

# Paw Prints

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

Vol. XXXYII Issue 2 Summer 2023

Volunteers are PURR-fect



## The Good Life

### Volunteering at The Animal League of Green Valley

By: Annie Baker

Love dogs? Of course! So I volunteer at The Animal League of Green Valley. TALGV volunteers' love for dogs motivates us to ensure that every dog will receive care and attention during whatever time it takes for them to find a home. Making a difference in a shelter dog's life is a labor of love and contributes to finding homes for these worthy souls. For me, it has become a cause, a life purpose. And I get to work alongside others who care and share this sense of purpose. So, we mop the floors, fill the water bowls, or walk the dogs we're each physically capable of handling, and happily engage with these resilient, loving beings.

Some dog lovers say, "I could never work there—it's too sad. I'd want to take them all home." I get it.

Here's how I got past the obstacle of feeling too heartbroken to take action and volunteer. From years of experience working at various shelters, I know that there's someone who will come along and adopt each dog, even the ones with medical or emotional issues that repel other adopters. I sincerely believe this, and it frees me to work here, feel joy, and be able to go home to my two dogs without feeling I'm abandoning all the others.



I also know that dogs are more resilient than people. No matter what sorry past they've survived, I see dogs open themselves up to receiving and giving goodness in the present moment. They're not waiting for love; they're living it. By my presence as a volunteer, I am part of their lives today, when they need me, and they're part of mine. Whether I'm there for two or ten hours in a week, the time I spend at TALGV *matters*—to both the dogs and to my co-workers. When our valued snowbird volunteers fly home for the months of summer, we're grateful for others willing to join us—working inside the building or out.

While I'm working, I love observing the transformation of scared dogs regaining their confidence thanks to the care and attention they're receiving from us. I feel elated watching them get adopted by people who are reciprocally *rescued* by the dogs they adopt. Now in my seventies, by doing something as simple as picking up a mop, feeding the pooches breakfast, or throwing a ball to relieve their boredom, I am fortunate to be involved in a cause worthy of whatever time I have left in my life.

Want to be one of our volunteers? Fill out an application at [www.talgv.org](http://www.talgv.org). We need you!



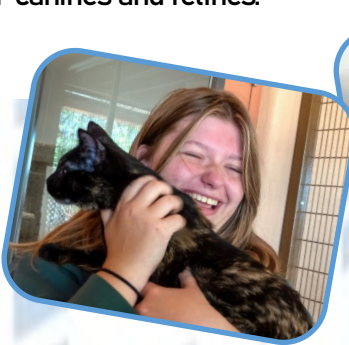
# Welcome YIPs



The 2023 Youth Intern Program (YIP) volunteers arrived at TALGV on May 30 and will be with us through July 30. This enthusiastic group of 39 high-school students will assist our regular volunteers with all aspects of animal care. Their duties include socializing and exercising cats and dogs (enjoyed by all), cleaning dog enclosures and emptying cat litter boxes (not a favorite, but the YIPs do it willingly), and many other chores that make a difference in the lives of our canines and felines.

For most of these young people, being a YIP is their first job outside of their homes and their first opportunity to work, as equals, with adults. It's a new experience for them and a big responsibility. The YIPs love the animals and work diligently to learn how to care for them properly.

TALGV welcomes these teen-aged volunteers for the summer. We hope they have a rewarding hands-on experience with the cats and dogs and that they return to volunteer again.



## Say Hello to Shirley Boyce: TALGV's Most Senior Volunteer

On Saturday mornings, Shirley Boyce, 92, can be found in the Den (TALGV's small dog room), with a dog on her lap, offering love and reassurance.

Shirley has done it all—in addition to being a wife and mother, her many careers include waitressing, sales (she was the first woman pharmaceutical representative in Wisconsin), and owner of an A&W Restaurant 60 miles west of Green Bay (remember those root beer floats?).

For the past six years, she has volunteered at TALGV every week. "I love coming here," she says. "It's like therapy for me.



Some dogs are so needy and it's nice to have them snuggle up next to you."

When not cuddling dogs in the Den, Shirley enjoys going to movies with her friends, playing cards—Cribbage and Hand & Foot—and spending time with Daisy and Angel, the two dogs she adopted from TALGV.

Shirley's advice to other seniors: "Don't be lonely—volunteer to help the animals."

Thank you, Shirley, for sharing your lap and love with the TALGV dogs! You are an inspiration to all of us!





I'm **Kehlani**, a playful, affectionate, VERY happy girl who is passionate about toys and treats. I have good house manners and know how to use a doggie door or ask to go outside. Please come in to meet me so I can show you that I'm a beauty with brains to match!

3 yrs old, 57 lbs, Weimaraner/Staffie mix

Call me **Finn**—I was “skin and bones” when I was found with a rope collar around my neck, but look at me now. My foster friends say I am gentle, sensitive, and funny and I love sharing my days with people. I’ve been hungry, scared, and lonely, but now I know how good life can be. Could my best days be with you?

4½ yrs old, 50 lbs, Boxer/Staffie mix



## LOOKING FOR LOVE? ADOPT A FRIEND!

Biographies by: Paula Kulina, Anita Rasnake, Jennifer Symons, Lori Walker & Linda Winterland

Hi—my name is **Angel**. All my life I lived outside—a terrible place for a cat. It's a miracle I survived, but I did, and now I'm adjusting to indoor living. Quiet and shy, I'm a petite lady with soft gray fur who needs a loving home. Perhaps that's yours?

1½ yrs old, 8 lbs, Domestic Short Hair



I'm **Bryson**, a handsome guy who was found near Sprouts, but I doubt that I was shopping there! A life on the streets is not for me. I like being loved by humans, and I just want my own human to care for me.

2½ yrs old, Domestic Short Hair



**Whimsey**—that's me! I love all toys, my scratching post, and lots of activity. Beware—I'm a door-dasher, but I'll also sit on your lap and sleep with you. Would you like some “whimsey” in your life? If so, I'm your gal!

4½ yrs old, 8 lbs, Domestic Short Hair

My name is **Lila**—I'm blind, but my other senses help me compensate for my vision loss; you might say my ears and nose are now my “eyes.” I'm good on a leash, know how to use a doggie door, and love going for walks. I'm ready for a forever home with you.

2½ yrs old, 69 lbs, Husky mix, Special needs-Blind

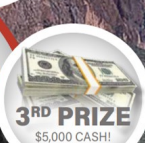


**You could win!**  
**Buy your tickets at TALGV**

## WIN A NEW 2023 FORD BRONCO RAPTOR

**2023**

WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES!



THE JIM CLICK  
MILLIONS  
FOR TUCSON  
RAFFLE

GRAND PRIZE  
NEW 2023  
FORD BRONCO RAPTOR

\*Image for illustration purposes only

**All proceeds go to the animals**

OR Two round-trip first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world  
OR \$5,000 cash!

**2023 Car Raffle Tickets: \$25 each**

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



# CLEANING IS

## Dog Wing

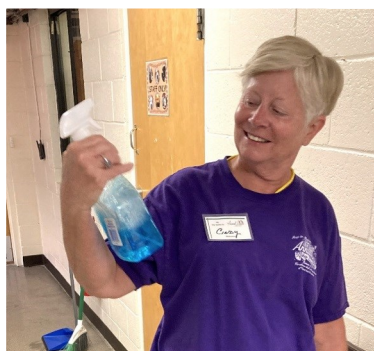
Annie Baker  
Lisa Bell  
Darren Butts  
David Cameron  
Cherie Day  
Gary Decker  
Steve DeLisle  
Cathy Demming  
Janell Duncan  
Patty Fette  
Sharon Foster  
Boyd Goetz  
Deb Golby  
Marti Gregor  
Cindy Gronlund  
Rod Gronlund  
Kate Hansen  
Elizabeth Heintz  
Deanie Johnson  
Ellie Johnson  
Mary Jungers  
Barb MacDonald  
Glenn Matto  
Maureen Matto  
Bonnie Myers  
Dennis Paulsen  
Diana Reynolds  
Peggy Rushford  
Cathy Thiele  
Gail Watson  
Anita Wood-Duffield  
John Ziegelbauer



*"It's* so clean! It doesn't smell like an animal shelter!" is the first thing that many visitors say. Thanks to the continuous efforts of our volunteer cleaners, TALGV's cat and dog wings remain sanitary, safe and sweet-smelling.

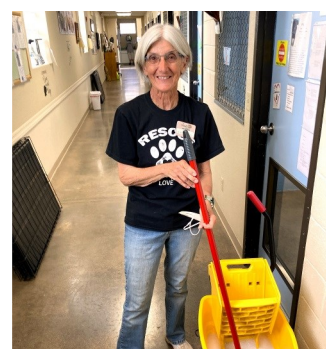
Rain or shine, 365 days a year, these dedicated volunteers arrive early in the morning and gather their equipment—mops, brooms, hoses, scoopers, plastic bags and disinfectant. With determination and lots of elbow grease, they move through the animal kennels—inside and outside—cleaning, scrubbing, sanitizing, replacing litter, and, of course, picking up poop.

Hard work? You bet it is. Sometimes it's very nasty, too—animals become ill, with unpleasant results at both ends of their bodies. Sure those puppies are adorable—but too young to have any self-control and playful enough to roll around in the resulting mess. And cats or dogs with Giardia (an intestinal infection) are no picnic, either, requiring cleaners to don protective masks, gowns, gloves, and booties and to carefully dispose of the animals' infected feces.





# A DIRTY JOB



**What** motivates these volunteers to do the dirty work? “Cleaning is just a part of caring for the animals,” some answer. Others view the quiet morning hours as one-on-one time they share with the dogs and cats. “We know them better than anyone else and get to spend more time with them,” was a frequent response. Several commented, “We’re all part of a team, and when we’re short-handed, everyone pitches in to help—coordinators, too.”

The bottom line: TALGV cleaners are genuine good-hearted individuals—animal lovers who do a job that must be done, without fanfare and frequently without recognition.

Volunteer cleaners are truly the unsung heroes of The Animal League. Because of them, the cats and dogs live in a sanitary environment, other volunteers have a clean, comfortable place to work, and the animal enclosures are a pleasant surprise for visitors.

Thank you all for your cheerful attitude and outstanding cleaning. Your hard work and continuing dedication is one of the main reasons that TALGV has such a wonderful reputation. Thank you!

## Cat Wing

Robin Abel  
Patty Brozo  
Sheila Burruel  
Andrea Chech  
Daniel Clay  
Sue Diederich  
Tom Diederich  
Ethel Dugan  
Judy Dwire  
Jim Easter  
Janell Ellis  
Susanna Fuhrman  
Pat Harrison  
Linda Huprich  
Mary Hubbard  
Patsy Jones  
Dick Leidlein  
Ilene Olson  
Sandy Patterson  
Lorraine Pauly  
Candice Pocase  
Lisa Rosenberg  
Sheri Sampson  
Tobey Thatcher  
Cathy Thiele  
Louise Thompson  
Mary Lou Tobin  
Elianna Todd  
Anna Tyler  
Sandy Varley  
Sandy Veydt



# Who Wrote "Rainbow Bridge"?

Many people who have lost a beloved pet are familiar with the prose poem "Rainbow Bridge." When it first appeared in a Dear Abby column in 1994, it was introduced to 100 million readers in the United States. It quickly became a source of comfort among animal lovers. People always wondered who wrote it; but until recently, its author was unknown.

While researching a book about pet cemeteries, Tucson resident Paul Koudounaris (cat owner, author, and art historian) became intrigued with the many references he found that mentioned a "Rainbow Bridge." He decided to track down the author of the poem. After a decade of searching, verifying authenticity, and rejecting false claimants, he finally eliminated all the names on his list except one: Edna Clyne-Rekhy.

Edna Clyne-Rekhy, now 82, lives in Scotland and is an artist and animal lover. In 1959, when she was 19, her dog Major died. She was grief stricken without him. Her mother suggested that she write down her feelings, so Edna got out her tablet of lined white paper and "Rainbow Bridge" was born. "It just came through my head, it was like I was talking to my dog—I was talking to Major," she says. "I just felt all of this and I had to write it."

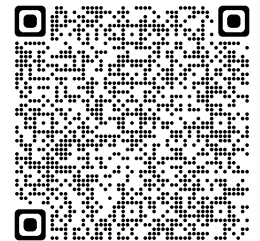
Edna still has her original hand-written pages. Over the years, she typed copies of the poem to share with friends, but never put her name on it and never published it. Nevertheless, "Rainbow Bridge" has quietly but steadily spread its message of comfort, love, and hope to animal lovers throughout the world.

VIEW PICTURES AND READ MORE ABOUT "RAINBOW BRIDGE" FROM THESE SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

Nuwer, Rachel (February 22, 2023). ["The Rainbow Bridge has comforted millions of pet parents. Who wrote it?"](#). National Geographic.



Koudounaris, Paul (Feb 9, 2023). ["The True History of the Rainbow Bridge"](#). [orderofgooddeath.com](#).



## Rainbow Bridge

By: Edna Clyne-Rekhy

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, your pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water, and sunshine, and friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who have been ill and old are restored to health and strength, those who were hurt are made better and strong again, like we remember them before they go to heaven.

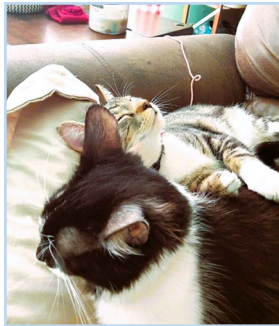
They are happy and content except for one small thing—they each miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are shining, his body shakes. Suddenly he begins to run from the herd, rushing over the grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cuddle in a happy hug never to be apart again. You and your pet are in tears. Your hands again cuddle his head and you look again into his trusting eyes, so long gone from life, but never absent from your heart, and then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

# "A Home For Every Pet"

is TALGV's vision, so we love seeing every cat and dog finding their forever homes. But sometimes, the adoptions are extra special, and then we rejoice.

MacIntosh and MacNab, kittens with an upper respiratory condition that may require life-time medication, were adopted in May.

Renamed Mac and Minxy, they are now in a wonderful home with a woman who is happy to provide medical care, love, and lots of cuddling.



Stewie (a little guy at 26 lbs) and Doc (an 85 lb. softie who cried when Stewie wasn't with him), were surely the "Odd Couple" of



bonded pairs. It took three months, but they were adopted together and went home with their new "Dad" just in time for 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks!

Joan lived at TALGV for almost two years. She was playful and loving, but had the bad habit of nipping when over stimulated. Then a kind adopter, who was willing to work on Joan's behavior, gave this sweet cat another chance to have a forever home.



Norman was a stray, young and rambunctious when he arrived. During his 1½-year residency, he matured into our "Ambassa-dog"—trusted to be social, tolerant and playful with all other dogs in his play-groups. After his adoption, Norman and his family moved to California, where he loves frolicking on the beach. We still miss him.



*It's all for the animals*

---

**Please donate generously**



*"Momma" Liberty with Stars, Stripes, Freedom, Justice & Patriot*

*Gummy Bear*





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

# Big Cheers



# For Volunteers

**Paw Prints Editor - Mary Ziegelbauer**

## The Animal League of Green Valley

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** - Kim Eisele  
**Vice President** - Rose Welliver  
**Secretary** - Caroline Hewatt  
**Treasurer** - Ted Schultz  
**Members** - Karen Kell, Michele Miner, Georgia Puttock, Pam White, Mary Ziegelbauer

### COORDINATORS

**Attic Thrift Store** - Nancy Arnold, Janell Duncan, Michele Miner  
**Attic Pick Up & Delivery** - Chuck Zacher  
**Cat Biographies** - Paula Kulina, Linda Winterland  
**Cat Care** - Sally Caroline, Paula Flores, Leslye Hughes, Sue Nicholson, Alice O'Connor, Suzanne Schauer, Pam White  
**Community Outreach** - Caroline Hewatt  
**Database Management** - Sue Gray  
**Dog Biographies** - Anita Rasnake, Jennifer Symons, Lori Walker  
**Dog Care** - Carol Clifford, Patty Fette, Lenny Gehlken, Marti Gregor, Carmen Murphy, Bonnie Myers, Denise Schultz, Donna Troutwine, Vicki Turner, Rose Welliver  
**Estate Sales** - Bronda Smith  
**Events** - Jeanne Damitio, Caroline Hewatt

### COORDINATORS (continued)

**Facebook** - Trudy Shannon  
**Finance** - Ted Schultz  
**Foster Care/Cats** - Pam White  
**Foster Care/Dogs** - Sue Bollig  
**Intakes/Onsite Adoptions** - Kim Eisele  
**Maintenance** - Bob Gonzales  
**Office** - Karen Kell  
**Offsite Dogs** - Georgia Puttock  
**Pet Therapy Visits** - Karen Simmons  
**Photography/Web Assistant** - Georgia Puttock  
**Post-Adoption Support/Cats** - Kathi Urban, Bobillot, Linda Winterland  
**Post-Adoption Support/Dogs** - Carol Clifford, Marti Gregor, Denise Schultz  
**Publications** - Kim Eisele  
**Purchasing** - Anita Rasnake  
**Science Diet Liaison** - Kathie Kynion  
**Spay/Neuter In-House** - Karen Kell  
**Technology Infrastructure** - Bob Junke, Tim Shannon, Michael Verselle  
**Vehicles** - Paul Brown  
**Vet Care for Life/Cats** - Jean Davis  
**Vet Care for Life/Dogs** - Rose Welliver  
**Volunteer** - Bonnie Myers  
**Webmaster** - Barry Cogan

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

## TALGV KENNELS

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

Appointments available.  
Closed on major holidays.

## THE ATTIC THRIFT STORE

**OPEN MON, THURS, SAT & SUN**

**SUMMER HOURS (MAY 1-SEPT 30) ~ 8AM TO NOON**

**WINTER HOURS (OCT 1-APRIL 30) ~ 10AM TO 2PM**

Merchandise donations accepted ONLY  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

TALGV's Kennels & The Attic Thrift Store  
1600 W. Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley, AZ 85614  
**Attic (520) 625-2189 Kennels/Office (520) 625-3170**  
Email: [info@talgv.org](mailto:info@talgv.org) Website: [www.talgv.org](http://www.talgv.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TALGV](http://www.facebook.com/TALGV)  
**To donate on-line, go to [WWW.TALGV.ORG](http://WWW.TALGV.ORG)**

