

Paw Prints

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

Vol. XXXVI Issue 1
Spring 2022



Buck's Journey

...as told to David Messick

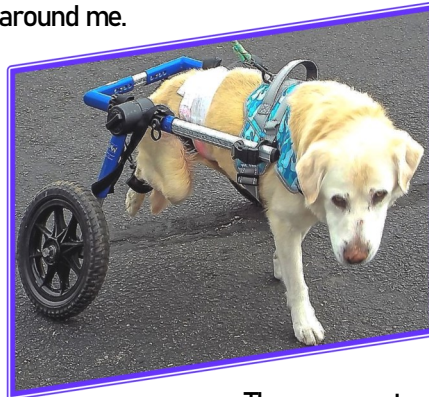
My name is Buck and I'm a pretty lucky guy! At 14 years old, I'm doing two of my favorite things—taking long leisurely walks and dreaming my dog dreams while sleeping on a soft floor.

For just about my whole life, I had been the faithful service dog for a Viet Nam veteran living here in Green Valley; and we had a lot of wonderful adventures together over the years. But, one bad adventure happened when I got off leash and met a car, the *hard* way. After I was hit, my hind legs stopped working and I couldn't control my bowels or bladder anymore. My dad got me a wheelchair so we could still go on daily walks together. My wheels gave me a chance to be free to explore the world around my neighborhood. I guess I look kind of sad to people when I'm lying on the floor, but I get around just fine.

My dad had many health problems for a long time; and though he had to be gone a lot, he always came home. This time when he went away for a doctor's appointment, he didn't come back. A friend came from Amado every day to give me food and water, but he couldn't take me home with him, and I got pretty lonely.

I guess I was home alone from about Thanksgiving to almost Christmas when some of my dad's neighbors asked The Animal League of Green Valley to help

me. And boy, they sure did! One of the volunteers knew how to get me into my chair and I had the first good walk I've had in a long time. The next thing I knew the TALGV volunteers had whisked me off to their shelter and given me a bath, trimmed my nails, settled me into a private room with regular attention and lots of other dogs around me.



They even put down a rubber floor for me, so I could easily move around. I wasn't alone anymore, and everyone just showered me with lots of love, care, reassurance and good food.

The TALGV folks took me to Tucson to have my chair and harness refitted, and there was no stopping me after that. I just wish I could put the gear on and take it off myself! Every day I got meals, walks, and changes of my padding. Some of the volunteers would just sit and pet me because I still missed my dad so much and had nowhere else to go. They said I was sweet.

One day shortly after I'd arrived at TALGV, a volunteer who took me on walks every day brought two other dogs with him to visit with me. I was wearing my wheels when we met, and we had a fun time playing; they'd never seen a dog with wheels before. Then we took off my wheels so the dogs could see me that way, too. They hadn't seen a dog with non-working hind legs before either, but since it doesn't bother me, it didn't bother them. They must have said I was okay, because the next thing I knew I was off again on a new adventure with two new doggie friends. I even got to take the rubber floor to my new house!

My vet says I'm in pretty good shape "despite appearances," whatever that means. I think it means that I can settle into my new forever home, take walks with my chair every day, and lounge about on my rubber floor dreaming of running with my dad again. I guess that's what it means to be a service dog in retirement, and I like it.



(Continued on page 6)

Kudos to Mitzvah (Good Deed) Volunteers



On November 5, 2021, Peggy Drake and Helen Russo, two Mitzvah Day volunteers, arrived at The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) to perform a good deed. Armed with garden tools, their assignment was to trim plants and remove the dry debris which was considered to be a fire hazard. Quickly it became evident that two volunteers were not enough to accomplish the tasks. Committee member Russo solved the problem by rounding up two more animal-loving volunteers, Jayne Carney and Larry Romey, and together the four industrious workers filled an entire dumpster.



On the back wall at TALGV, there was still substantially more debris to clean up. Of their own volition, Russo, Carney, and Romey returned to TALGV the following week

and spent another four hours raking and trimming, and together they loaded a second dumpster. They were finally satisfied with the end result: a safe, tidy environment.

Mitzvah Day is an annual program which utilizes volunteers to assist non-profits throughout the area with special projects. It always occurs on the first Friday of November, and the Green Valley Council (gvcouncil.org) helps to coordinate it. So circle November 4, 2022, and join them for four hours of service, fun and friendship.



Looking Forward...

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It really
wasn't US.
The bed just

EXPLODED

Have Cats ~ Will Travel

By: Sally Gilbert

Early in 2019, after spending over three years traveling the western USA full time in our RV, we bought a house here in Green Valley. One week after moving in, our 21-year old furry travel companion, Millie, went to the Rainbow Bridge due to chronic kidney disease. We were devastated, and our next RV trip made us so very aware of the big gaping hole in our lives. Before we traveled in the RV once again, we knew we needed another cat in our lives.

In a parallel universe (here in GV) there were two cats who were taken to TALGV because their human had died after a lengthy illness. Both had been extremely stressed during his illness and needed some veterinary care and lots of TLC. Their pre-TALGV trauma really brought home to us how important we are to our pets and how in tune they are to our personal situations, be that poor health, stress, or sadness.

We had already decided we'd like to adopt a bonded pair of mature cats, and had seen online that TALGV had several such pairs looking for homes. We went to visit, and to our surprise, we were "selected"—a skinny, noisy girl took one look at us and decided she and her "brother" were coming home with us! She wouldn't let any of the other cats in their condo even approach us when we went inside to meet them!

We renamed her Kuchie (aka Kucing) and him Chewy (aka Tuaca). Our hope was that at 9 and 15 years of age, they still would be able to adapt to spending half the year in a house and the other half in an RV. In the months before travel season, they settled in with us and practiced wearing a collar and leash around the house. Kuchie gained weight, and Chewy re-grew the fur that he lost due to stress over-grooming. Peter and I (while still grieving for Millie) no longer felt the huge hole in our hearts.

Several days prior to our trip in 2020, we brought the RV home and gradually introduced them to being in the vehicle while going for short rides around the neighborhood. When we eventually hit the road, the cats adapted far better than we had hoped. Once we'd been driving a few days, they were old hands at traveling and would go out for short walks on leashes when we stopped at quiet camping locations. During travel days, they would both either lie in their crates or on the floor between the driver's and passenger's seats. We spent just over a month away, and Kuchie and Chewy enjoyed their time in the woods.

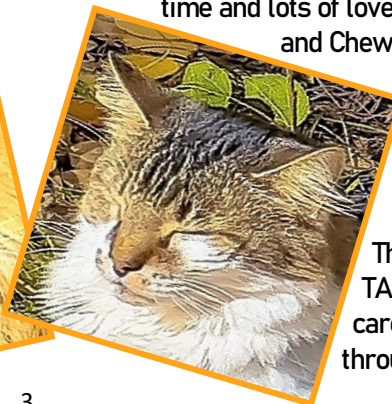


In 2021, we were away for almost five months, living on our new 1-acre RV lot in Colorado. Once on location, we created a "catio" for them to go outside the RV, with access through the passenger window. We usually took walks around our lot several times per day, with the kitties on leash. In fact, the second they heard the morning coffee being prepared, they would sit in

the stairwell and yell at us to go out! Both cats were fascinated by the squirrels and chipmunks, but didn't care at all about the many deer that would graze around the RV.

You may not be able to teach old dogs new tricks, but it's definitely possible to teach new tricks to old cats! Kuchie and Chewy have brought us so much joy and love, and we are delighted to be a traveling family together. I'm sure many older pets have a hard time settling into a new environment and sorely miss their previous homes and owners. But, given time and lots of love, most will surely do as Kuchie and Chewy have done, which is to become part of a new family as if they've been here forever. And, of course, they rule the roost!

Thank you, so very very much, TALGV, for taking such wonderful care of all the pets that pass through your doors!



We are very grateful for your mail-in and on-line donations, bequests, memorials, grants and in-kind

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(Continued on page 6)

Buck's Journey

(Continued from page #1)

The Back Story

Buck's owner went to a medical appointment and from there was hospitalized. His health declined rapidly after that. Via a Facebook instant message, he gave TALGV permission to foster Buck. A TALGV volunteer visited him in the hospital to provide information about what The Animal League could do if he could not care for Buck anymore.

Shortly after, Buck's owner entered hospice and sadly relinquished ownership of Buck to TALGV. The owner passed away several days later. Buck moved to his foster home that same day, and a week later he was adopted into his foster family's home...forever. Seventeen days after his adoption, Buck passed away.



Dear Friends of Buck—

It has been one week since Buck has been gone and his ashes were returned to me yesterday. He still accompanies us in spirit when Joker, Jet and I go on our walks.

A former neighbor sent this photo of Buck and his late owner in better days.

These past few days have given me a chance to consider how fortunate, even blessed, I was to have shared this part of Buck's journey. I am grateful to have had the time and space to care for Buck in my home as well as for all the support and good wishes from Animal League volunteers. I hope when folks remember Buck's last few weeks, they remember that he joyously walked 70 miles in his cart, and that he kept walking right up to the end.

The Animal League truly lives its mission and it is a joy to be part of it. Thanks for loving Buck as if he were one of our very own, because he was.

-David Messick



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(Continued from page 5)

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\$1 to \$99

An additional 645 donors—
we appreciate
the support from
every one of you!



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

TALGV 2021 IN REVIEW

AT THE SHELTER

~Loved, fed, and housed **420** cats and **365** dogs, including 80 pets brought in from other animal rescue organizations.

LOST ANIMALS

~Reunited **7** cats and **52** dogs with their happy owners.

WORK, WORK WORK

~Kept costs low with our all-volunteer staff who worked a total of **104,344** hours, the equivalent of **54** full-time employees.

BIG WINNER

~Sold the winning 2nd place ticket from Jim Click's "Millions For Tucson" raffle to a TALGV volunteer!

THE ATTIC THRIFT STORE

~Raised **\$219,379** for animal care from sales in The Attic, even with the four-days-per-week schedule.

AWARDS

~Selected by readers of the *Green Valley News & Sahuarita Sun* as the 2021 AZ19 Readers' Pick Award Winner for "Best Non-Profit Organization" and "Best Local Business."

ADOPTIONS

~Found forever homes for **354** cats and **282** dogs.

FIXING IT UP

~Did much-needed maintenance, including repaving the parking lots and installing a new roof.
~Upgraded to a web-based database program to more efficiently track our animals & donor information.

FOSTER FAMILIES

~Provided in-home care for the majority of the **185** kittens born during the year—the kittens never stopped coming. Puppies were fostered, too.
~Housed animals recovering from surgery, in hospice, or just needing some extra TLC.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

~Assisted **422 families** in our local area by providing wellness checks, medical assistance, and vaccinations to their cats and dogs.
~Spayed/neutered **526** pets.

Well, kiss my catnip. You had **SEVEN** puppies? What were you *thinking*, girl?

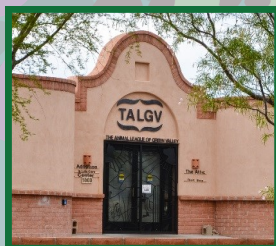


It must have been love. And I'm thinking that I'll never, ever do it again!

We depend on YOU Please Donate



A pile of puppies—all seven of them.



NON-PROFIT ORG
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A Home For Every Pet

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



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The Animal League of Green Valley

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

THE ATTIC THRIFT STORE

OPEN MON, THURS, SAT & SUN

WINTER HOURS (THRU APRIL 30) ~ 10AM TO 2PM

SUMMER HOURS (MAY-SEPT) ~ 8AM TO NOON

Merchandise donations accepted ONLY
on the 1st Sunday of each month.

TALGV KENNELS

OPEN FROM 10AM TO 2PM DAILY

Appointments for adoptions & intake
provide more personalized service.

The Attic Thrift Store & TALGV's Kennels
1600 W. Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley, AZ 85614
Attic (520) 625-2189 Kennels/Office (520) 625-3170

Email: info@talgv.org Website: www.talgv.org

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

