



Teen Track Times

Spring 2010

ANIMALTALES™
EDUCATION CAMPUS



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Teens and Tortoises

The Teen Track group serves the Phoenix Herpetological Society

On the morning of April 3, 2010 the Arizona Animal Welfare League's Teen Trackers took the long drive to the Phoenix Herpetological Society in North Scottsdale, Arizona. The Phoenix Herpetological Society is a nonprofit group dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and care of reptiles. They house an incredible 460+ different native and non-native species of snakes, tortoises, turtles, crocodiles, alligators, monitors, iguanas and much more! The care of all these crazy critters is extensive and the Teen Track group wanted to help.



Desert Tortoises are a protected species in their native Arizona. Although the Phoenix Herpetological Society is able to adopt tortoises out to homes that fit specific and strict guidelines with documentation, it is illegal to own a desert tortoise. Many of the tortoises that come to Phoenix Herp. are from rescue situations where they were either being housed illegally, received insufficient care, or who may have critical injuries.

Desert tortoises, like most tortoises, hibernate in the winter when the temperature drops below a livable climate and food becomes scarce. The recent long Arizona winter resulted in desert tortoise environments at P.H.S. that were overgrown with weeds, in need of plants, sod and debris removal. Teen Trackers got to work immediately removing weeds as tall as 4 ft, clearing the pens and planting rose bushes, sod and other native plants. 3 hours of hard labor resulted in a space that could now be used for education tours and welcome the desert tortoises out of their long hibernation.



Teen Trackers were able to be the first to greet these gregarious reptiles when they emerged from their burrows who curiously followed them around as they worked. P.H.S. long-time volunteer, Bob, who heads the desert tortoise department, was impressed with the dedication of these young volunteers saying how "dedicated" and "hard working" they were. Staff and tortoises alike are grateful to the Teen Trackers of AAWL!

-Rachael Gardner

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Artist's Corner



Submitted by Teen Tracker Iris Avila

“Guapo”

My Teen Track Experience

The Teen Tracks experience has been amazing for me. So many opportunities to do things with animals and SO much to learn!

The first thing I love about Teen Tracks is that they make you work. Usually with campish things like this where you learn things about animals they show you the animals and tell you about them and play games, but they rarely make you work. Teen Tracks teaches you responsibility, how to work, to be respectful, about uniformity, and while your at it, you can be with your friends!

The next reason why Teen Tracks is so wonderful is because you learn a lot about animals and you get to hold all different types of animals. Teen Tracks helps if you ever want an exotic animal like a lizard, then they help you learn more about that lizard and how to hold them so they are nice and comfortable. They also teach you how to hold a ton of different exotic animals; and how many people get to say "Hey! I've held a chinchilla" before?

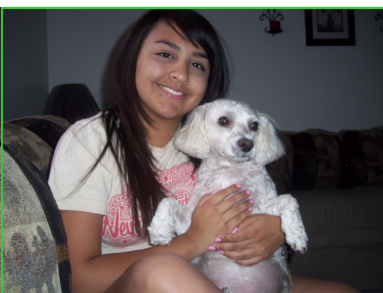
The final reason Teen Tracks is great is because of all the field trips you go on. The field trips you get to go on are amazing places that I didn't even know existed! You get to learn and see and hold all kinds of animals you never thought you would ever see so close up or see at all!

All and all Teen tracks is wonderful and I suggest to all who love animals and wants to work with them when they are older should join.

-Hannah Rohlf



Our club sponsor informed the C.A.R.E. Club (Centralians For Animal Rights Education) that we would be having a guest speaker at the next meeting from the AAWL. I had no idea what to expect, however, my mind was blown away when I arrived at the next meeting and saw Terri [former education department staff member] holding a Bearded Dragon.



Terri proceeded to tell us about the shelter and explain the Teen Tracks program. I immediately knew that I wanted to apply. Since becoming a part of Teen Tracks, my love and respect for animals has only grown more. All of my experiences at the AAWL have increased my knowledge about animals and encouraged me to stay in the animal field after graduating from the Teen Tracks program.

-Klaria Corella

Success Story

Angela is a 2 year old tabby calico cat. She was at the Arizona Animal Welfare League for most of her life. She is a very loving and sweet girl who loved to give kisses and would come when called. When she was little she had a bad eye infection that left her out of sight from the public for many months. She was at the shelter for almost a year and she was finally adopted by her foster parents. She now loves to sit with her new family and loves her new home. Thank you AAWL staff and volunteers for giving this sweet girl a place to live until she found her forever home!

-Marissa Klapper



Pick of the Litter

Gobi the Great!

Gobi is an energetic 1 1/2 year old Pit Bull Terrier who has stolen the hearts of all who have met him. He loves to be around other dogs and can't seem to get enough human companionship. This 70 pound hunk is an absolute love-bug and is changing perceptions about the Pit Bull breed just by being himself! When they found Gobi he was wandering the streets, severely underweight and had an infestation of mites over his entire body. Fostered through a wonderful AAWL volunteer, Gobi has made a full recovery and has a clean bill of health. If you or someone you know would like to meet this adorable guy check out www.aawl.org for more information.



Good with kids?: Good with kids of all ages

Good with cats?: Not good with cats

Good with other dogs?: Good with dogs

Bagira's a Beauty!

Bagira was last issue's pick of the litter and he surprisingly is still at AAWL. Bagira is an incredibly friendly and outgoing cat who has made friends out of all the staff members in the Cattery. He loves the outdoors and is fond of his daily walks on a leash. That's right, he can walk on a leash! He is currently up for adoption for only \$5 during our "Cinco de Meow-o" special through May 9th, 2010.

Tom Strom, a current Teen Tracker, and family spent some time fostering this wonderful cat and here is what he has to say about him:

"I would just like to say that he is an amazing cat and that it is fun to watch him look through a window at all the things he would like to eat. He was a well behaved cat even with dogs and was even okay with 2 other cats. He is almost always ready to play and a little catnip will make him the most motivated cat you'll ever see. He also behaves just like a dog and will let you walk him around in his own special harness."



Breed: Shorthair- Tuxedo

Gender: Male - Neutered

Birthday: 2007-06-09



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The Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA has been nominated in three (3) categories:

“Shopping & Services”

“Kids & Family”

“Kids & Family”

BEST ANIMAL SHELTER

BEST SUMMER CAMP

BEST BIRTHDAY VENUE

You can vote one (1) time a day PER computer so VOTE for us EVERY DAY!

Hurry, voting ends April 28th!

Things to Remember

Upcoming Dates:

Application Deadline (for new teens only): September 4, 2010

Orientation and First Day: September 18, 2010 (9am—1pm)

Jr. Camp Counselor Training (handlers+ only please): May 21, 2010 (1pm—3pm)

Summer Camps: weekly sessions (M-F) beginning May 31 and ending August 6, 2010

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 or call 602-273-6852 ext. 122 if you have questions.

Education Items Needed:

plastic water bottles, simple green solution, reptile bulbs (60—100 watt), hand sanitizer, reptile bedding, small animal bedding, FerretVite, small animal toys, Mazuri brand ferret diet, copy paper.