



Q1 Volunteer Pack Meet-up Q&A

Behavior Questions

1. Is there a way to submit behavior notes electronically?

We have started exploring possibly options for electronic behavior submissions. This has been an ask from volunteers, and staff members and we are exploring different platforms and opportunities that would make this possible.

2. What steps are being taken to reduce the number of dogs being euthanized?

We are thankful to be at a 98% live release rate and sanctioned as a no-kill shelter by remaining at over a 90% live release rate since AAWL was founded. We are continuing to review how each of the different departments impacts the cats and dogs in our care and how we can push forward with saving even more lives. Humane euthanasia is a difficult part of animal welfare, and we will continue to explore more partnerships that may support in transfers for placement.

3. Are there additional trainings scheduled for the behavior group so they can better deal with problem dogs?

We have 3 CPDT certified staff members (Certified Professional Dog Trainer), meaning they have a diploma focusing on advanced, science-based canine behavior and training. Along with these certifications, our behavior teams (canine & feline), continue to attend classes, webinars and more to learn more about the ever-evolving world of behavior & animal welfare. They continue their education with compassion to support even more animals!

4. Will the old-fashioned playgroups be re-instated? There have been very few playgroups since new rules were established, and the new playgroups handle very few dogs.

The DPFL style playgroups will not be reinstated, we are continuing to move forward with the SPA style playgroup model. We are working towards sharing more about

this updated playgroup style and training more staff & volunteers. While there are smaller group sizes in the SPA style playgroup, being able to better analyze the smaller number of dogs and be even more effective in our behavior support.

5. There is often a disparity in the dog behavior that is listed on the behavior board or on the kennel and what dog walkers actually experience. Are there plans to rectify this?

We are working on more ways to better share communication between staff to volunteers and volunteers to staff. Including potential electronic behavior notes submissions, or updated kennel cards with different information. If there is anything that is noted about a pet and you have questions, feel free to reach out to the Volunteer Team so that we can review PetPoint notes and get more information as we can.

Medical Questions

1. Is there a plan to keep dogs from being euthanized when they have long term medical problems (possibly even fatal) but are not currently in pain?

We are continuing to strengthen our rescue partnerships to explore more opportunities for potential medical or behavior transfers that would support a pet. We recently transferred a dog that was diagnosed with cancer that had metastasized, and we had an opportunity to find her rescue as she still had a good quality of life. There are considerations that take place when considering transfers or other outcomes with medical cases that can impact opportunities.

2. Now that we'll have A/C in the kennels, will any changes be made regarding walking and yarding dogs in the summer? Any plans to modify the "no dog walks when it is over 90 degrees" rule? Most dogs can tolerate at least a short walk in the heat, especially if the humidity is low.

There is not a current plan to update the heat protocol immediately after the AC is in all the kennel buildings. WE plan to allow the new systems to settle in and see how the systems work, and our animals settle into this. There is an opportunity for us to adjust the heat protocol down the line, we would most likely update the temperature at which the "no long walks" would start at, but would still limit to yard time, and no out of kennel time at a certain temperature. These are additional safety precautions that we take as a shelter for the pets in our care!

General Questions

1. Why was money spent to purchase the neighboring property?

AAWL is landlocked by surrounding businesses, roads and the canal so purchasing additional properties allows us the opportunity to continue to expand in the future. Our Board is committed to looking 5, 10, 15 years in the future and ensuring that we have the resources, and the land to continue to push forward AAWL as a leading no-kill shelter in Arizona.

2. How will you be spending the million dollar donation raised by Alex Bowman?

We apologize about this miscommunication, we did not receive one-million dollars from Alex Bowman, we received his one-millionth dollar of his overall donations to animal shelters across the USA. During his race seasons, he partners with a local animal shelter and provides them a donation to further their cause, AAWL receives a portion of his philanthropic efforts in partnership with Best Friends, about \$4,800 to our life-saving programs.

3. When are the new white boards that were promised back in December going to be installed?

Artwork for the whiteboards has been submitted to our designer to review and submit a final draft. Once we confirm the layout, we will be getting a sample board printed to review. The goal is for all buildings to have new whiteboards once we are done with the AC project in each of the areas.