



ARIZONA'S OLDEST & LARGEST NO-KILL SHELTER
**ARIZONA ANIMAL
WELFARE LEAGUE
& SPCA**

IMPACT REPORT 2020

AAWL CARES.

When they reach for help, we take hold. When they cry in pain, we comfort. When they are lost, we lead the way. We are there for them, because of you.

AAWL.ORG

HOW WE HELPED



FOSTER
PUPPIES & KITTENS



1,302 LIVES
\$117,017 FOR
THEIR CARE



165
MOMS & BABIES RESCUED



65

MEDICAL MIRACLE ANIMALS

\$208,000 OF ABOVE
& BEYOND CARE



891



LOW COST VACCINES
TO THE PUBLIC

**RURAL
RESCUE**
141 TRIPS



37,242
MILES DRIVEN

2,894
SURGERIES



35,000 LBS

FOOD DONATED & DELIVERED
TO RESCUE PARTNERS

AZ ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE MAIN CAMPUS
Sonia Breslow Adoption Center
25 North 40th Street | Phoenix, AZ 85034
602.273.6852

CHANDLER FASHION CENTER
AAWL Adoption Center (Near Dillard's)
3111 West Chandler Blvd | Chandler, AZ 85226
602.781.3906

AAWL CARES



Caring for others is an important topic of conversation this year along with being a vital part of a community. And, by “others”, we mean homeless animals and the people that care for them that need our help.

Our community keeps growing and impacting what we do and how we do it. Founded 49 years ago, AAWL was part of a small, local community. As the years went by, our impact and effectiveness reached across the Valley. More recently our community grew to include the entire state of Arizona due to our partnerships with rescues in rural locations where we have kept thousands of animals from being euthanized.

Now, due to the pandemic, people are relying on their pets to provide companionship, love and comfort while they are isolated. However, many are finding themselves in desperate situations having lost jobs and facing losing their homes. This leaves thousands of animals at risk, which is why we created AAWL Cares. Not only do we provide high quality, low-cost veterinary services to those who need them, but we are part of a collaborative effort to help those in need find resources to help them during this crisis.

We want nothing more than to keep pets with their families. Overriding all our efforts is that we care so much...as do YOU! After all, there is no way we could have grown to the impactful organization we are today without other caring people – you, our donors, our volunteers and the myriad of people who respond to every call out we make when we need something to help the animals we serve and the people who love them.

Now, more than ever, we continue to count on your kindness and generosity. In this report you will read many examples of how the funding and other resources you provided made all the difference to some very special animals who received our help because of you. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to continue and expand our work at a time where even more demands are being made of us.

Thank you for caring so much and enjoy reading about some extraordinary stories that only scratch the surface of things that happened this past year. And, speaking of change, next year – after 13 years of leading this wonderful organization, I will be retiring on April 30, 2021. I would like to thank all of you, our staff and volunteers, donors and supporters for the honor of allowing me to have the best job in the world and helping us save thousands of precious lives over these years.

Best wishes for good health, happiness and lots of slobbery kisses and loud purrs from your special companions!

Judith A. Gardner

Judith A. Gardner
President & CEO

We must help those in need, so they can keep their furry babies. All animals deserve a warm loving home.

- Cecilia Claudio

The Cecilia Claudio Lifesaving Miracle Fund is doubling every donation up to \$50,000 until Dec. 31st 2020!

ADOPTIONS

It's a lifechanging bond; building families between those searching for love and those looking for a new life. AAWL can only continue our lifesaving mission if the community opens their hearts and homes to those we rescue. Even with temporarily closing an adoption center and appointment-based adoptions to ensure the safety of our community, people came to adopt pets as fast as AAWL could rescue them. Looking for a "quarantine companion," a "lockdown buddy," or finally realizing what they needed in their life, it's been incredible to see the outpouring of love. Thousands of new families continue to be created every day.



"It was her eyes, so full of sadness." Kathryn sat outside Willa's Kennel; an old dog, losing her family twice in 3 months, watching as people passed her by because of her age. She saw the love Willa still had to share with the world and knew her family was not complete without the dappled girl looking up at her. As they spent their days together hiking, snuggling, and meeting new friends, Kathryn saw Willa's greatest gift; she wore her heart on her paw. Such empathy, an innate sense to comfort those who needed help. After months of training, Willa became certified as a therapy dog for her mom's psychiatry practice. During the hardest sessions, Willa ventures from her bed and lays with her patients. Sometimes offering a paw, sometimes a perfectly timed kiss on their hand. She became everything a shelter dog can be; a beacon of hope and happiness in a tumultuous world. Old dogs can learn new tricks, some can even heal broken hearts.

*Azul is the best friend and companion that we could ever ask for. **He literally saved my life during a health crisis last winter**, woke me up by persistently nudging me when I was having trouble breathing. Forever thankful.*

– Jenn B.

Those with the hardest shells are sometimes the most fragile. Tuscany mewed for attention, then a swift swat for anyone who came too close. An enigma; craving love, but too scared to be hurt again. A year passed at the shelter, while staff and volunteers slowly chipped away at her fear and replaced it with love. Finally, a man drove from Tucson after hearing her story about how long she had lived at AAWL. He embraced the sass and loved the real Tuscany, but with quarantine and the world in flux, he worried he couldn't give the life she deserved. A plan was hatched; whatever it takes to make her happy. AAWL offered free food for a year, direct access to a cat behaviorist, her favorite cat tree, transport to Tucson, and a two week "slumber party." Within days, they were playing fetch, squabbling over couch space, and building an unbreakable bond; at long last, they had found each other. It was fate; there is a person for every rescue, and a rescue for every person.



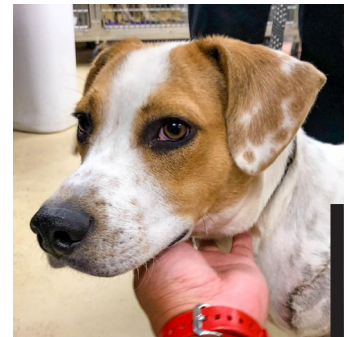
MD PETCARE



As our shelter builds families, MD Petcare keeps them together. Whether it's low-cost vaccine clinics for pets or affordable, high quality surgeries and procedures, AAWL's low cost public clinic, MD Petcare, is committed to pet owners in the Valley. To ensure every animal has access to care, we also open our doors to local rescues needing quality care at a price they can afford. A pillar of our mission, MD Petcare helps thousands of animals stay healthy and gives their owners the opportunity to provide the best care at affordable prices for their beloved pets.

CALL TO HELP ANSWERED

The call for help raced through the valley; a local rescue found a dog wandering the streets with an injured and infected leg requiring immediate amputation. Their vet tested positive for COVID-19, and the emergency surgery at another office would cost over \$3,000, which they could not afford. With access to multiple vets and top of line equipment, AAWL's MD Petcare knew they could provide the surgery; saving the dog and saving the rescue thousands of dollars. The surgery was a success; Bizkit was no longer in agonizing pain and was learning how to walk again on three legs during his follow up visits! Financial hardship should never be the factor for saving an animal; whether it's a family or a rescue, MD Petcare is there.



MD Petcare is essential for my three dogs. They have removed tumors, managed Valley Fever and treated all three every year with annual shots at a reasonable price and caring veterinarians that always call back and discuss treatment. Maintaining the livelihood of my girls would have been impossible without MD Petcare. Thank you for everything.

- Bernadette W.



SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER:
MDPETCARE.ORG

RURAL RESCUE



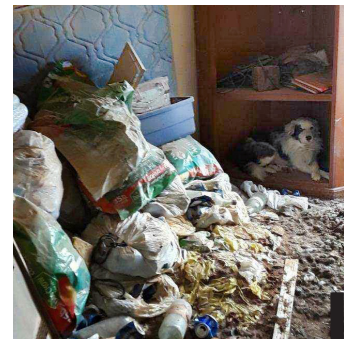
Reaching the farthest corners of Arizona and expanding across the southwest, The Rural Rescue program has saved the lives of over 10,000 animals needing the love and support AAWL provides. From food deliveries, shelter knowledge of best practices, blankets and vaccines, Rural Rescue provides the lifeline to these communities that lack resources. With 32 rescue partners in the southwest, we work together to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome thousands of vulnerable animals every year.

HOARDED AND ABANDONED

They surveyed the house; trash piled up for years, feces covering the floor, and a quick flash of movement in the corner confirmed their worst suspicions. 26 dogs were hiding among the filth in the house. Meanwhile, 50 miles away, another group of abandoned dogs were at risk of being shot and needed our help.

For hours, the team worked tirelessly to rescue every dog. Some craved human affection and ran to our team. Others slowly enticed from hiding places, their only safe place for most of their life. The team saw the hardest cases from afar; piercing eyes, terrified of human contact, teeth snarled in fear. After all 26 dogs had been caught, and after our team regained their strength from hours of grueling work in the hot Arizona sun, they began the drive to save the other abandoned dogs.

With the property owner stating he would “shoot any dogs left”, our team knew there was no room for error. Miraculously, the dogs had an unbeatable spirit after surviving with the help of our Rural Rescue partner. With stunning eyes, adorable ears, and a profound limp, one dog, Mariley, wobbled slowly to our team. Even without an X-ray, our team knew her injuries were severe, but now she was finally safe. Over 30 dogs were rescued during the hardest day of Rural Rescues AAWL has ever faced, all now in loving homes and living their best lives.



THE BRAVEST BOY

After a day coaxing them into her car, our Rural Rescue partner drove the seven terrified schnauzers living in the desert hundreds of miles to AAWL. Unknown to everyone, one had given birth and was now hours away from her puppies.

Racing back across Arizona to find them, the rescuer saw a white silhouette in the distance. Stepping closer, she heard the tiny cries; week old puppies starving and cold. Their protector, a great pyrenees, standing



over them. His lifetime of loyalty drove him to protect the tiny puppies after their mom had left, watching over until someone returned. Through cold nights and lack of food, he would not falter. His actions were not without sacrifice. She looked at his giant head while scooping up the puppies. The pyrenees' face was riddled with porcupine quills, apparently from an attack while he protected the helpless babies.

The crying puppies, who hadn't eaten for days, and the large dog were led by their protector back to her car, driven to AAWL knowing we could save them. Our medical team leapt into action; the puppies were bottle fed every three hours for weeks, while "Spike" endured multiple surgeries to remove the quills buried in his face. He will never know the bravery he showed or understand the lives he saved. He only knows he was a good boy.

This has been a very challenging time for Rural Rescues: where we are located, there is no Animal Control and no county shelters. We are profoundly grateful to AAWL for helping us tackle some difficult situations this year involving multiple animals, many of which had health/behavior issues. Concho Animal Advocates is proud to be an AAWL rescue partner!

- Heather, founder, Concho Animal Advocates



MEDICAL MIRACLE FUND



The hardest cases that walk, or are carried, through our doors become the Medical Miracles we strive to make possible. The last chance at a second chance. Partners without access to medical care drive hundreds of miles to AAWL for this lifesaving care. Specialized surgeries, emergency care, months of rehab; no matter what our animals need, the Medical Miracle Fund is there for them.

FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

He slumped to the floor, one last scratch on the closed door his final chance at salvation. The family opened the door to see the dog they'd befriended in the desert slowly dying. Deep punctures around his neck and throat, his ears almost entirely cut off, back leg hanging at his side; Billy had been viciously attacked and was fading away. A flurry of calls through a network built through our Rural Rescue program, they knew his only chance was the AAWL. Beyond the horrendous injuries, Billy's eyelids had grown inwards, every blink agony. One vet tech cleaned his wounds, another held his paw to comfort him; for hours.

After everything that happened to him, with every right to give up on the world, he only wanted to be loved. No matter how much pain he was in, he would slowly stand and hobble to anyone remotely near him for pets. Thanks to our Medical Miracle Fund, multiple eye surgeries, orthopedic specialists, and months of rehab meant that no care was denied a dog the world had forgotten. A dog that only wanted to be loved.



FREEWILL

Estate planning is an essential step to ensure that your dog or cat is always protected and cared for, while also helping the most difficult rescues. AAWL has partnered with FreeWill to provide an online will-writing tool to our community. It's safe, secure, and it's 100% free to use.

Learn more at: [Freewill.com/aawl](https://freewill.com/aawl)

LOU AND HIS FRIENDS

The home was ash, once housing almost a dozen cats hoarded in the small house. Lou, covered in burns on his face and body, was the last to escape. Knowing he may need long-term medical care, while the other cats could have unknown injuries, our partners knew AAWL was the only shelter that could provide the intensive medical care through the Medical Miracle Fund. With access to specialized vets, a fully equipped clinic, and medical staff trained for the worst, Lou and his friends received weeks of care, exams, and finally clean bills of health to find their new families. When the hardest cases hit, AAWL is always ready to help those in need.



PUPPY MILL SURVIVORS



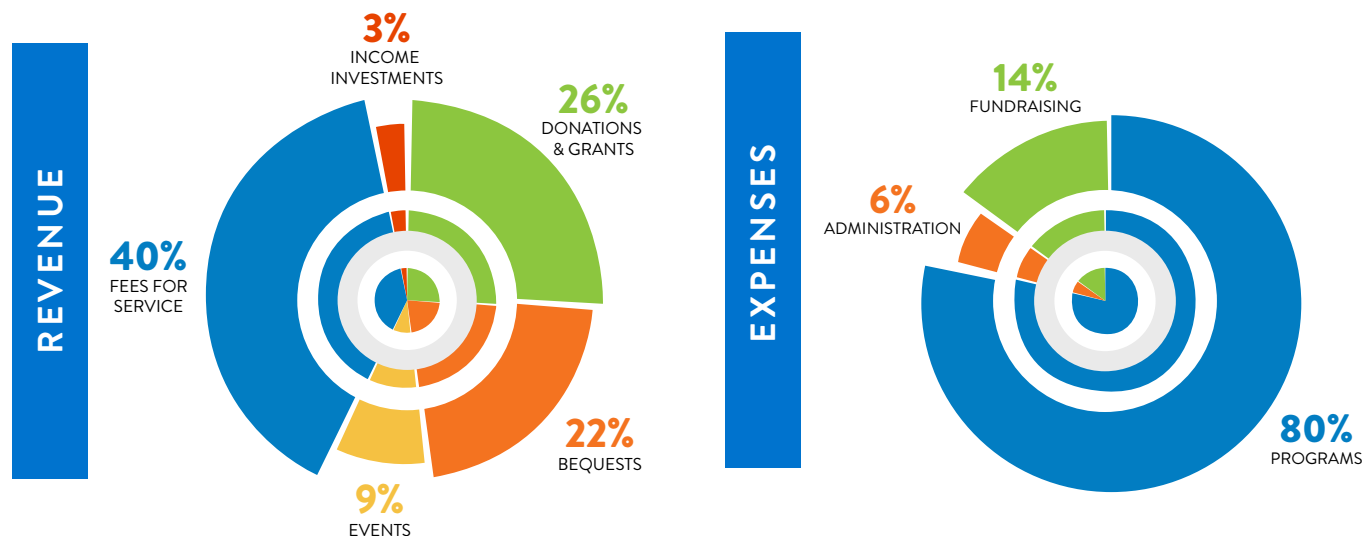
Our team carried the terrified dogs from the truck; the beginning of the new life they deserved after years of pain in a puppy mill. Forced to breed constantly for years in tiny cages and lacking medical care, these dogs were given nothing of comfort or love their entire lives. Until now. Immediately, our medical team leapt into action to fight years of neglect, finding long forgotten injuries and life-threatening emergencies. Courage, an 8 lbs shih tzu,

clung to our vet tech as she carried her to the clinic, most likely the longest human contact she ever received. Our vet discovered a bladder stone the entire size of her bladder. She was rushed into surgery, finally receiving the care she desperately needed. Tony, a small sweet poodle, had multiple slipped discs in his back. One more, and he would never walk again. Given medication to ease his pain, Tony was sent to an orthopedic surgeon and was later adopted by the vet tech that assisted during his surgery. Rotten teeth, broken bones, malnutrition; AAWL could only rescue 156 puppy mill survivors this year thanks to the Medical Miracle Fund.



FINANCIALS

AAWL has a fiduciary responsibility, ensuring donations and community support provide the best care for our animals, with absolute transparency to those who have entrusted their resources to our mission.



FOSTER

The moment quarantine orders began, AAWL was inundated with requests from our community ready and willing to open their homes to animals in need of fostering. Over the course of 2020, we had more than 1,000 new families request to foster for AAWL. The outpouring of support has been so great that AAWL expanded the numbers of animals placed in foster care this year, saving more lives! As the landscape of animal welfare constantly changes, we will expand the reach and depth of our foster department in 2021 to accommodate this new normal. We can't thank the community enough for their support of this program and the thousands of lives they have helped us save.



VOLUNTEER



We have seen so much greatness in our volunteers this year. They adjusted their schedules to sign up for shifts and came consistently - even during a summer that marked record temps - to ensure our animals received individualized love and attention daily. The volunteers that couldn't come in person showed up in other ways - sewing hundreds of masks and gowns for our teams, bringing dogs into their homes for weeks on end, and even helping each other by assisting elderly and immunocompromised volunteers with their grocery shopping. We have always thought of our volunteers as family, but never more so than in 2020. AAWL is ready to tackle whatever next year brings with our amazing army of volunteers by our side.

SPECIAL THANKS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Fix. Adopt. Save	Zeke & Ginger Fur Kid Fund
Greatergood.org	Walter Station Brewery
Tito's Vodka	Cascio Motors
Animal Medical Surgical Center	Subaru
	Cecilia Claudio



AAWL'S WORK IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO CARE

Alicia F. Maharty Foundation
American Family Insurance Dreams
Foundation Inc
Arizona Community Foundation
Arizona Medical Waste
Arthur & Joan Weisberg Family Foundation
Babbo Italian Eatery
Barkworthies
Bissell Pet Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
BMO Harris Bank
Cactus Tennis Alliance
Canidae LLC
CBIZ
Champion Petfoods
Chapman BMW on Camelback
Clyde Riley Fund
CopperPoint Insurance Companies
Cox Charities
Dalke Design Group LLC
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Dorothy D. and Joseph A. Moller Foundation
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Frantzman Scott Charitable Foundation
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Gorjana & Griffin Inc
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Hill's Pet Nutrition
IDEXX
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National PEO LLC
North Central University
Petco Foundation
PetSmart Charities
Polsinelli
RunBuddy Mobile
Salt River Project
Target Circle
The AtLee Family Foundation, Inc
The D.L. Withers Charitable Foundation
The LGBTQ Libertarian Fund
The Pederson Group
The Thunderbirds
Unity Physician Services
Zia Enterprises, Inc. dba Zia Records



A special thank you to the Abrams family of Reliable Carriers for their very generous donation of a legendary NASCAR, raising over \$250K for AAWL at Barrett Jackson this year! Continuing their incredible Philanthropy, they have donated a second charity car for auction in 2021!

2020-2021 AAWL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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25 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LIFESAVING WORK!

The AAWL of 1971 was a very different organization back then! Small buildings made of boards and chicken wire, primarily a foster program for strays and a team led by Amanda Blake, who was very famous nationally as “Miss Kitty” on the TV show “Gunsmoke”. We think Ms. Blake would be ecstatic over the current state of the organization she started and would be thrilled that more than 100,000 homeless animals have been saved over these 50 years. We will be creating a printed journal of the first 50 years of AAWL to commemorate this historic achievement and to honor those who have made it possible.



To make a donation:

Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA
25 North 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034
602.273.6852 x106 | tvalencia@aawl.org



[AAWL.ORG/SAVEALIFE](https://aawl.org/savealife)

Tax ID: 23-714953