



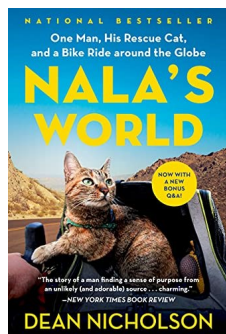
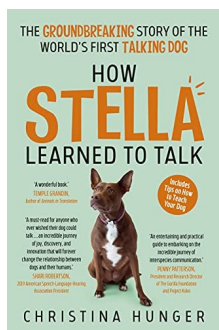
# ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A TALKING DOG, A BIKING CAT, AND A CANINE PRIVATE EYE...

Dear Reader,

Looking to be awed by extraordinary real life animal narratives? Need a gift for a pet lover this holiday? Have a New Year's resolution to read more? Look no further.

I would like to entice you with the following three exceptional animal books. These defy our expectations of what cats and dogs can master. These accounts stretch our imagination. These authors explored unknown boundaries to remarkable results. These stories are a testament to the human-animal bond.

Each journey began as an implausible goal. In *How Stella Learned to Talk*, the whole process started with a precocious puppy. Then an idea slowly dawned on Christina Hunger, a speech therapist. Could her dog learn to communicate with the same methods she employed on young autistic children?



In *Nala's World*, Dean Nicholson, a young Scottish man, decided to bike around the world after surviving a car crash. After a few false starts, he was back on track. While biking through a remote and isolated wilderness in Bosnia, he thought he heard the faint sound of meowing.

In *Molly*, Colin Butcher, a retired British Detective Inspector turned private eye, was so deeply affected by a case that it became a pivotal point in his career. He witnessed the profound heartbreak of a woman whose emotional support cat went missing

and was found too late. Finding cats can be hard, sometimes even in your own house. Would it be possible to train the world's first cat-detection dog?



These are stories of love at first sight and the unfolding of a deep bond. Driven by an intense inquisitiveness, these authors weren't hindered by preconceptions. They observed their animal's behavior with fascination and a sense of adventure. They set the stage and then followed their animal companions to wonderfully unexpected places. They continue to journey with exhilaration.

So next time you look at your pets, pause and ask yourself: Are there undiscovered talents hidden within those furry bodies?

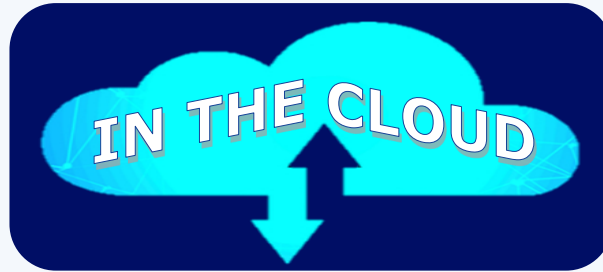
Angela Ahearn

Interestingly, I stumbled upon an online monthly book club on Meetup specifically about dogs. It's organized through a dog-hiking group called Dogs Always Allowed (DAA) based in Albuquerque.

Due to Covid, their book club went from meeting locally to going online. If you've joined Meetup, search for "DAA Book Club." Once you join the group, an email will be sent monthly with an unique Zoom meeting ID and password.

If you are not familiar with Meetup, it's a free online service to help people with similar interests connect. I've already joined three book clubs!

September 2 was a “red-letter” day at TALGV. We said good-bye to our old database system, Adopt-A-Friend (AAF), in use since 2007 and, despite upgrades, positively prehistoric in computer terms. After months of gathering information on a replacement system, TALGV's President Kim Eisele and Database Manager Sharon Keel decided on Shelter Pro, a system in use by many municipal animal shelters nationwide. With an enthusiastic welcome, TALGV went live with its new database and moved into the world of cloud computing!



Shelter Pro is a cloud-based data management program with 24/7 cloud support, which means that TALGV users can access the program both at The Animal League and from the comfort of their homes. The system has great flexibility and is user-friendly. Among other things, it allows TALGV to:

- Track all TALGV dogs and cats to maintain their medical records and adoption history
- Maintain records of donations and create individual Thank-You correspondence
- Generate mailing and email lists for TALGV communications
- Compile weekly, monthly, and annual reports

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and in the same way it took a “small but mighty” dedicated team of Database Management staff to go through the major undertaking of converting the massive amount of shelter data to a new software program. Manager Sharon Keel and staff members Sue Gray and Mary Ziegelbauer spent many hours preparing for the anticipated transfer, then customizing the new system after the final data transfer. This was accomplished while simultaneously keeping up with all the normal daily animal activity, tracking animals in both systems, during one of the busiest months TALGV had seen in some time.

Sharon said, “A large undertaking of this type could not have happened without the initiative of Kim Eisele seeing the advantage of upgrading our recordkeeping and bringing us into the current century. It also could not have occurred without the support and assistance of our IT Infrastructure Coordinator, Tim Shannon. Additionally, it could not have happened without the Database Management team and their dedication and love of TALGV and all that we do.”

## Looking Forward..

Purchase tickets at  
TALGV's office  
OR  
Mail a check  
payable to TALGV.  
Include your name,  
address, email &  
phone number—  
We'll mail back your  
ticket stubs.

All money from  
ticket sales helps  
our animals.

**Buy tickets before Dec. 10**

**2021 Car Raffle Tickets:**

**\$25 each or \$100 for 5 tickets**

**YOU COULD WIN**



One of three great prizes:  
**A NEW 2021 FORD  
BRONCO SPORT,**  
two round-trip, first-class airline  
tickets to anywhere in the world  
OR \$5,000 cash!

Restrictions apply to airline  
tickets. Please see Millions  
for Tucson Raffle Rules.

## Doin' It FORE the Animals

9TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER  
SAN IGNACIO GOLF CLUB IN GREEN VALLEY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022**







# Daisy's Rescue

By: Matt Hunt

This is the story of volunteers Maureen and Glenn Matto, who are taking on the

challenge of a special-needs dog, first as foster parents, and finally as adoptive parents. It demonstrates the best of what The Animal League of Green Valley is all about: selfless devotion to the long-term needs of those in our care, especially when those needs are special.

Several of our dogs at TALGV struggle to adjust to life in a shelter. This is especially true for dogs that have been relinquished after one or more stints in an adoptive home. Success for these dogs requires not just food, exercise, and temporary shelter but also compassion, understanding, help in acquiring social skills with humans and/or animals, mastery of some basic routines and commands, and getting re-acclimated to living in a home with a family.

Daisy was such a dog. She had a long history with TALGV—since arriving in 2016, she had been in and out of three unsuccessful adoptions. When she finally landed back at the League in March 2021, she was fearful and psychologically shut down. Very few volunteers were able to build trust or establish a rapport with Daisy, and she soon was designated as a special-needs dog with a limited number of approved handlers.

Maureen, a Saturday dog walker, was one of the handlers who quickly developed a rapport with Daisy. "When I met her," Maureen recalls. "She was shut down and shy. She wouldn't eat and would only allow certain volunteers into her kennel space." Fortunately, Glenn, an outdoor cleaner, was another of those "certain volunteers" that Daisy warmed up to.



The couple recognized the telltale signs of Daisy's difficulty in adapting to the shelter environment: Lack of appetite, weight loss, social withdrawal, and anxiety (for which she was being medicated). The Mattos are experienced dog owners and have fostered several dogs before and during the pandemic. With the passing of their beloved Bella, they were prompted to seek out a new dog. They decided to foster Daisy because they both believed that that she had potential if given the opportunity outside of the kennel environment. They knew it would take time and unending patience to help her overcome her anxiety and fearfulness.

The first month at home with the Mattos was challenging for both dog and foster parents. They staked out a safe area for her in their master bedroom (she had been trained to understand this concept while at TALGV using the "place" command). For most of that month, she willingly stayed in her area, where she felt safe, leaving the room only to go for walks. The Mattos worked to build Daisy's trust slowly. She accepted them into her safe space and gradually began to get comfortable in other areas of the home, including the kitchen where she now takes her meals. But getting from her safe place to the kitchen took



weeks of gentle coaxing with lots of praise. "We went slowly with her," Maureen remembers. "Letting her take her meals in her safe place for three weeks, moving to a spot halfway to the kitchen for another couple of weeks, and finally getting her comfortable where we wanted her to eat. Even now, she sometimes looks to Glenn or me for approval before taking a meal in the kitchen."

*(Continued on page 7)*



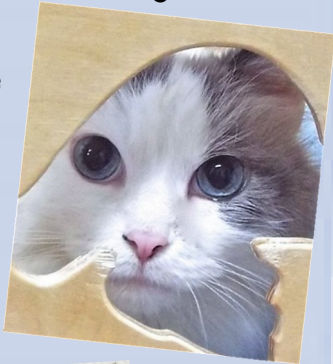
Adult cats only meow at humans, not at other cats.



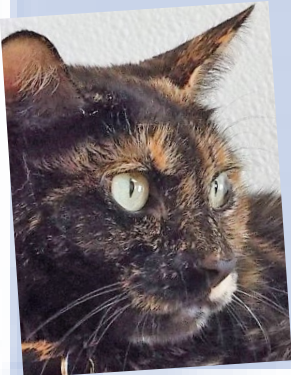
Bella loves to talk.

The unique pupils in a cat's eyes open wider and close smaller to allow the cat to see better in different levels of light.

Archie's eyes are wide open—doesn't he look mysterious?



Lovey's pupils are slits, but she's not angry.

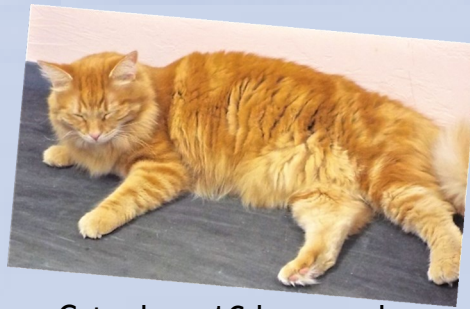


Cats have the largest eyes of any mammal relative to their size.

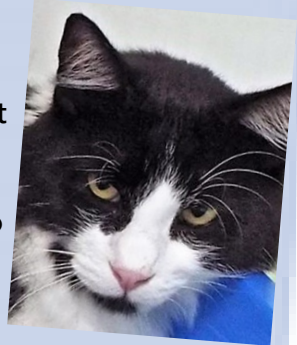


Here's looking at you, kid.

Cats sleep 16 hours a day. Ginger is happy to demonstrate.



Recent research shows that cats do know and respond to their own names.



Harold will come when you call...if he feels like it.

## *Crazy Cat Lady's* **Believe It Or Not!**

Cats have a barbed tongue that helps them lap water, eat, and groom themselves. Parmesan is showing his barbs.



Cats' whiskers are thicker than ordinary hairs and have deeper roots, providing important sensor information.



These touch receptors are found on Oliver's chin, cheeks, eyebrows, and front legs.

A hairball is a lump of accumulated indigestible material that forms in a cat's digestive tract. Cats' digestive systems let them swallow and digest fur. This is an evolutionary adaptation that helps the cat get every bit of nutrition it can from food, even the fur of the prey they hunt and consume. Hairballs in today's domesticated cats are usually a result of self grooming. The technical name for a cat's hairball is a trichobezoar.



With all his hair, Benji has a first-paw knowledge of trichobezoars.

## Welcome to The Animal League's Board of Directors

# Michele Miner



Michele Miner, TALGV's newest board member, is a Tucson native—born and raised here when Tucson was just a small town. Her first job was in a locally-owned candy store at El Con Mall, the only shopping mall around. She learned almost every job in the store, including cashiering, roasting nuts, and making candy. When the store expanded to the newly-built Tucson Mall, she became the assistant manager. "It was so much fun," she said, "and I had a great boss."

After that, she and her mother started their own house and office cleaning service in the Tucson area. Michele continued managing and working at the business until her mother passed away.

Maynard, Michele's husband for 17 years, works for Caterpillar and operates a 777D water truck—a 20,000-gallon-capacity piece of heavy equipment used to control the dust at local mining locations. Maynard's nickname for Michele is "Sparky"—which describes her perfectly—and he's always been her biggest supporter. Michele supports him, too, using her baking skills to make German Chocolate Cheesecake, Lemon-Lime Cake and other goodies for him and his co-workers to enjoy. Their household includes several fur babies adopted from TALGV, including Mary, the dog they took in "just for a short-term foster." After their 19-year old cats Mittens and Dukey went to the Rainbow Bridge this year, Michele and Maynard adopted three new cats—Happy, Cherry Bomb, and Smiles.

Michele has been volunteering at The Attic Thrift Store for 11 years—serving as a coordinator for the majority of that time and as the Point Person/Coordinator for five years. Getting through "the Covid thing" while keeping all her volunteers safe was her biggest worry. During the pandemic, The Attic was closed for 79 days, but has since reopened on a limited schedule. Michele, however, was there every day—cleaning, disinfecting, painting and keeping the thrift store running with a few available volunteers.

Looking toward the future, Michele plans on rebuilding the staff and hopes to be open every day in 2022. Additional inventory will attract more shoppers and provide more income to support TALGV's cats and dogs. "The Attic is my passion," she says, "and I want to make it blossom again!"

**Hurry In For Holiday Shopping**

All proceeds support the animals

# The Attic

**Thrift Store**

Shop 10 am - 2 pm  
Mon, Thur, Sat & Sun

Merchandise donations accepted on Nov. 7 & Dec. 5  
Limited to: 3 Boxes or 3 Paper Bags  
(We reserve the right to refuse a donation)

520-625-2189 1600 W Duval Mine Rd Green Valley, AZ

Gifts For The Whole Family   Bargains Every Day   Holiday Treasures   Special Christmas Room



# Waggin' Tails & Perfect Endings

## News From Our Readers



*"Have they got energy!*

*They like to play between midnight and 4 am—real night owls. They challenge us, but they're good cats."*

*~David & Mary Clarke*



**KAYLA**  
(AKA SORBET)



**JAZZY**  
(AKA GELATO)

*Remember Butchie?  
He was at TALGV  
for 10 years before  
finding his forever home.*



**BUTCHIE**

*"Butchie is doing well and  
and is a happy boy—hard  
to believe we have had  
him over a year now.  
We absolutely  
love him."*

*~Cassandra &  
Heath Phalen*

**PRINCESS**



*Princess is loving  
and affectionate.  
She was 11 when  
we adopted her  
but still spry*

*enough to jump the  
fence. She's a good  
girl and we're lucky  
to have her.*

*~John Z.*

*Here's why I love Buddy: He's a  
sweetheart, doesn't  
scratch furniture, is  
the happiest kitty,  
eats well, has  
perfect litter box  
habits, and is  
crazy when he  
wakes up doing  
360° turns and  
zoomies around  
the house."*



**BUDDY**  
(AKA HANSEL)

*~Ann Rangos*

**DELILAH**



*For several years, the  
Stephens have been  
adopting elderly cats and  
providing them with a  
loving home. Their most  
recent fur babies are Delilah  
& Sweet Pea—both 19  
years old—whose owner  
passed away. Patty said, "We  
saw them and knew that we  
had to go get them—we are  
so happy we did!"*



**SWEET PEA**

**JACK**



*"We love him and you  
can't have him back!"  
~Deb & Gary Songster*



The Animal League of Green Valley

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
For Members**

**Friday, Dec. 3 @ 2:15**

**Masks requested  
TALGV's Multipurpose Room  
1600 W. Duval Mine Road**

**The public is invited**



## Daisy's Rescue (Continued from page 3)

The Matto's persistence has paid off as Daisy now regularly explores other parts of the house of her own volition without needing to be coaxed. The summer storms tested Daisy's new-found confidence and have



caused her to seek comfort in her safe place with a thunder shirt, but her overall anxiety has decreased to the point where her medication could be reduced.

Outside of the home, Glenn and Maureen have worked diligently to get Daisy acclimated to her environment. Like any neighborhood, it's full of a plethora of stimuli, much of which Daisy was ill-equipped to handle. Fortunately, the Mattos had experience and perseverance in abundance and proceeded methodically to introduce her to the situations, people, and animals in Daisy's new surroundings. They

did things at her pace; walking on a leash, greeting people and dogs, learning to leave unsafe things alone, and getting used to vehicle traffic. She's learned to love people, walk with another neighbor dog, and respond to commands while on a leash. Daisy is still working on socializing with other dogs she meets on her walks and remains skittish around loud traffic noises. She is slowly becoming a confident dog, which will free her to be the smart and fun-loving companion she truly is.

Maureen: "Each fostering experience is unique because each dog is unique. Daisy had to learn from us how to act like a dog and interact appropriately with her environment, situations, people and animals." Like many foster parents, the Mattos had very little information about the antecedents at the root of Daisy's behavior. Through their compassion, dedication, and patience they gained Daisy's trust and guided her on the path of becoming a happy, loving, and confident dog.

"Shelter life for a dog," Maureen continues, "is very different than being in a home. Some of these dogs are used to being in a home setting. Shelters,

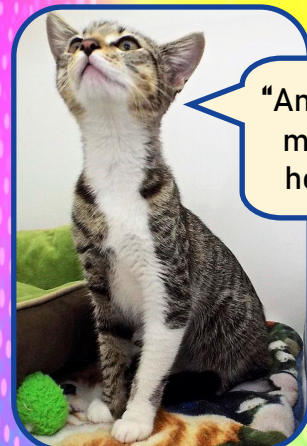


while they give all the necessary things for a dog, are not like being in their own *pack*. Shelter dogs need time to settle in when they are in a home setting, whether they're being fostered or adopted. It's like being in a new country and all of you—family members and dog—need routines that work best for the whole pack. We (Daisy, Glenn and Maureen) are still a work in progress."

# Please Donate



Our dog Frodo is a BIG boy who loves play time & dinner time!



"And just how much *does* he weigh?"

Babe is astonished.

# They Depend On You



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Green Valley, AZ 85614



**Paw Prints Editor - Mary Ziegelbauer**

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## TALGV KENNELS

**OPEN FROM 10AM TO 2PM DAILY**

**Appointments for adoptions & intake  
provide more personalized service**

**For more info, call the Office: 520-625-3170**

The Attic Thrift Store & TALGV's Kennels  
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