PAW PRINTS

A Newsletter for the Friends and Supporters of The Animal League of Green Valley
Vol. XL Issue 3 Fall 2026

In this issue, we're celebrating adoption story happy endings. Here at The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV), they're called HAPPY TAILS.





Justice By Bill Poulsen

Justice came to TALGV as a large, frightened dog weighing nearly 100 lbs. He had been found wandering alone with no collar, no microchip, and a severely matted coat.

During his intake exam, our vet tech discovered multiple tumors and other medical concerns, all of which were carefully treated so he could finally begin to heal.

After some time in the shelter, Justice's original owners were found but decided he would flourish with someone else who could better care for him.

Volunteers devoted countless hours to brushing his fur and making him feel loved. With his medical issues addressed and some special time spent being fostered outside the shelter environment in our home, he was ready for adoption.

The woman who finally adopted Justice had visited TALGV in search of a canine companion and noticed him as special even before he was cleaned up and on his way to recovery. She saw past his rough exterior and recognized the sweet, gentle giant waiting for someone to believe in him.

Justice's new mom renamed him Ralphie. Since his adoption he has settled in nicely and coexists peacefully with the cats in his new home. He really seems to enjoy taking neighborhood walks and meeting the neighbors. For some reason I get the feeling he's going to become his new neighborhood's mascot!

We are deeply grateful for the time we shared with Justice, for the volunteers who helped him rediscover trust, and most of all for the remarkable adopter who welcomed him home and gave him the life he deserves.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Volunteers,

Every day at The Animal League of Green Valley, we are reminded that hope often begins in the most unlikely places.

Sometimes that place is beneath a trailer in the desert, where three frightened puppies huddled together, waiting for someone to notice them. Their mother wandered nearby, doing everything she could to keep them alive despite the relentless heat, scarce food, and constant danger. She had no safe place to raise her family—only her instincts and an incredible determination to protect her puppies.

On another day, it was a dog found wandering alone with old bullet fragments embedded in his leg. We can only imagine the pain this animal endured and the hardship that followed. Yet despite everything that had happened, this dog still greeted the rescue team with a wagging tail, as if believing that perhaps this time, someone had finally come to help.

These are not isolated stories.

Southern Arizona's beautiful desert can also be a place of incredible hardship for abandoned and stray animals. Every year, dogs and cats are left behind, lost, or born in harsh conditions where survival is uncertain. Extreme temperatures, dehydration, injury, predators, and illness make every day a struggle.

Because of your generosity, we are able to rescue frightened puppies hiding beneath trailers. We can provide medical care for injured dogs whose bodies bear the scars of neglect or abuse. We can give worried mothers a safe place to raise their babies instead of fighting to keep them alive in the desert. Most importantly, we can replace fear with comfort and uncertainty with hope.

Our volunteers brave the summer heat to clean kennels, walk dogs, comfort frightened newcomers, and provide the loving touch these animals have often never known. Our donors make emergency veterinary treatment possible. Our fosters open their homes to animals who need a quiet place to recover. Every gift of time, talent, and treasure becomes part of another rescue story with a happy ending.

People often tell us that we are saving animals. While that is certainly true, I believe something even more meaningful is happening. Together, we are preserving compassion in our community. We are proving that every life matters—even one hidden beneath a trailer or limping through the desert with no one else to care.

Every successful rescue begins with someone who chooses not to look away.

On behalf of every wagging tail, every grateful purr, every once-frightened puppy, and every resilient dog now learning to trust again, thank you for standing with us. Your kindness gives abandoned animals a second chance and reminds us all that hope is never out of reach.

With gratitude,
Kim Eisele
President



Every dollar is a lifeline.
Please donate here:



INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER RENÉ WALWORTH



René is a Cat Veterinary Technician who joined TALGV's staff almost two years ago. She is now our newest Board member, filling out a remaining term. She comes with over 20 years of experience, including emergency, surgery, and small animal practice.

She enthusiastically believes that every animal here deserves kindness, compassion, and a second chance. Many are scared or shut down, coming from situations of uncertainty or chaos. She emphasizes consistency, gentle handling, and medical help that will result in each animal's increased stability and trust. The ultimate result: fear- free animals prepared for their forever homes.

Her goal: "To do right by every animal that comes through our doors. And to bring new medical insights to the Board."

RED, THE WANDERER, COMES HOME

as told by Kenneth Lepak and Denise Schultz

Red was first adopted in April. The very first night in her new home, she slipped away in the dark of night. Despite posting signs all around town, Red seemed to have completely vanished.

A month passed. Then one Sunday morning about 5:30 am, Dog Care Coordinator Denise Schultz arrived for her shift. She thought she caught a glimpse of blurred red running by. Maybe an escaped doggie. When it approached her, guess what? Denise realized it was the intrepid Red! Red had been good buddies with TALGV's Bailey and, thinking quickly, Denise opened Bailey's safety area. Red rushed in. She'd lost about 10 pounds but other than that seemed fine.

Great story, right? But Red's tale only gets better. After the previous owners agreed to relinquish her, new owners, Kenneth and Alice, stepped in. She fit right in, quickly acting like she'd lived there forever. A few days later, Ken was out walking her, and he suddenly fell, breaking his hip. Immediately Red stood with legs on either side of his chest, guarding him until help arrived. And for a brief moment, staring into Red's eyes, Ken felt his pain subside.

When Alice went to visit Ken at the hospital, Red again escaped, bolting out the dog sitter's front door. This time, instead of returning to TALGV, Red went right back to his new home and waited until Alice returned.

Ken describes Red as being the very best dog they've ever had, "unbelievable" and "scary good." She doesn't beg or get on the furniture. She's just so special, Ken sums her up: "What a dog!"





ADOPTED IS MY FAVORITE BREED

WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU? ONE OR TWO?

as told by Sue Rowen

Is the decision to adopt one or two kittens impulsive? Or are there good reasons for either choice? Here are two stories about adopters who chose two. Let's find out how that worked out.

Alpha and Ira (now Siegfried and Brunhilda) both LOVE their soft food. (Three to four times a day, please.) While Siegfried has a delicate tummy, Brunhilda eats lots of most anything, earning her the name "garbage disposal." In this case both new "parents" work all day. But that's OK because with two kittens they have each other to play with and so are settling in well.

Buffy and Xander (now Tux and Trouble) were adopted together and live in Vail with Stacey, Pete, two resident dogs and two older cats (17 and 6). In this case adopting two kittens was advantageous. Tux and Trouble entertain each other, leaving the older established cats time to get used to the babies in their own time. It's working out great!









Whirl, TALGV's FeLV+ cat, featured in the Summer Issue, has been adopted!

WANTED: FOREVER HOMES!



We are Lancelot & Discover - A Bonded Pair

We are a tightly bonded pair and we really need to stay together. I Lancelot (call me Lance) have been here for a long time. I'm a svelte black boy beauty who's fallen for Discover, a gorgeous grey tabby girl. We're both approaching two years old, and right now are most comfortable with each other. Yup, we're shy and slow to allow people to get too close.

But we agree: It's really time to find a new home. We're both hoping you'll give us a chance, and we'll promise to do our very best to be your new BFFs (best feline friends).



Hi there! I'm Andy

I'm a handsome upbeat black Lab mix. But I've been here too darn long! So long I qualify for Vet Care Support for Life (VCSFL). I'm a little socially awkward but I have been in a few foster homes and received five-star reviews. I need lots of love and attention, spirited playtime, a secure backyard, and maybe some water to splash in. Home: quiet, calm, predictable, not a lot of folks visiting. Does that describe your house? Please say YES!



FROM OUR READERS

PETUNIA (NOW PIPER) as told by Lori Nance



Petunia arrived at TALGV a disheveled white, fur-covered, little terrier mix. She was soon cleaned up and groomed, and it didn't take long for Petunia to be snapped up and taken to her new Green Valley forever home.

Her new owner Lori reports that Piper is adjusting really well. She is a sweet and gentle companion. Her fur has filled out nicely (seems she was shaved), and she's already scheduled for her first groom. She's a good quiet dog who doesn't bark. Basically she eats, sleeps and plays.

She doesn't seem aware that she's a senior dog (10+ years young with Vet Care Support for Life), jumping off furniture and prancing about. She may have some mild hearing loss which might go toward explaining why she didn't recognize her TALGV-given name. So Lori has renamed her "Piper" and is reinforcing her new name by giving her little treats whenever she responds. Overall she's "a joy and we are thrilled to be her pet parents."

COOKIE AND BUNNY WONDERFULNESS as told by Linda Coffman



Cookie came home with me from The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) in 2025, a 50-pound pittie mix with a tender heart and serious behavioral special needs in terms of shyness with humans. She'd spent most of her life in the shelter, known as Oreo, unsure of people but patiently championed by TALGV's volunteers.

Earlier this year, Bunny—formerly Twiggy—joined us, another TALGV rescue. Found tangled in a cholla bush, just 12 weeks old, under five pounds and with a congenital condition that makes her "hop," she was lucky to be alive.

The moment they met, they lit up. Their playful roughhousing has helped Cookie gain confidence and taught Bunny how to befriend other dogs. Thanks to TALGV, two "unlikely" dogs became the perfect match—and my home is full of laughter and love.

ANDES (NOW ANDY) as told by Robin Potter



Andy is getting on just fine in his new home. Words that immediately came to Robin's mind: Rotten and Smart. Of course, as all dog owners know, these words describe many adopted dogs and of course are signs that the new owner is smitten.

Andy was a chunky monkey when Robin adopted him. Now he eats a prescription-only dog food which TALGV provided in his "go home" bag. But lucky Andy, Robin is also making homemade dog food—a blender mix of ground turkey, broccoli, pumpkin, carrots and green beans. It seems Robin is another "victim" of "volunteer falls in love and adopts TALGV dog." On her first day of volunteering, Andy jumped in Robin's lap and didn't leave. Sound familiar?

MY LIFE STORY

By Jelly Bean (as told by my mom Nancy Holahan)



Love you



Hi! Jelly Bean here. My mom Nancy lovingly calls me Bean.

I spent the first ten plus years of my life at TALGV, loved and cared for by wonderful volunteers. But I guess, being a male cat, I had the unpleasant habit of marking (spraying as it's known technically). Like everything. People, beds, other animals, crates, you get the picture. So, although strikingly handsome, there was not much hope of finding a forever home of my own.

Then one day, my very luckiest day ever, a woman decided she needed me, and suddenly I was in my very first home! We've had five and a half glorious years together. I guess we rescued each other and have shared a ton of love. And guess what? I have never sprayed, ever again!

Thank you mama—for my home, your love and our days together.

Here Nancy takes over, completing the story: Our final day together was so very hard. We shared a final gift together—Jelly Bean breathed his last breath in my arms. But I promised that we would see each other again and that I would remember that with this much love comes this much grief and heartache.

To you, dearest Bean, I'll still hear you, when each time I leave the house, whispering "You be good, mama loves you" you'll be whispering back, "You be good too mama. The Bean loves you, Always."

We'll see each other next time.

Jelly Bean went to the Rainbow Bridge September 11, 2026.



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75% of profits go to You. 25% goes to TALGV.



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41ST ANNUAL TALGV MEETING FOR MEMBERS

Thursday December 3, 2026 at 2:30pm

Including Board Member Elections

The Public is Invited

Please remember
If you want to VOTE
You must PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES ($25) before November 23.
No dues payments will be accepted at the meeting.

We have a New Office Cat!
Meet Tillie, a gorgeous 15-year-old Calico. Stop by the office...but be prepared to hunt a bit. She loves to hide!

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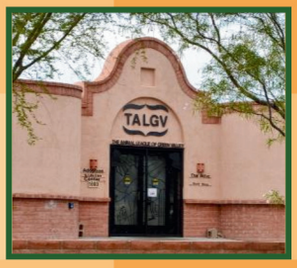
The Animal League of GREEN VALLEY



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TICKET TO FALL IN LOVE
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