

Paw Prints

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

Vol. XXXXI Issue 2 Summer 2021



Luna - The Kitty With Cattitude

By Phyllis Ricci

CATTITUDE—That's the word my daughter Jennifer uses to describe the personality of our new cat, Luna, adopted from The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) in February, 2021. Luna (aka A.J.) came to the shelter as a stray in August 2020. Labeled as high maintenance, she was adopted and returned four times before the fourth adopter discovered Luna was deaf.

Maybe it was karma, or maybe Luna knew exactly what she was doing when she picked Jennifer to be her fifth adopter. Jennifer works with deaf residents and uses sign language with her clients, so she decided to teach Luna to communicate with sign. Before long, Luna began to respond to signs for *sit*, *come*, *eat* and *down*; she is also learning the very occasional *no* as well.



Slowly, Luna is beginning to tolerate petting from her mom Jennifer and from me, grandma Phyllis. After a head rub, sometimes I'll try a tickle under her chin. She never hisses or bites, just gently nips my hand—her way of saying, "Not allowed."

Luna is not crazy about getting her nails cut and uses "the look" when it's time for a pedicure. She will pose like an Egyptian mummy cat—sitting erect and proud with her tail wrapped around her paws and glaring to get her point across. The ancient Egyptians worshipped cats, and Luna expects nothing less.

Napping comes easily to Luna. She jumps on any soft, horizontal surface throughout the day and snoozes away. Her favorite spot is on top of her three-level cat perch. If she doesn't quite make the

leap to the top in her first try, she gives "the look," lifts her tail in the air and walks off as if she's saying, "Yeah, I'm cool! And I *meant* to do that." Cattitude, indeed.

Even our rescue dog Bella is not immune to "the look"—Luna has made it clear that she is the "top dog" in the house. Bella shares both her chair and her water dish with Luna, who seems to expect these courtesies.

For recreation, Luna relaxes with Bella and enjoys the music and vistas on our Whole Tones DVD. Perhaps Luna feels the vibrations as she watches the videos, but they both "veg out" when the disc is on the big screen TV.



At dinner time, I'm in charge of feeding, while Luna sits on the kitchen divider and gently taps my arm as I'm preparing her meal. Luna often taps three times, which is the same repetition for the sign *eat*! If my food service is slower than Luna expects, guess what? I get cattitude again!

Adjustment is a work in progress for us. We are very pleased with the newest addition to our lives and wish to thank all of the staff at TALGV who helped us rescue Luna.



Note: A TALGV volunteer taught basic signs to another adopter who has a deaf cat, and it's been very successful.

Luna & Jennifer—

Thank You



for helping another cat and adopter communicate!

Meet TALGV's Board of Directors

Oklahoma City was where I grew up. At first, I worked for the airlines, then became a buyer for Nordstrom. My husband had an ornamental iron railings business that I also helped run. I was a busy person! We retired from the San Francisco Bay area in 2016, so tired of the commute, as well as just plain tired.

I googled "Best Places to Retire" and Green Valley was top of the list, so we took a road trip! When we liked what we saw, I turned to Jack and said, "We can do this—what do you think?" So we did it—packed up, sold the house, bought one here, and started retirement.

Jack and I have four grown children and nine grandchildren between us. We



Caroline Hewatt

currently have two Dachshunds —Max is almost five and Hannah is a five-month-old puppy.

When Max lost his mate a few months ago, he was pretty sad, so we thought a puppy would fill that void. So far he has not fallen in love with her, but she has with him. It's puppy love—all biting and chewing and non-stop energy. Max is still playing hard to get, but we're hopeful.

I like nature and going on walks; gardening is fun, but I'm not great at it. I have great friends, enjoy going places in

our RV, and also enjoy being home. Silly as it sounds, I like to clean.

At TALGV, I started with Special Events, answered the office phones, worked in The Attic, and then added Outreach. I knew from the start that Outreach was my place to be and was so proud to become the Outreach Coordinator a year ago. Since Dec. 2020, I've been on the Board of Directors, serving as secretary.

I believe in TALGV and love what we do. It's a beautiful thing to find forever homes, to help those in need, and be a friend. I've met new people and learned so much that has helped me with my own furry family. It's just a great organization—I'm happy to have a purpose.

Looking Forward...



MOD Pizza — 18767 S Nogales Hwy
The Crossing at Sahuarita Shopping Center

Pizza Fundraiser

Tuesday, Aug. 3 10:30 am to 10:00 pm

MOD Pizza is donating 20% of your bill to TALGV
Tell cashier you're there for The Animal League

See you Aug. 3 Thanks from the dogs & cats!



WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES!

GRAND PRIZE
2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT

2ND PRIZE
TWO ROUND TRIP FIRST CLASS AIRLINE TICKETS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

3RD PRIZE
\$5,000 CASH

2021

THE JIM CLICK
MILLIONS FOR TUCSON RAFFLE

2021 Car Raffle
Tickets: \$25 each
\$100 for 5 tickets

All money from ticket sales stays at TALGV

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

Summertime at The Attic

Shop 8 am - Noon
Mon, Thurs, Sat & Sun
May 1 thru Sept 30

Hot bargains
Summer deals

Merchandise donations accepted on July 4, Aug 1 & Sept 5
Limited to: 3 Boxes or 3 Paper Bags
(We reserve the right to refuse a donation)

All proceeds go to help the animals

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

Chase ^{that's} Me



Hi—I'm Chase, six months old and newly arrived at TALGV. I'm definitely a good-looking guy, a Husky mix, with one eye blue and one eye black, and I can see perfectly out of both of them, thank you. I heard the volunteers say I'm full of mischief, whatever that means! I have lots of volunteer friends who have been ooh-ing and ahh-ing over me ever since I came in.

I was still wound up and bursting with puppy enthusiasm when I came back from my walk one afternoon, so I pogo-ed around my room—having fun and jumping up and down, up and down. Then it happened! An awful pain shot through my right hind leg. I screamed, and the



volunteers came running. Flat on the floor, I looked back and saw my leg just hanging there at a weird angle. Boy did it hurt!

Within the hour, I was at the vet for x-rays and the very next day I was back at a specialist for surgery. The vet said it was a “repair of a right tibial tuberosity avulsion fracture.”

Wow—that's a mouthful. In human-speak, I broke my leg just below the knee and really ripped up the tendon, too. It happens a lot to teenage boys on the basketball court, jumping up and down, so I guess I'm in good company.

However you phrase it, it sure sounds expensive, doesn't it? And it was--almost \$3000 just for the first surgery. Yup, you got it! I might

need a second surgery to remove some of the hardware, to the tune of another \$2000. I'm still a little foggy on the details, but I heard them say that it was either these extensive surgeries, or else. I get scared thinking of the “or else.”

So here I am now, not quite as full of mischief as before. I'm with my foster family—with pins and wires stuck in my leg, that stupid blue cone around my neck—confined to my kennel for the next several weeks. I can come out for “necessities,” but must stay calm and quiet the rest of the time, with no running around or jumping up and down. It's so-o-o boring—my days are pretty dull right now.

Life is improving a little. As my leg heals, I can do more, like go on short walks around the yard. Yesterday, I got to chew on a stick—I'd rather chase it, but I'm not allowed to do that yet.

On the positive side, I'll be good as new once my leg heals. My foster mom thinks I'm *great!* She says I'm loving and mostly obedient (although that's not always my strong suit) and have learned to sit, come, and wait at the door. I like to eat, too. Right now, we're working on house manners and respecting everyone's “personal space.”

Soon, I'll be ready to find my forever family. Maybe I'll get a home with children, so we can jump up and down together—and you know I'm sure looking forward to *that* day!



If you would like to help TALGV pay for my surgeries, please send your donation “for Chase.”



Cats & Dogs— Don't Be

Thirty years ago, I entered the world of animal rescue by adopting a shelter cat and fostering a confiscated junkyard dog for a Great Dane rescue. Because my foster Dane was very unsocialized, I had to devise a way to train her without risking the safety of my indoor cat. From that point on, it became my passion to foster cats and dogs and to study their behavior. It was critical to create a method to provide for the well being of both. The most common situation is dog behavioral issues towards cats, but it can go both ways.

Eventually I became a certified dog trainer and taught courses on cat behavior at local shelters. I took on rehabilitating fighting pit bulls and feral cats. Over the decades, it became clear that cats and dogs can do so much more than just tolerate each other. They can form close bonds and feel deep affection for the other. I have seen this across ages, breeds, and socialization levels, even with the animals you would least expect.

There are misconceptions about the relationship between cats and dogs. It's even in our vocabulary — *to fight like cats and dogs*. I often hear people say



Drew & Ernie napping together

that a relationship will only work if you get them as kittens and puppies. I disagree. I have fostered my fair share of both kinds of litters, but my main focus has been rehabilitating poorly socialized animals for adoption. Most of these animals were adults found abandoned without a known history.

*In the home,
cats are first-class citizens
and dogs are second.*

The cornerstone of my philosophy is that in the home, cats are first class citizens and dogs are second. Now, wait; hear me out. I mean no disrespect to dogs whom I love very dearly. But there are significant lifestyle differences. Dogs can find fulfillment beyond the confines of a house. Most dogs enjoy freedoms such as going outside to play or to the dog park, going for walks or car rides, and exploring the world and more broadly socializing. Indoor cats don't have those options. It would be unfair for them to feel regularly frightened, threatened, or stressed in their home—the only place they have.

We all understand the basics of good physical care for our animals: spay and neuter, vaccinations, and medical treatment. We enjoy the many benefits of their companionship. But it is not uncommon for people, even cat owners, to underestimate a cat's social needs. Because they are not as overtly demonstrative as dogs, we can perceive them as aloof. Feral cats (outdoor unsocialized cats averse to human contact) live in colonies mostly based on familial relationships. Cats are not loners, just lone hunters.

—Strange Bedfellows? So Sure!

By: **Angela Ahearn**



Petunia & Flan — Best Buddies

The paramount concern for cats is safety. Without a protected environment, they will hide. Ideally cats need places that are easily accessible, out of the reach of dogs, and located where the household congregates. I have a cat room with their food, litter boxes, and a multi-level cat tree in front of a window. Instead of the door being closed, there is a pet gate with a cat door at the bottom. This way the cats can move freely in and out of the room, but they are still visible to the dogs. Cats will only risk more contact when they are confident they can trust a dog.

Now for the dog side of the equation. The basic idea is that dogs do not get free access to the cats until they are under control. No chasing, barking, growling, lunging or other aggressive responses can be tolerated. Identifying the triggers can be a key step; for example, recognizing food aggression or understanding how the cat's play sparks the dog's prey drive. Cats can become antagonized by nuisance behaviors such as being pawed at, interrupted in the litter box, or being forced out of their spot.

The ultimate goal is to teach the dog manners. A simple training technique is to keep the dog on a

leash in areas

where the cat frequents.

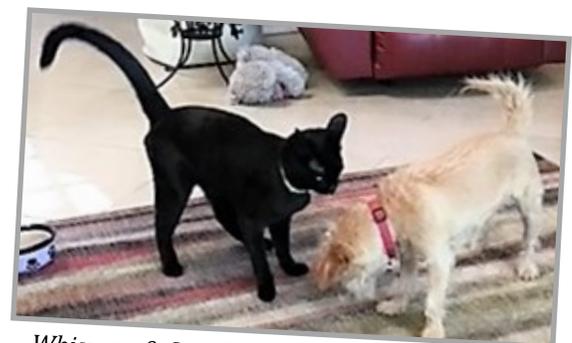
Reward the dog for not reacting to the cat with treats and praise. Try to avoid getting the dog overly excited around the cats. Create an association of being calm when the cats are nearby. It may require curtailing your dog's freedom until new behaviors are established. The pattern I have seen repeated over the years is that as the dogs demonstrate restraint, the cats will be more at ease and curious about them. Cats will initiate friendly overtures once they are assured of the dog's peaceable intentions.

With patience and understanding, we can guide our cats and dogs to greater compatibility. Keep in mind, these animals are not misbehaving, they are acting upon their natural instincts. Creating and maintaining harmony is a reachable goal with knowledge, training, and consistency. This can lead to a cease-fire and often to a surprising love affair.

Angela Ahearn has been a longtime animal rescuer and welfare advocate in Southern Arizona and the Washington, D.C. area. She currently volunteers as a writer for The Animal League of Green Valley.



*Luna & Bella Ricci
Sharing their chair while enjoying a DVD
Read Luna's story on page 1*



*Whispurr & Canella Eisele — Playing at home
Is Whispurr still visiting TALGV's office?
See the story on page 7*

Señorita Bonita



It's not too soon to plan for TALGV's

2nd Halloween Photo Contest

Last year's contest was a huge success and **SUCH FUN** that we're doing it again.



Luna as Frida "Day of the Dead" Catrina

Beau the post dog



Coco



Cloro



Mittens



Phoebe the wonder cat

Applications available beginning on Sept. 29 at TALGV's website: WWW.TALGV.ORG. More detailed information is included on the application form. This IS a fund-raiser, so a **donation is required** for entry.

Submit your application, photos and a donation to TALGV from Oct. 3 to Oct. 23



Mugzy Arthur Hoch Crossman



Stella
Old dogs ROCK!



Cap'n Jack Sparrow



Jack as Pennywise & Drake as Georgie



Busy Bee Whispurr

TALGV judges will select the winning cat and dog. The winners' photos will appear in the GV News/Sahuarita Sun on Wed., Oct. 27.

Witch pets will win this year?



After my cat Whispurr elected to stay at home instead of coming into the office with me every day, I asked the Cat Care Coordinators if they had a candidate who would benefit from being an office cat. They agreed that Romeo, a feline with chronic mouth ulcers, would probably be much happier out of the general cat population. His mouth ulcers caused him pain and discomfort when he ate. He stayed hidden most of the time in the cat wing and many times the other cats ate his food.

We weren't sure if Romeo had the confidence to cope with a typical hectic day in the office, but he appeared so unhappy with the other cats that we wanted to give him a chance. For the first several weeks I was constantly exclaiming, "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" because he stayed secluded in an oversized bed in his cat tree. After about a month, however, he approached me one day and requested some petting. When I obliged, Romeo's purr-o-meter rumbled to life. I learned that he loves to be petted, and Romeo discovered that the office area was full of volunteers and visitors who were eager to indulge him!

Over the past couple of months, Romeo has transformed from a reclusive "cat"erpillar into a social butterfly. If he's not sleeping on the papers piled on my desk, he is roaming the halls looking for a victim willing to caress him. He's no longer shy or subtle and will leap onto anyone's keyboard searching for some love and affection. His favorite toy—a wadded up Post-It note—sends him charging down the hallway with a soccer style that puts Pelé to shame. He is also fearless when it comes to dogs, boldly standing sentry in my office door daring any canine to pass.



Romeo is a sweet, friendly and loving cat who on a daily basis helps to keep my blood pressure in check. No animal shelter should be without an office feline.

Please Donate

For Chase and all the other dogs and cats



♪ Penelope & Juniper—
And they call it puppy love ♪



Trouble—His name tells the whole story!

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Life is good!

Paw Prints Editor - Mary Ziegelbauer

The Animal League of Green Valley

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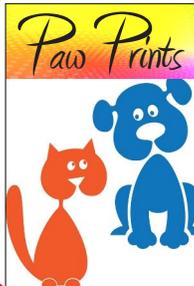
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Enjoy reading about the cats and dogs in Paw Prints? Remember—a \$25 donation (more is always appreciated!) brings the next three issues of this newsletter PLUS our annual Holiday card/calendar directly to your mailbox.

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