

Arizona Animal Welfare League

2017 Annual Journal



*If you're lucky...an animal will come
into your life and steal your heart.*

Over 4,000 Homeless Animals Found Loving Homes in 2017

4,088 HOMELESS PETS

1,745 cats/kittens and 2,343 dogs/puppies were taken in by AAWL. They received food, vaccines, medical care, exercise, socialization, and a lot of love from our staff and volunteers.



2,325 FAMILIES

brought their pets to the monthly low-cost vaccine clinics

2,957 DOGS AND CATS

were spayed/neutered

1,461 UNDERAGE kittens and puppies were cared for by 100 foster families



975 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS contributed 65,500 hours of service

1,855 CUSTOMERS visited our MD PetCare Low-Cost Clinic

511 kids and adults enjoyed AAWL's "Create Your Own" education programs



139 YOUTH participated in our Jr. Volunteer Days

238 PET PARENTS participated in AAWL's dog training programs

310 PETS received low-cost microchips



15,000 KIDS AND ADULTS experienced AAWL's unique humane education programs

696 KIDS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS celebrated birthdays at AAWL

65 FAMILIES enjoyed our Family Volunteer Days



MORE THAN 200 dogs and cats received dental treatments



Whether Luck or Fate...It is Magical

Dear Friends:

Luck is defined as something that happens by chance. Fate is something that is pre-ordained. Both luck and fate seem to play into every adoption we have the joy of experiencing. Whether you find your new pet because you were scouring websites, visiting shelters, or, in some cases, you weren't even looking for a new family member, the common thread of all the stories we hear is that the one you found (or that found you) was the perfect match. It's magical.

As each year passes, we gather some of our favorite adoption stories to share with you, along with some of our successes, to show how we've utilized your generous donations to help save animals. It's impossible to share everything in just a few pages, but we hope this journal will warm your heart and give you a glimpse into some of the year's highlights.

As the animal welfare environment keeps changing, the Arizona Animal Welfare League will continue to evolve. There is so much more need for medical resources now -- both with rescued animals and for people's pets. We are responding to that critical need in several ways, as you will see.

Success in lowering intake and euthanasia in our community has allowed AAWL to reach out to other parts of our state, animals that are most in peril - either because of lack of resources in the rescue community, or lack of basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter. Our commitment to this next frontier of animal rescue is just beginning.

It is a never-ending effort to help animals that are homeless, abandoned, abused, injured and sick. We will continue our important mission until each and every cat, dog, puppy and kitten are no longer at risk. But, this is not possible without your help. Please use the enclosed envelope to make the most generous gift you can. Your donation, no matter how large or small, all goes towards the work we do in saving animals from starvation, illness, injury and abandonment.

Thank you for everything you do to help animals. Please share in the joy of knowing how luck and fate played a role in many of the adoptions that you helped make possible...because you cared.

With gratitude,



Judith A. Gardner
President & CEO

Was It Luck, Or Was It Fate? The Story of Daisy May



It was a long 220 days for Daisy May, a 3 year old Staffordshire Terrier who spent each of those days waiting for a new family. Daisy May came in from the County shelter and, while she loved people, she did not behave well around other dogs. In fact, she was so reactive to other

dogs, she was placed in a special area of the shelter where she wouldn't be exposed to them.

The AAWL behavior team worked tirelessly with her to change her focus from lunging and barking at other dogs, throwing herself against the kennel, and pulling hard on a leash to get to them. Two things made a huge difference in Daisy May's behavior. The first was peanut butter - She loved it! Armed with a jar of peanut butter, whenever Daisy May focused on a dog, she was offered a yummy spoonful of peanut butter. That distracted her, but she still couldn't be near other dogs without reacting.

The second was a consulting group, Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL). They focus on behavioral issues, teaching our staff and volunteers how to successfully run play groups with a variety of dogs. The first time DPFL put Daisy May in a play group, the staff was horrified. They were so frightened of what might happen, but were relieved Daisy May would be muzzled. Now Daisy May had to change her way of thinking. Amazingly, within only a few play sessions, the muzzle was removed and Daisy May turned into a play group rock star!

Soon, Daisy May was spending hours a day in play groups, adjusting her play style to match other dogs, while having fun and running off all that energy she stored inside. Now, Daisy May no longer had an "only dog" adoption requirement.

One day in May, Communications Director Michael Morefield decided he was going to do whatever it took to get Daisy May a new, loving home. He made a resume for Daisy May with pertinent facts such as "loving, loyal, and the fastest peanut butter eater at the shelter". He also made her business cards to hand out. Donning a dog costume, he and Daisy May headed for downtown Phoenix with a sign: "Free hugs and kisses". Many people on their lunch hour took full advantage of doggie cuddles from this happy girl.

Lori Moriarty and her daughter Briana, who was visiting from Boston, stopped for some kisses. There was an instant connection between Daisy May and Briana, who came several more times that day to get hugs and kisses. The next day, she visited the shelter and they

had a play date. She couldn't get Daisy May out of her mind as she headed back home to Boston.

Immediately after Briana returned to the Boston area, she moved to a residential complex that allowed Daisy May's breed. She then lined up a local dog trainer and located a pet moving company, "We Move Pets", in Texas. Everyone was ecstatic to hear Daisy May was finally being adopted and plans were made for her to be picked up by the transport company for the long drive to Boston. There were many hugs, kisses, and well wishes as we said goodbye to our special girl.



The driver of the transport, Lenny, kept everyone at AAWL laughing during the trip with pictures of Daisy May - enjoying new delicacies like "gas station food"; sleeping in the "other" motel room bed, then deciding Lenny was probably lonely, so cuddling with him in his bed; playing navigator in the front seat to keep Lenny on course, and being her loving and fun self.

It was truly a joyous day when Daisy May finally arrived at her new home. Briana and her boyfriend were waiting with open arms. She even got in on the engagement photo! Even now, they update Daisy May's Facebook page with new pictures showing Daisy May adjusting to her forever home. We know it was a match made in heaven, but...was it luck...or was it fate? All we know is it was meant to be.



Daisy May Arrives



She said YES!



Daisy May home-at last!



Copy Cat - How a Fateful Stray Cat Led to Love

By Mark Cox

Twelve years ago, my daughter let in a stray cat. We had just built a 6,500 sq. ft. home so our two daughters had plenty of private space. I had no idea she was letting this stray live in our house, and in her bedroom! She left it food and water when she left for school. One Saturday, she bolted out of her upstairs room and was yelling "OMG! I just found a bunch of baby kitties in my closet, under the dirty clothes!" Needless to say, I was pretty surprised! Eventually, three of the kittens went to friends' homes and the white one stayed with us.



Sometime later, I suffered the sudden loss of my wife, my health going bad and the girls growing up and leaving, and I depended on my cat to help me with the crushing depression. Say what you will, this senior cat could sense depression and loneliness, and he would get in bed and shove his big head under my arm so I had to hug him. I was so bonded to my boy, but after almost 13 years, he came down with FIP and you know the rest.

His sudden death crushed me. I now live with my youngest daughter and my cat was my roommate. About a week later, she took me to the Chandler mall. I'm handicapped now, so I hadn't been in years. I just followed her, enjoying the view. "Dad, I have a huge surprise for you. I found him online and called the AAWL Adoption Center this morning". She took me to a window... an exact copy of my cat (right down to the slight stripes on his tail) was raising cane behind the glass. A tiny guy with a big attitude!

We were led into a room and in came a lady with "Dublin". He was totally crazy, like a ping pong ball, too busy having fun with toys to notice me. I said THIS IS MY KITTY! He is the smartest animal ever! He gets the dogs in a headlock, and even runs on two legs beside them. He harasses the old female cat, sleeps with me, watches TV on my lap, and never lets me sleep in! I pretend my eyes are closed, and at 7a.m., he gently taps twice on my hand. If I ignore him, he does it again but with just the tips of his nails out. If I stay sleeping, he walks across my chest and side kisses me with his whiskers. I'm UP! Fun and games all day and night! We love him so much. He rescued me! I'm beyond grateful.

The Heart of AAWL - Our Medical Clinic

2017 was an exciting year for our medical department. In May, we welcomed our new Medical Director, Dr. Matthew Goetz, who has experience in both private practice, as well as shelter medicine in New Mexico and North Carolina. He and his wife, Dr. Nellie Goetz, moved to Phoenix when she took a job in the shelter medical department at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine.



We also welcomed Dr. Allison Clarke in August of this year. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Duke University and her DVM from the University of Wisconsin. Most recently, Dr. Clarke completed a year internship in shelter medicine at Cornell University before moving to Phoenix.



Dr. Rebecca Bukowy is beginning her third year of providing excellent care to our customers in our low-cost clinic, MD PetCare.

In addition to developing a great medical team, our clinic

underwent under its second major remodel since 2012, thanks to a generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. We also added new, state of the art equipment thanks to generous donors and a grant from the Petco Foundation.

AAWL is proud of the fact that we go above and beyond for each and every animal in our care. The completion of the renovation now enables us to provide low-cost clinic services to the public six days a week and provides highly-trained staff with the ability to move between the shelter clinic and the low-cost public clinic. Having more work room, dental stations, exam rooms and a larger lobby helps us address the expanding needs of our clients.

Below is a note sent by one of our clients, Shelly:

A big thank you to all who helped with our dog, RayRay. And thanks for treating him like your own. We will never forget what you did. It's only the 2nd day and he's feeling 100% better. Thanks again so very much.

Another new program in 2017, is our AAWL CARES program which provides free, or highly subsidized, veterinary services to the homeless, veterans and senior citizens on low and fixed income.

The clinic is a very busy place, at the heart of AAWL!

The Next Frontier in Animal Rescue

AAWL's Impact Increases Across the State of Arizona

As the number of intakes and euthanasia of animals in Maricopa County continue to decline (42% and 80%, respectively), AAWL is taking what has been learned over many years to smaller rural rescues, municipal shelters and foster groups around the State of Arizona.



The numbers of homeless, abandoned, sick and injured dogs and cats are huge across Arizona. Just on the local Native American reservations there are thousands of animals at risk. Most of the small, rural communities have very limited resources and space to help save these lives and, therefore, have extremely high numbers of animals being euthanized.



AAWL has spent the past two years reaching out and helping these communities. We've rescued more than 1,500 animals while, at the same time, sharing food,

blankets, medicines and expertise with these groups. The results have been overwhelming and rewarding.

Here is an excerpt of a letter we received from Rose Moonwater, President of the Tuba City Humane Society:

AAWL has helped and supported us in so many ways. Working to create a partnership and accepting animals from us, allowing our transporter to bring animals to AAWL after hours, providing some reimbursement for

veterinary costs and sharing resources and pet food and supplies. All of this has allowed us to continue to exist and to continue rescuing animals. In the first half of 2017, we have helped more than 200 animals, which is close to our total number of lives saved last year. The partnership with AAWL has supported this increase in capacity. We are very grateful to AAWL for reaching out to include rural areas in Arizona to successfully save these lives.

And a nice note from Michael O'Driscoll, Director, Gila County Health & Emergency Management

Gila County is 1000% (if there can be a 1000%) happy as can be with our relationship with AAWL. When we needed assistance and direction, it was your organization that came out to Gila and offered us your hand in partnership. It is because of our partnership that we are able to move our animal care operations toward our goal of adopting all available animals.



Some of the wonderful animals rescued from rural areas this year -- all have been adopted.

Celebrating Five Years and 6,000 Adoptions

AAWL's Chandler Adoption Center a Big Success

AAWL was one of the first shelters to open an adoption center in a large, high-end mall in the Phoenix area. Since replacing a retail puppy store, (which acquires animals from puppy mills), at the Chandler Fashion Center in November, 2012, AAWL has helped more than 6,300 animals find their forever homes! Many of them are purebred puppies/dogs.

This certainly proves that people can find wonderful pets who just need a second chance without having to spend thousands of dollars on a puppy, that comes with very little, if any, medical background or guarantees. Every dog, cat, puppy or kitten adopted from our Chandler Mall location has received a full vet exam, is up-to-date on all vaccines, has been microchipped, and treated for any known medical issues. And, AAWL will take any animal it

adopts back at any time in its life. It's our guarantee.

Fortunately, more and more people are realizing the horrors of puppy mills. Dogs are bred over and over until they can no longer reproduce and then are discarded. Puppies often have genetic defects and other illnesses that remain unknown for some time. Many cities have banned the sale of puppy mill puppies and require those stores to offer only rescued animals. Hopefully, this trend will continue and spread throughout the country, putting an end to the horrible abuse suffered by breeding dogs.

We are very grateful to Macerich Corporation who continues to support the AAWL Adoption Center at Chandler Fashion Center.

Community Partners



**Fix.
Adopt.
Save.**

Our Community Commitment

AAWL is proud to be one of seven animal welfare organizations in the Valley that collaborate on the Fix.Adopt.Save initiative which began in 2012. Supported by grants from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, PetSmart Charities and the Arizona Community Foundation, we have collectively reduced the euthanasia rate in our community by 81% and the intake by 42% since we began in 2012. This incredible achievement has only been possible with hard work, cooperation, and collaboration, due to the support of our funders. For additional information visit fixadoptsave.org.



AAWL is honored to have been selected for the last four years by Halo Purely for Pets, FreeKibble.com, and GreaterGood.com to receive food for our shelter. Not only does the food donation allow AAWL to use those funds towards saving more homeless animals, it provides our shelter 'guests' with high-quality, healthy, food which they love.

AAWL's Work Is Possible Because Of Those Who Care

Marjorie Abernathy Memorial Fund
Allen Landers Charitable Trust
Allphin-Merritt Survivor's Trust
Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Community Foundation
AZ License Plate Fund
Bayer Animal Health
Competition Printing
Copperpoint Mutual
Insurance Company
Dorothy & Joseph Moller Trust
Eric Cassee
Facings of America
Fry's Community Rewards
Goettl Air Conditioning

Janice Claire Templeton
Louise Everett
Marya A. Landt Trust
Maddie's Fund
Nancy Farley
OHSO Brewery
Petfinder
Pet Club
PetSmart Charities
Scottsdale Quarter
The Agency Arizona
The Nina Mason Pulliam
Charitable Trust
The Petco Foundation

THE LEAGUE - YOUNG PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL

The League is a new council of the Arizona Animal Welfare League made up of 25 elite young professionals that have been selected for membership. The primary function of this group is to attract and retain members of the younger demographic to become involved with

AAWL to help raise funds, expand our outreach into the community, and to provide future board members, volunteers, and fosters.

As part of their involvement in The League, members will receive board training to help prepare them for future opportunities to join non-profit boards in causes they care about.



2017-2018 Advisory Board Members

John Breslow
Sonia Breslow
Roberta Pederson
Jim Pederson
Heidi Fransway
John Fransway
Rick DeGraw
Paula Burgess
Don Burgess
Vik Krishnaswamy
Pam Muir
Norma Ory
Don Tapia
Rich Meyer
Amit Sahasrabudhe
Melissa Esbenshade

AAWL Board Members

Diane Liberman
Chair
Jeanne Baldwin
Treasurer
Amrita Sahasrabudhe
Vice Chair
Margaret Henschel
Secretary
Elyse Meyer
Shane Olafson
Kristen Shroyer
Kenny Farrell
Jon Lane

Staff

Judith Gardner
President & CEO
Dr. Matthew Goetz
Medical Director
Christina Flanagan
Director of Operations
Michael Morefield
Director of Marketing
& Communications
Danielle Briggs
Director of Finance
Whitney Steele
Director of Volunteers &
Special Events
Heather Buck
Director of Education
Gina Ortiz
Director of
Community Outreach



ARIZONA ANIMAL
WELFARE LEAGUE & SPCA

ARIZONA'S OLDEST & LARGEST NO-KILL SHELTER

EIN: 23-7149453

MAIN CAMPUS

Sonia Breslow Adoption Center
25 North 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

CHANDLER FASHION CENTER

Arizona Animal Welfare League Adoption Center
3111 West Chandler Blvd
Chandler, AZ 85226

AAWL.org

Artwork designed & donated
by artist, Jules Gissler
JulesGissler.com