TALGV continuing to grow since its beginning in 1984. We are no longer a small organization; thus, our infrastructure also needs to grow to support our activities. The Board continues to look for new ways to fulfill our mission, "A Home for Every Pet." Most importantly, our members are supportive and have generously stepped up to support this organization.

#### Norma Utne

My husband and I moved from Springfield, Missouri, where I was a nurse and a full time Mom, to Tucson in 2007; I started volunteering for TALGV in 2008. We have three sons and one grandson—can't seem to produce girls in this family!

We have two dogs—Greta the Great Dane and Eleanor, an Anatolian Shepard mix that we adopted last July to keep Greta company. I have ten cats (notice I said "I") that John pretends are not his—although he does have a few favorites. And yes, I'm a foster failure, many times over. My hobbies are Hardanger Embroidery and, of course, *CATS!* 

I am currently the Point Person for the Cat Care Coordinators and also order all the medications for TALGV. As a new member of the Board of Directors, my goal for the first six months or so is just to listen and learn what goes on. Since there are many aspects of TALGV of which I had no knowledge, just absorbing that information is high on my agenda.

## Weathering The COVID-19 Storm

When Kim Eisele became TALGV's new president in January 2020, she knew that there would be many challenges in her first year at the helm. The reality, however, was something nobody could have anticipated—Covid-19!

THE ANIMAL LEAGUE
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CLOSED TO THE
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FURTHER
NOTICE
THE ATTIC
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Arizona's Stay-At-Home order on March 13 impacted TALGV in many ways. Since we are an animal shelter, the kennels were considered an essential service and allowed to remain open to care for the animals, with limited entry allowed. However, The Attic Thrift Store was classified as non-essential and officially closed to the public. TALGV's Board of Directors was placed in a difficult position. When The Attic closed, we lost a major source of income from the sale of

merchandise, approximately \$1500 per day, but we still had to pay our bills and maintain our facility. In addition, TALGV was forced to balance the necessary daily care of the 35 dogs and 70 cats living at our facility with the health and safety of our all-volunteer staff.

In March, Kim sent out a heart-felt message to all the volunteers: "Well, March was certainly not at all like what we would have expected. Today is the 19<sup>th</sup> day we are closed to the public. I know it feels like months! Now of all times is when I am asking each of you to have a "Pawsitive" Perspective. I know we are in uncharted waters. However, if we all pull together like Americans always do, this too shall pass."

#### Caring for the Dogs & Cats

Kim and TALGV's Foster Dog-Care Coordinator moved into action, persuading volunteers and other TALGV friends to

provide foster care for many of the dogs at the shelter. They had amazing success—45 households were willing to provide foster dog care for the duration of the closing. This greatly reduced the number of pets in TALGV's kennels which, in turn, reduced the number of volunteers necessary in the building. During most of March, April and May, there were only three to ten dogs remaining in our on-site kennels; all



the others were in foster homes. With few dogs remaining in their care, volunteers spruced up the West wing kennels with a fresh coat of blue paint.



The cats had a different situation—adult cats don't do well being moved out of their current surroundings and into an unknown territory, so fostering was not a good option. Most of our resident cats stayed on site in their cat

patios and remained blissfully unaware of the turmoil in the outside world.

Kim's April message: "Congratulations for surviving April! For the first time in our history, we have been ordered to stay home. Life has certainly not been "normal," but TALGV is hanging tough. I am thrilled to report that there have been NO cases of COVID-19 among our volunteers."

#### **Tough Times Without The Attic**

The Attic Thrift Store was closed for 79 days earning *NO* income from the sale of merchandise. Obviously, as with every non-profit, we suffered a severe shortage in operating funds. Although TALGV had a reserve fund for emergencies, and our loyal donors continued to generously support us, we looked forward to re-opening the Attic just as soon as it was safe to do so.

Attic volunteers kept busy sorting out the backlog of donations—nearly 300 bags. They emptied them all. "Seemed like a million," said one volunteer. TALGV also took this downtime as an oppor-



tunity to repaint the Attic's merchandising areas in "Twinkling Yellow." It looks fresh and cheerful, and it smells good, too.

#### **Intakes and Adoptions**

TALGV continued to accept homeless animals during the COVID-19 crisis, and a lot of mamas with their litters came in. As of this writing, 83 kittens have been rescued by TALGV so far this year, and they're still arriving!

### "If we all pull together like Americans always do, this too shall pass."



We just can't WAIT to get our new puppy!

Adoptions also continued, with potential adopters making an appointment to visit a specific dog/cat and wearing a mask during the inteview. Volunteers were worried that adoptions would be almost non-existent, but to everyone's surprise, March adoptions stayed in the normal range—57 animals including

some challenging long-time residents. In April, we adopted out more pets than we took in. By May, dogs and puppies and cats and kittens were flying out of the shelter as fast as they arrived; we adopted out the unbelievable total of 60 pets. It seemed that being safe-at-home (aka "having no place to go and nothing to do") sparked a huge desire to adopt a pet for companionship.

#### Coping With Social Distancing

As expected, our community events were cancelled

from March to June. We missed our "Doin'
It Fore the Animals" golf tournament and
the popular "Blessing of the Animals"
event. The weekly Sunday Medical
Outreach Clinics that assisted the
community with animal care were halted,
—and the much-anticipated Youth Intern

Program (YIPS) did not occur this summer. While Kim and TALGV's Board of Directors were sad to cancel these events, they remain hopeful that all activities will return in the future when personal contact is safer.

But even COVID-19 couldn't halt TALGV's essential spay/neuter program. The ASAVET team and its van were on the premises in June, and will be back on July 15. There also were monthly on-site visits from Dr. Kelly's Mobile Surgical Unit. They provide the pets in our community with dental care, mass removals, spay/neuter services, and other surgical care. TALGV will next host Dr. Kelly's team on July 20; call or text them for an appointment at 520-636-PETS (7387).

#### Community Outreach

TALGV's Community Outreach team continued helping pets in the area. This spring, there were an especially high number of Parvo cases in puppies. Without TALGV's assistance, it is likely these puppies would not have survived.

#### Pet-Food-Bank Drive Thru

On May 28 and June 5, TALGV hosted Pet-Food-Bank Drive-Thrus for area residents who needed pet food for their cats

or dogs. Masked and standing out in the 100degree heat, volunteers loaded bags of dog and cat food and boxes of litter into people's vehicles. Hundreds of pounds of food and



litter were given to very grateful pet owners.

A happy message from Kim: "Hooray! There appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. As we enter June, our community is beginning to open up, and so is TALGV's Attic Thrift Store! A heartfelt thanks goes to every single person who has come in and worked during this time. Please continue to stay safe and healthy and remain pawsitive!"

At the time this newsletter was printed,

TALGV's Kennels are still closed.

Adoptions & intake available

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Call TALGV's Kennels: 520-625-3170

The Attic Thrift Store is OPEN FOR SHOPPING New Schedule: 8 am to Noon Mon, Thurs, Sat & Sun

No drop-offs of merchandise accepted at this time.

We're sorry, but we're out of storage room.

Call The Attic for more info: 520-625-2189

TALGV's Kennels and The Attic Thrift Store are following COVID-19 guidelines. FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED for the health and safety of our visitors and volunteers.

## Trusting in Grace

(Continued from page 1)

volunteer's finger and getting treats, too. Once they were more comfortable, this gave the timid duo a safe and rewarding way to interact with their human friends.

At the end of April, with TALGV closed to the public due to COVID-19 and most of the dogs adopted or in foster homes, Scooby and Shaggy were allowed to have more freedom. With supervision, they could access the interior corridor, getting more exercise and watching other dogs and volunteers coming in and going out. The volunteers, along with Grace's help, spent several days coaxing the brothers to come out from their kennels into the hallway, a little farther each time. Grace set the example, running up and down the corridor with her ball to show them it was safe. Finally, one miraculous day, Scooby and Shaggy were out in the hallway, running and playing too, chasing the ball and having fun together!

Shortly after that, a volunteer who had experience working with fearful dogs was able to get a slip leash on Scooby and slowly try to walk him. Grace was right there to give reassurance. With Grace leading the way, Scooby was confident enough on the leash to walk down the hall







and outside for the first time since arriving at TALGV. Everyone was delighted to see this big step forward. And, in honor of her dedication and hard work, Grace became an official TALGV volunteer, complete with her own name badge.

By May, the boys had been making good progress in socializing with the volunteers, but they needed more. The next step in their training was to move the duo to a foster home—and what better home than with Nanci and Grace. Grace took them under her momma's wing and the brothers easily and happily joined the family routines.

Scooby continued to do well with his leash training and enjoyed walks around the neighborhood with Grace—he even joined in on playdates with other dogs. Shaggy wasn't quite as confident, and he would wait patiently at home for them to return.

Unfortunately Grace and her mama were leaving for the rest of the summer, so a new foster home had to be found for the brothers. The volunteers at TALGV, including Grace, are confident that Scooby and Shaggy will continue to make progress in overcoming their fears. Their saga will be continued in the next issue of Paw Prints.

#### **PEANUT BUTTER DOG BISCUITS**

Looking for something to do at home?

Surprise your pet with yummy home-made treats!



From: Pam Butts/Sahuarita

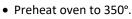
2 cups whole wheat flour 1 tablespoon cinnamon

- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup peanut butter
- Preheat oven to 325°.
- Stir dry ingredients together. Then add milk and peanut butter and mix well.
- On a lightly floured surface, roll or pat into a rectangle 1/4-inch thick.
- Cut into 2" wide strips or squares or use cookie cutters for shapes.
- Place treats on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 325° until brown on both sides, approx. 20-25 min.
- Cool thoroughly; then store in refrigerator.

#### **CHEESE & YOGURT CAT COOKIES**

From: Wikihow

3/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese 5 TBLS grated Parmesan cheese 1/4 cup plain yogurt 3/4 cup of flour 1/4 cup cornmeal



- Mix the cheeses & yogurt together. Then stir in the flour & cornmeal.
- Knead the mixture until it forms a ball of dough.
- Place dough on a lightly floured surface. Roll or pat into a rectangle 1/4-inch thick.
- Cut into small strips or squares. Use a bottle cap to cut into small circles.
- Place treats on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 350° approx. 20 min.
- Cool thoroughly; then store in refrigerator.





Meet Whispurr (aka Ramses), the new "Ambassador" of TALGV, adopted by Kim Eisele and usually found frolicking around her office. When our postadoption coordinator checked to see how Whispurr was settling into his new home, Kim had nothing but praise for his progress. But wouldn't we rather hear from Whispurr, himself...

Eye kant spel cus Eye'm just a babie, butt hav lotts two saye.

Fore the rekord, Eye choze Mom. She wuz reely pritty and nise. Don't believe Mom when shee trize to taik kredit fur mi naim...Eye cleverlee naimed myself. Eye hav a lisense to purrr, ya no.

Apparentlee Mom duz nott appreshee-ate my Trak and Feeld skillz of runnin an jumpin into the litter bocks. But she bought a kool one with a cover. Now Eye hav privasee.

Mom uses theez things called Q-sticks. Eye found the stash in a kontainer with a lid. Eye must brake in cuz those sticks are grate kittee toyz an so much mor fun than stor bot toyz.

Everydai iz "Bring Yur Pet to Werk" Day. (Mi idea, tooo). Mom must bee important. All theze peepl keap kuming in and asking kwestions. Gosh, don't thay no Eye'm trying to gett sum sleap?

Eye wory abowt Mom, tho. She piks up this thing called a fone and tawks to it. And its knot the usual babie tawk she duz too me. It souns like she's doin sum seereous buzyness.

Eye'm 13 weaks now...maybee it's time Eye get my own offise?? Kan Eye pleeze have won with a windoe?

Anywho...Eye luv it hear with Mom at TAL-Guh-Vee, who doezn't? And everywon thinks Eye'm a selebrity.

Signed, = ^-=







NON-PROFIT ORG **U.S POSTAGE PAID** TUCSON, AZ PERMIT NO. 541

#### A Home For Every Pet

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



There won't be anv YIPs this summer? Say it ain't so, Joe!

Paw Prints Editor - Mary Ziegelbauer

## The Animal League of Green Valley

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** President - Kim Eisele

Vice President - Rose Welliver

Secretary - Sandy Hanover Treasurer - Ted Schultz

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

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Patty Green, Sue Nicholson, Barb Sykes, Norma Utne, Pam White

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Vehicles - Paul Brown Vet Care for Life/Cats - Jean Davis

Vet Care for Life/Dogs - Rose Welliver Volunteer - Bonnie Myers

Webmaster - Barry Cogan Youth Intern Program - Jean Davis, Pam Dunahay

No drop-offs of merchandise accepted at this time. We're sorry for this inconvenience, but our storage rooms are overflowing.

## THE ATTIC THRIFT STORE

**NEW DAYS & TIME TO SHOP** 

8 am to Noon Mon, Thurs, Sat & Sun Call The Attic for more info: 520-625-2189

### TALGY KENNELS

**VISITORS** 

CLOSED TO Adoptions & intake available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

For more info, call the Kennels: 520-625-3170

The Attic Thrift Store & TALGV's Kennels 1600 W. Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley, AZ 85614 Attic (520) 625-2189 Kennels (520) 625-3170 Fax (520) 625-4684 Website: www.talgv.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/TALGV

To donate on-line, go to www.talgv.org







