



# Teen Track Times

Fall 2010

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## Forgotten

A Short Story by Teen Tracker, Serena Cueva



It's back to the boy's birthday a year ago, oh how excited the boy was to find that his dreams had come true and he was getting a puppy! He was beyond excited, squeezing and tugging at the small brown and white puppy, and the little puppy was just as excited to see the boy. The boy named the puppy Benji. Immediately, the two of them were the best of friends, never ending entertainment for one another. 1 year later, little brown and white puppy is all grown up. Not quite as small and fluffy and snuggly, not quite as appealing to the little boy. Now a grown dog, Benji crawls into the bed of the boy, but the boy pushes him off, grumbling about him being too big and always trying to get in his

space. Benji is puzzled, wasn't he always allowed on the bed? He could jump on the bed and the boy would cover him with kisses and gushy words of love. Why was that forgotten? As always, he waits at the door for the boy to come home, waits at the door to go play fetch outside with him, but every time, the boy walks by without more than a glance in Benji's direction. "Benji, move! Why are you so big? You were so much cuter when I got you." Over again, he is pushed aside, no longer any significant part of the boy's life. Three days later, the family gets ready to leave for vacation. Like before, Benji loads in the car, ready for a trip to doggy-day-care. They arrive to a place, a different place, there are still lots of dogs, but this isn't for play. Lost, Benji looks up at his favorite person in the world, his best friend, and the boy says, "Bye Benji." And with a pat on the head, he's gone. They're not coming back for him this time. Benji sees rows and rows of kennels, and that is the same sight for months. His ears haven't perked in months, his tail never wagged. Person after person walks by, but no one stops. One morning, a young girl stops in front of Benji's kennel. For the first time in months, Benji perks, gives a little tail wag and his eyes lift. This time, he will leave his kennel, and he won't be coming back.

[www.aawl.org/ED](http://www.aawl.org/ED)

Education Department  
30 North 40th Place  
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Phone: 602-273-6852 x121  
Fax: 602-275-3610  
Email: [education@aawl.org](mailto:education@aawl.org)



## Artist's Corner

Submitted by Teen Alexa Williams

“Mango”

## My Teen Track Experience

### The Teen Track Phoenix Herpetological Society Service Project

On October 23, 2010, in Teen Tracks we took a trip to the Phoenix Herpetological Society to do a service project. The group I was in was restoring the tortoise enclosure. We took the challenge of filling massive burrows that the tortoises had dug. We first had to check inside the burrows for any tortoises. If we were to find tortoises in a burrow, we had the job of crawling into the hole and pulling them out. Then after our rescue mission we would fill the hole with surrounding dirt.

After three and a half hours of hard labor and accomplishing our service project, at the Phoenix Herpetological Society, we took a lunch break. We went to the pool deck to eat our pizza lunch. The pool deck is also the enclosure for the wallabies. We enjoyed our lunch with the wallabies. Some of us were nearly two feet away from the them! How many people do you know that have eaten pizza next to an non-caged wallaby? Not many people can say that.

After lunch with wallabies we saw a wide variety of reptiles. The most common animals we saw were red-eared sliders (turtles) and tortoises. Some of the unfamiliar and exotic animals we saw were alligators, crocodiles, monitors, and a mammal called a kinkajou. We saw snakes that ranged from red-tail boas to every breed of rattlesnake and then to cobras. It's a plus to being a Teen Tracker!

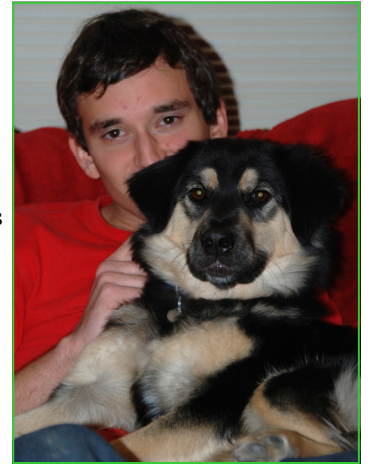
-Krista Straight



## Success Story

As an instructor at AAWL, I am constantly taking groups of kids over to the shelter to meet and play with the dogs. There was one dog, Rosati (now named Maya), that caught my attention. She was a gorgeous Australian Shepherd mix, and the sweetest dog. I took her out to a yard once to play with the kids, and while the kids had fun with her too, I felt a special connection to her. The next couple of times I took kids on a tour of the shelter, she was still there, and I made sure to give her lots of love, growing more attached to her each time. When Friday November 26th came along, I decided to do my Black Friday shopping at AAWL. I took Maya out into a yard one more time, and by now I was officially in love. I adopted her that day. I have now had Maya home with me for 2 weeks, and it has been lots of fun for her and me. She is the greatest dog one could ask for. Perfect size, loves to cuddle, loves to play with humans and dogs alike, not a barker, gets along with my other dogs at home. Most of all, I can tell how much she loves her Daddy, and how appreciative she is of having a forever home. I love the fact the I get to work at AAWL and spread the message about saving animals lives to the Valley's youth, and now I get to be an example of that message as well.

-Corey Romberg, Instructor, Education Department



## Pick of the Litter

### Tillman the Terrific!



Tillman was found chained to the pipes of the administrative building at AAWL shaking and terrified. So terrified, in fact, that the employee who discovered him had to carry him inside as he would not move and stayed glued to the floor. He was originally given the nickname "Pancake" due to his shyness and preference to stay close to the ground but has quickly come out of his shell. He loves playing with toys and other dogs and once he gets to know you will be your best bud. Tillman needs a wonderful and patient forever home that will help him understand that not all people are bad. Emily Asche, AAWL Executive Assistant, (pictured with Tillman) has spent a great deal of time with him and can answer any questions you might have about this wonderful guy. You can contact her at [easche@aawl.org](mailto:easche@aawl.org) with any questions. During the week you can find him relaxing in the courtyard of the administrative building. Drop by, give him a treat and get to know this fantastic guy!

**Good with kids?:** Jr. High and up, please

**Good with cats?:** Not good with cats

**Good with other dogs?:** Good with dogs

### Cassie the Cutest!



This adorable cream tabby has been in the Cattery for FAR too long! Cassie is hard to resist with her round, chubby face and expressive eyes. She is an independent girl who likes to spend her days taking in her surroundings but absolutely adores chin scratches and deli meat. Folks in the Cattery love to watch her do her "meat dance" for a slice of turkey where she stands high on her hind legs and begs with her paws.

She is tolerant of other cats as long as they are kept at a distance. Please consider this wonderful, companionable cat this holiday season!



**Breed:** Shorthair- Cream Tabby

**Gender:** Female-Spayed

**Birthday:** 3-20-2006

declawed



# Home for the Holidays

Amazing holiday adoption specials!

Dogs 6 months +	\$50
Cats 6 months +	\$10
Kittens	\$50

Adoption Promotion Ends Christmas Day!

## Things to Remember

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### Upcoming Dates:

Let me know if you are coming back for spring 2011: by January 3, 2011

Spring 2011 Application Deadline (for new teens only): January 3, 2011

Orientation and First Day: January 15, 2011 (9am—1pm)

### Have a good idea for the newsletter?

Do you have a brilliant idea for future Teen Track Times or want to get more involved in creating art, success stories or other interesting pieces? E-mail all submissions to Rachael Gardner at [rgardner@aawl.org](mailto:rgardner@aawl.org) or call 602-273-6852 ext. 122 if you have questions.

### Education Items Needed:

Simple Green –brand cleaning solution, hand sanitizer, reptile bedding, small animal bedding, small animal toys, Mazuri-brand ferret, hamster and guinea pig diet, Nutriphase-brand rabbit diet, Exotic Nutrition-brand sugar glider diet with eucalyptus, adult scissors, packing tape, Kleenex tissues, distilled gallon water, manila folders