

Have a heart  for homeless pets



Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA

2014  
Heartfelt Happenings

# Your support gave homes to homeless pets in 2014

AAWL & SPCA spent, on average, \$400 per dog and \$328 per cat while in our care

## 4,548 HOMELESS PETS

(2,319 cats and kittens 2,229 puppies and dogs) were taken in by AAWL & SPCA in 2014 and provided with food, shelter, medical care, exercise, socialization and a lot of love from our staff and volunteers



## 4,072 CATS AND DOGS

(1,914 and 2,158 respectively) found their forever homes and a second chance at life



## 690 KIDS

attended one of our camp programs during the year

## 225 CLIENTS

participated in our dog training programs

## 57,859 HOURS

time that volunteers donated

## 1,440 UNDERAGE

puppies and kittens or animals recovering from illness or medical treatments were nurtured by our wonderful foster families until they could be put up for adoption

## 3,711

felines and canines were spayed/neutered by our veterinarian staff prior to being adopted

## 964 VOLUNTEERS

logged hours in 2014

## 31 RECIPIENTS

were given scholarships to one of our education programs

## 5,825 KIDS

learned about our unique humane education programs

## 527

owned animals received low-cost veterinary care at our MDPet Care Clinic



# A heartfelt letter from the President & CEO



*Have a Heart for Homeless Pets* really hits home for all of us who work in the animal welfare field. It takes a lot of heart and a lot of compassion to spend every work day dealing with the emotions of helping homeless animals, many of whom need extra medical attention and/or patient, loving long-term care while they are with us. Those that stay with us for months are especially heart-tugging - we get to know them, we see how special they are, and yet it sometimes takes what seems like forever for their new family to appear. Of course, it is then a joyous occasion when that happens, even if a little bittersweet.

## All they need is love

My favorite dogs are the shy ones - the ones that are so scared and untrusting that they start out in my office staying as far away as they can get. After a few days of gentle persuasion, a lot of cuddling and petting, and my secret stash (hot dogs), it is so rewarding to see them start to wag their tail or come running to me when I enter my office. By the end of 3-4 days they are different dogs - confident, loving and realizing that humans are not so bad after all.

As for the kitties, when we have an overflow of kittens or cats and they end up outside my office in kennels, I can't help but bring one (or more) of them into my office for a little free time. One that I fell for this year was a little calico cat that I became so attached to that I hated to leave her over the weekend. One Monday morning I walked in and she immediately (and loudly) let me know she wanted me to come and get her. So, I took her in my arms and gave her some cuddles and then went to work. Pretty soon she was lying next to my keyboard, purring, and reached over with both front paws to drag my hand from the keyboard to the place she wanted it to be - petting her! Needless to say, I didn't get as much work done when she was with me.

As heart-wrenching as some days are in animal welfare, the rewarding ones are far more common. Please enjoy the many heartfelt stories of animals that have touched me and our dedicated staff. I thank them, our volunteers and donors for having a heart for homeless pets - without your help we couldn't do what we do each and every day. And, without your donations and support, thousands of animals may never have found their forever homes.

## We need your help

Please show your heart and help us do our lifesaving work by making the most generous donation that you can. In addition to the tax deduction, you will have a warm feeling of knowing you helped save a homeless pet.

*Judith A. Gardner*

Judith A. Gardner

# Community partners with hearts

## MADDIE'S PET ADOPTION EVENT WILDLY SUCCESSFUL



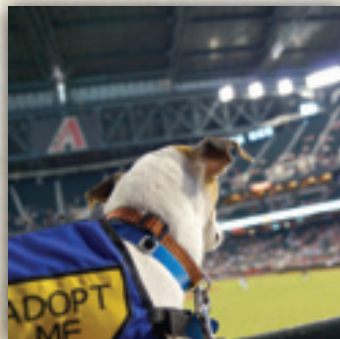
On May 31 and June 1, Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA participated in the first Maddie's Pet Adoption Event to be held in Maricopa County. Along with 12 other animal rescues and agencies, we adopted out a total of 1,983 cats, dogs, puppies and kittens in just one weekend!

AAWL & SPCA, the lead agency for the event, had only 4 dogs and 15 adult cats remaining at the end of the weekend. We adopted 206 dogs and 135 cats, for a total of 341 adoptions in just two days. All of our staff and volunteers' hearts were warmed as we left the shelter late Sunday night - no barking or meows to be heard. Thank you to Maddie's Fund, our staff and volunteers, the media and the community for helping make this the best adoption event ever!

## BARK IN THE PARK DOGS AND THE DIAMONDBACKS



Thanks to the Arizona Diamondbacks, AAWL & SPCA was again chosen as the recipient of proceeds from ticket sales to Bark in the Park at Chase Field to enjoy a day with your pet at the ballpark. Our volunteers and staff went all out selling tickets to two special ballgames and had adoptable dogs available during the game. This is such a great event and fun for everyone. We appreciate the Diamondbacks' support and help in saving homeless pets.



## HALO FOODS AND FREE KIBBLE A YUMMY TREAT FOR SHELTER ANIMALS



AAWL & SPCA was honored to have been selected by Halo Purely for Pets and FreeKibble.com to receive food for our shelter animals this year. Not only did this donation save AAWL & SPCA a significant amount of money, it provided our shelter "guests" with high-quality, healthy and yummy food which they loved. We've heard great reports from our adopters about how happy and healthy their pets are as they continue to feed them Halo's Spot's Stew.

Halo Foods and Free Kibble have notified us that they love AAWL & SPCA so much they are making the same food donation for our homeless pets again in 2015!

## KSLX FM - 100.7 ADOPTS ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE



Our good friends and animal lovers at KSLX radio are great supporters of AAWL & SPCA. Not only is one of their employees an adopter, volunteer and major fundraiser for our annual Walk to Save Animals, but the management team is always willing to help us with special events. This year, KSLX FM on-air personality, Pete Cummings, served as the Emcee at Evening to Paws and rocked our audience with the sounds of The Pete Cummings Band. We have been honored to be the recipients of a portion of the ticket sales for the annual Trans-Siberian Orchestra and appreciate their continued support of homeless animals.



**FIX.ADOPT.SAVE.**  
COMMUNITY  
COMMITMENT



**Fix.  
Adopt.  
Save.**

Our Community Commitment

Our President and CEO, Judith Gardner, is also the President of the Alliance for Companion Animals, a collaboration of the seven largest animal welfare organizations in the Valley. The Alliance, with the support and participation of PetSmart Charities and the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, developed and launched a three-year initiative to end pet homelessness, called Fix. Adopt. Save.

At the end of the first year, there was a 5% reduction in the number of animals entering valley shelters and a 14% reduction in the euthanasia rate. The goal of the initiative is to increase spay/neuter surgeries, increase adoptions and to educate the public about free and low-cost services, while encouraging responsible pet ownership.

## Bertha - Testimonial to Unconditional Love



Bertha, a four-year-old Shib Tzu, is a puppy mill survivor that came to AAWL & SPCA through the nonprofit organization, National Mill Dog Rescue, in February of 2014.

In her first four years of life, Bertha never knew what it was like to feel the grass under her feet, play with people, other animals, or snuggle with a caring family. On top of that, she never had any basic medical treatment.

After several months at the Shelter, it became clear that she had severe ear infections that continually caused her pain. Due to her years of neglect and her untreated ear infections, Bertha's ear canals were swollen shut with damaged tissue and she was in desperate need of a specialized surgery called a "TECA" (Total Ear Canal Ablation) and bulla osteotomy. Unfortunately, it was a complicated and expensive specialized surgery that was estimated to cost between \$2,000 and \$2,800.

I decided to bring her home to medically foster her while we, and others at AAWL & SPCA, raised money for her much-needed surgery. I always fancied myself a "big dog" kind of person, but once Bertha entered our home she instantly became family, and I have never loved a dog more in my life!

After raising over \$2,000, Bertha successfully underwent the lengthy, five-hour surgery. On July 10th, I signed adoption papers to make Bertha's "fur-ever" home official and where she is now living a very spoiled and love-filled life. Despite Bertha's rough start at life and the mistreatment

she suffered at the hands of humans, she continues to amaze us every day with her loving, trusting, and friendly nature. Bertha is a true testament to the unconditional love that so draws us to our canine companions.



*Emily Vivian*

Dog Adoptions Team Lead

# Volunteers touch our hearts

## IN MEMORY OF A SPECIAL YOUNG LADY AND VOLUNTEER

You may have noticed the beautiful mural painted on the AAWL & SPCA Education & Training Center. The mural includes a picture of a special young lady, Emily Watson, and her beloved dog Dexter, along with a number of the animals that participate in our education programs for kids. The mural was commissioned by Emily's father, David, and her stepmother, Christine.

Emily was a gentle, sweet and quiet girl with a generous and loving heart. She loved animals and was a volunteer at AAWL & SPCA before she passed away at the young age of 23. We hope this tribute to Emily will bring her family comfort and will remind all of us about the importance of making your life count, regardless of the length of time you are on this earth.



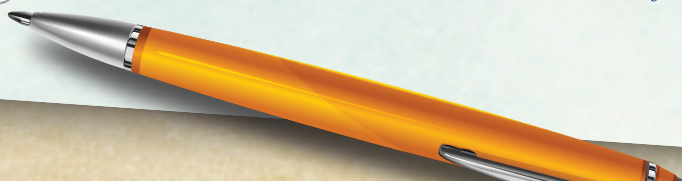
The mural was painted by Daniel Campa.

## Bagira - Loves to go for walks

❤ Bagira is a cat that came into AAWL & SPCA with a broken leg. After surgery to repair the leg and during his recovery, it became apparent that he was not what you could call "friendly". He would bite people and tried numerous times to escape from the cattery.

After many weeks of trying different toys and activities, I thought of trying to walk Bagira on a leash. He always seemed to want to go places, so why not! Sure enough, he loved to go for walks and even went on strolls with cat-friendly dogs. He was a big hit at adoption events where he proudly strutted around on his leash among all the dogs. In fact, one young couple was so taken by him that they came to the shelter to adopt him. That's when I realized how bittersweet it is to become so attached to an animal and how wonderful — and heart-wrenching (in a good way) — it is to see them go to their new forever homes.

Janna L. Skinner  
Cattery Manager



## Jessie - Finally found his forever home



Last July, I was walking the kids attending our education camp through the kennels. It was hot, noisy, and the shelter was full of dogs that were excited about the kids being there. I saw the cutest little Jack Russell face staring out at me from a kennel. His report card said that he was good with kids of all ages, so I decided to take him out to a yard to play with the camp kids. He was full of energy and loved the attention from all of the kids. I knew immediately that this tiny guy, with a very big personality, was special.

Over the next few weeks I spent a lot of time with Jessie at the shelter. He spent a lot of time in Camp Vet and was a perfect practice "patient". Jessie was getting spoiled and very used to spending time with us in the education building. It started to get harder to take him back to his kennel every evening, as he would resist and cry.

With mixed emotions, I watched Jessie get adopted. I was hopeful that he had found his forever home. Sadly, Jessie was returned. To all of the staff's dismay, he was adopted and returned two more times after that. Each return for Jessie was hard. I could see it taking a toll on him physically and emotionally. I decided to take him home and foster him on a temporary basis. He needed me, and to be quite honest, it was a time in my life that I needed him too. We spent the next couple months adjusting and working on making sure Jessie felt safe and secure.

Recently, I made it official. Jessie has found his forever home . . . mine! Never again will he have to worry about being returned, or not being in the right home. This bossy little dog has taken over my car, my desk, my bed, and my heart. He makes me smile every day.

*Emile Diner*  
Education Programs Coordinator



## THE DYNAMIC DUO

Terry and Charlie Shotts are a husband and wife Volunteer Team at AAWL & SPCA's Chandler Fashion Center PetMatch Adoption Center. Terry is part of a group called Encore: Experience Matters, an organization that connects experienced business professionals who are nearing retirement with nonprofits who could utilize their skill set. We lucked out when we were matched with Terry, who not only brings years of experience working at Intel, but she also brought along her husband, Charlie.

Terry and Charlie are truly a dynamic duo. If shift times are open, they fill them. If something is broken, they fix it. If a donation item is needed, they find a way to get it donated. No volunteer request is ever too much. They help with dog socialization, cleaning, events, administration and everything in between.

Terry and Charlie have most recently taken on the task of being lead Mentors at the Chandler Fashion Center Pet-Match Adoption Center. They are responsible for all of the Chandler new volunteer orientations and have assumed

the responsibility of increasing volunteer staff by 133%! Their main mission is to reduce staff costs and lighten the work load by adding more well-trained volunteers.

Terry and Charlie even got a surprise bonus by helping AAWL & SPCA - they have adopted both a cat and a tripod (3-legged) dog and gave them their forever home.



# Education - Getting to the heart of it

## **BIRTHDAY PARTIES COME PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS AT AAWL & SPCA**

The kids who had their birthday parties at AAWL & SPCA this year had so much fun interacting with our Education animals - ferrets, iguana/lizards, chinchillas, bunnies, parrots and, of course, dogs and kitties. You bring the kids and AAWL & SPCA provides a unique party and experience. There's even a new birthday party this year called "Future Vet" for kids 10 and up that explores the exciting and fascinating world of animal medicine.



## **EDUCATION PROGRAM HELPS SPECIAL STUDENTS**

Kylie is currently a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Banner Children's Academy (BCA) in Tempe, AZ, a private, therapeutic school for students with autism and other

emotional disabilities. Kylie was born with Sturge-Weber Syndrome, which causes neurological abnormalities. She is a member of the Exotic Animal Care and Han-



dling Class that participates in weekly visits to the Education Center at AAWL & SPCA.

Kylie is a natural, interacting with the school tortoises, guinea pig, parrot and snakes that are part of AAWL & SPCA educational animals.

The teaching staff at BCA has noticed that caring for animals has increased her sense of confidence and responsibility. Kylie will be putting her knowledge of animals to use by participating in live animal presentations for nearby elementary schools and senior assisted living facilities with the other students in the Exotic Animal Care and Handling Class.

## **EDUCATION CLASSES**

**Camp Ruffin' It**  
(ages 6-12)

**Camp Vet**  
(ages 12-17)

**Teen Tracks**  
(ages 13-17)

**Junior Vet Experience**  
(ages 12-17)

## **DOG TRAINING**

**Puppy Obedience**  
**Basic Obedience**  
**Best Bully**  
**Leash Manners**

*Check out [www.aawl.org](http://www.aawl.org) for full listing.*



## Marvin - the big mush



*Marvin was an amazing dog who waited far too long for his forever family. He was loving, snuggly, and extremely smart.*

*He loved to impress you by quickly learning tricks, but would take face rubs and belly scratches over treats as his reward. He would just bury his head into your chest for minutes at a time, trying to be as close to you as possible.*

*Unfortunately, he loved people almost too much. He suffered from separation anxiety and was adopted and returned twice because of it. We just had to find the right family that wanted to spend as much time with him as he did with them.*

*Finally, Marvin was adopted by a family that would have someone at home most of the time. They also had lots of kitties, which we thought could be a problem, but Marvin "adopted" the kittens and spent most of his day following his new best friends around the house. When the family came in to adopt him, I had to go say my goodbyes. I have never seen Marvin so happy and proud than when he was standing alongside his new family. He was a different dog. He finally met someone who loved him as much as he loved them.*



*I love working for AAWL & SPCA because I get to help make families. My dog is a huge part of my life, and I spend all my free time with him. Having the ability to give that happiness and joy to someone else makes me proud to be part of an organization that makes that happen.*

*Michael Morefield*  
Shelter Operations Manager

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Judith Gardner**  
President and CEO

**Claudia Channing, DVM**  
Chief Veterinarian

**Lisa Darling, DVM**  
Veterinarian

**Patti DuBois**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Terri Hawkins**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Michelle Ramos**  
Director of Education

**Whitney Fletcher**  
Director of Volunteers/Events

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tina Denicole, Chair**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Arizona Super Bowl

**Donna Dobrovich, Vice Chair**  
President - DFD & Associates

**Gary Humbert, Secretary**  
Director of Cox Creative Studios  
COX 7

**Jeanne Baldwin, Treasurer**  
Vice President/Branch Manager  
BMO Harris Bank

**Tom Rich**  
President - JC Printing

**Wendy Fuller**  
Director, Customer Experience  
and Communications  
BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona

**Bill Domstrand**  
Managing Member  
Public Action Management

## Dixie - Meant to be



When I first met Dixie, she was sweet, but shy, and very tolerant of everything. She had a small mass on her back that would later prove to be cancerous. The MDPet Care staff removed the mass with the expectation that she would likely recover fully. Day after day Dixie was still at the shelter waiting to find her new family. I eventually had her at the front desk, thinking more people would see her when they came into the Clinic. After almost a year at AAWL & SPCA, Dixie sat there still waiting for her home.

One day I received a call from an older gentleman who had just retired and was looking for a dog to keep him and his wife company. They saw Dixie on one of our TV spots and asked me why it was possible that such a kind, loving dog could still be there? I explained that even though we expected a full recovery, the fact that she, at one time, had a cancerous mass really scared people away. As it turns out, he and his wife were both in ongoing battles with cancer for years, and this really struck a chord with him. He knew, almost immediately, that the three of them were perfect for each other. They came in that very same day to meet her, and it was love at first sight. There were a lot of tears shed that day, including mine.

I love working at AAWL & SPCA because we took a dog that would have been refused by most places because of her breed, euthanized by most places because of her medical issues, and transferred or ignored by others due to her inherent "un-adoptability". But we don't give up! We found her the perfect home that she deserved, with people who needed and loved her.

*Rob Bell*

MDPet Care Administrator



## Tribble - Worth every effort to save

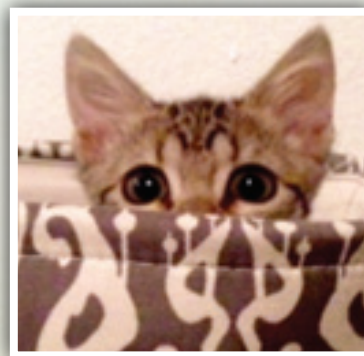


On a hot August day, a distressed couple frantically rushed three fragile, underweight kittens found baking in the sun to AAWL & SPCA for intake. Even with the care of experienced foster parents, two of the tiny orphans were not able to survive the symptoms of severe neglect. With the love and nurturing care of Tara, AAWL & SPCA Foster Medical Assistant, the lone survivor, a five-week-old, feisty female was able to pull through those first critical nights, but not without further struggle and complications.

Upon examination by one of our caring AAWL & SPCA veterinarians, a golf ball-sized growth, thought to be infection, was discovered on the tiny one's elbow. Our vet found that the tiny tabby had sustained a fracture which had healed, but in the process, had become infected and fused the elbow in a 90 degree angle. A staff favorite, the cute kitten was lovingly dubbed "Chicken Wing". Originally slated for surgery for amputation, the kitten renamed "Tribble" remains in foster care and will be able to keep her affected limb once the infection is fully healed! Being part of a team of people who care so much about each and every animal that enters AAWL & SPCA, touches my heart every day.

*Brand H*

Foster Recruiter



# Best place to adopt

## BEST BUDDY

### WORRY-FREE ADOPTION GUARANTEE



The first 30 days after adopting provide the greatest opportunity to bond with your new pet, and to make sure he/she makes a permanent transition to his/her new home. Most shelters just adopt the pet to you, and then “you’re on your own”. Only AAWL & SPCA is here for you for the pet’s entire lifetime.

All adopted pets have been vaccinated, microchipped, spayed/neutered and evaluated by our medical and behavior teams prior to adoption.

*Our “Best Buddy” program gives you:*

- **30-days’ medical support** at little or no cost to you
- **Free 30-day medical helpline** - our medical staff is here to help if any issues arise or just to answer your medical questions
- **Free 30-day behavior helpline** - our trainers will help with any behavior issues and can recommend one of our applicable training programs
- **Low-cost veterinary clinic** - is here for you throughout your pet’s life for vaccines, health checks and affordable veterinary care
- **Lifetime return policy** - any pet adopted from AAWL & SPCA may be returned at any time during its life for any reason

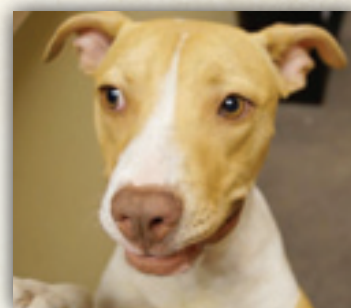
## SLUMBER PARTIES

### BRING HOME YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

This year, AAWL & SPCA introduced slumber parties as a way to get more animals adopted. Potential adopters can take a dog (over six months of age) home for 3-5 days to determine if it’s a good fit for their home and family. AAWL & SPCA supplies everything they need during that time and, if it all works out, they only have to come back to the shelter to fill out the adoption paperwork. It appears to

work out since more than 90% of the slumber parties have resulted in adoptions!

Hey, can I go home with you? We could have a slumber party!



## TWO LOCATIONS TO FIND YOUR NEXT LOVE

### SONIA BRESLOW ADOPTION CENTER

25 North 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034



### CHANDLER FASHION CENTER

PETMATCH ADOPTION CENTER (near Dillard’s on 2nd Floor)  
3111 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler, AZ 85226





**Sonia Breslow Adoption Center**  
25 North 40th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85034  
602-273-6852 x116



**Chandler Fashion Center  
PetMatch Adoption Center**  
3111 W. Chandler Blvd.  
Chandler, AZ 85226  
602-781-3906