



Teen Track Times

Spring 2015

Inside this issue:

<i>My Teen Track Experience</i>	Page 1
<i>Rescues Rock, Stellar Service</i>	Page 2
<i>Pick of the Litter, Exotic Ambassador Highlight</i>	Page 3
<i>Artist's Corner</i>	Pages 4-5
<i>For Your Consideration</i>	Page 6-7
<i>Animal Experiences</i>	Page 8
<i>What AAWL is to Me</i>	Page 9
<i>Personal Pets</i>	Page 10
<i>Things to Remember</i>	Page 10

ANIMALTALLES™
EDUCATION CAMPUS



My Experience in Teen Tracks

This was my first semester in teen tracks and have gotten the chance to do so many activities with animals that I would never have gotten to do. I've learned how to hold snakes, sugar gliders and guinea pigs! I've learned the proper way to take dogs out of their kennels, and so much more! I was a little unsure coming into this program that I wouldn't have a lot of friends or the other teens would be cliquy. But that was the opposite! The teens are so nice and inviting, and Shannon and Emilie made me feel like I've been coming here for years and years like some of the other teens. Also, I have a big heart for dogs and going past a shelter always made me sad. But now I know how much love they have here and how well they are taken care of. It really made me feel how much animal shelters are overlooked and how much help they really need. It's amazing that the whole shelter is run on donations! This program, Teen Tracks, has been a great learning experience and I have loved every bit of it!

~Cali Wendt

www.aawl.org/ED

Education Department
15 N 40th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Phone: 602-273-6852 x131
Fax: 602-275-3610
Email: snalley@aawl.org

Rescue's Rock**Piggie Poo Rescue**

I have been at Teen Tracks for four semesters now and have seen many rescues come in as guest speakers. Now they are all great, but one in particular stood out to me. This was the Piggie Poo Rescue, a rescue entirely dedicated to saving guinea pigs! It was founded by Amanda Ketola in 2006 and has only grown from there. Their rescue is dedicated to saving and adopting out guinea pigs. Two volunteers from the rescue center came in to speak. They spoke a lot about the proper care of guinea pigs and how they are a much bigger commitment than you think. This rescue really stood out to me because I had two guinea pigs myself which really made me see how great of pets they can be. I learned that there are many breeds of guinea pigs and how they can vary from having short hair to long hair. I also learned that many pet stores who sell guinea pigs do not provide the proper care for them and there are more risks when you adopt a one from a store. This was a really inspiring rescue that made me realize how important it to care for animals even if they are as small as a guinea pig. If you ever consider adopting one I suggest the Piggie Poo Rescue!!

~Davis Peterson

**Stellar Service****Teen Trackers Help Animals of All Kinds**

Helping Animals of All Shapes and Sizes

By: Brooke Schmidt and Julia Strazz

Something Teen Tracks has taught us, is that it's not just dogs and cats that need help. This semester, we've had the chance to meet people that rescue animals like sugar gliders and guinea pigs. One organization that we were able to work with and learn about, was Horse's Help, a facility that uses horses as a therapy technique for children and adults with special needs. While we were there, we were able to help them with a variety of tasks that needed to be done to improve the facility. Some of these tasks included planting herbs and vegetables, preparing a flower garden, and even transporting horse feces. Although it was hot and the tasks were laborious, it was all worth it when we saw the results. In the end, we even got to take home an herb or vegetable plant of our choice! Events such as this have opened up our eyes to the fact that we can make a difference for animals of all shapes and sizes.

Pick of the Litter

Darling Dixie



Dixie

Breed: German Shepherd Mix
Adoption Price: \$60.00
Gender: Female

Breed: Domestic Shorthair
Adoption Price: \$50
Gender: Male

Dixie is an older gal but don't let that fool you! She just wants a lap to snuggle in and a yard to play in, and maybe even a hike once in a while. She was originally adopted from us 8 years ago but her owner became very sick and couldn't take care of her anymore so she was given to a friend. Her new owner could not keep her and sadly returned her to AAWL as the other dogs didn't like her. Dixie is looking for a home with other dogs and older children, but no cats. She knows how to sit, come, and will walk great on a leash for her new family! If you or someone you know is looking for a sweet, playful girl who loves to get pet, contact AAWL today!

Terrific Tristan

Tristan was surrendered to us from his owner of 5 years who got him as a kitten and was too allergic to keep him any longer.

He is a beautiful blue-eyed boy who is sweet and affectionate and loves to give cuddles.



Exotic Ambassador Highlight

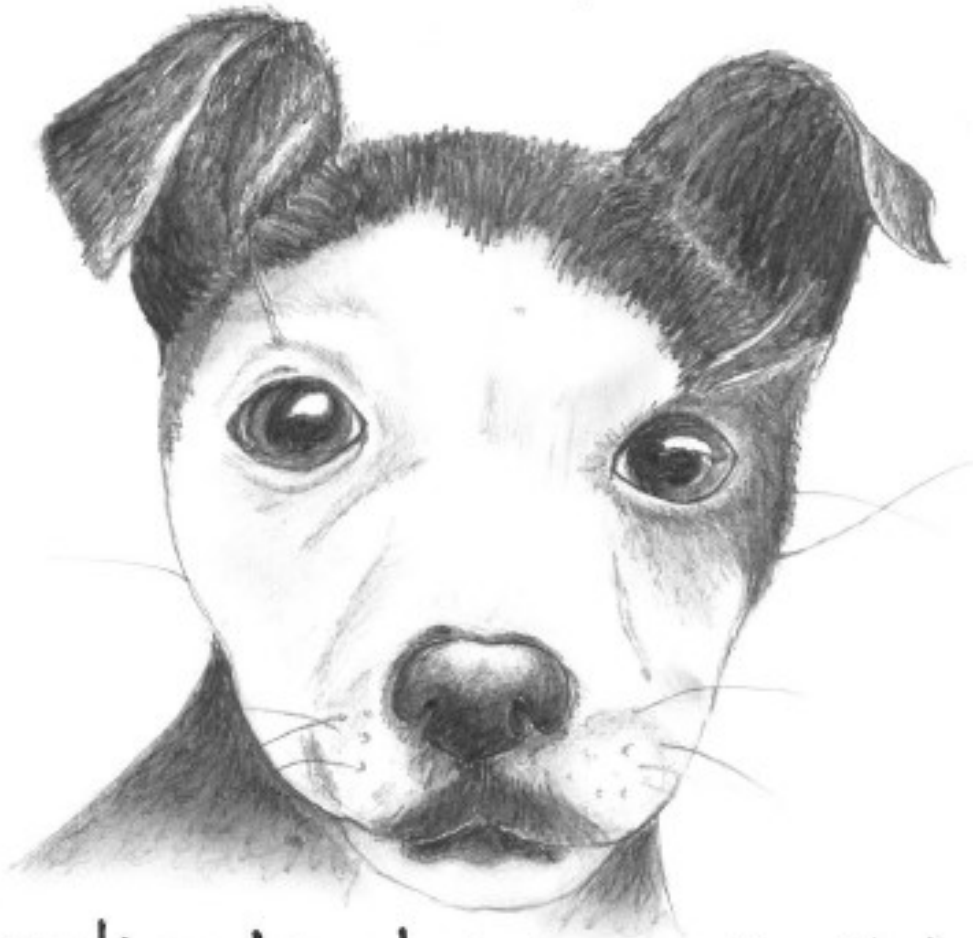
Outstanding Otis



Otis was found by the Arizona Sugar Glider Rescue's Tamra Rothenburger at a fair in California, being tossed between two boys. Tamra thought he was a sugar glider and rescued him from the abuse. Soon she realized that he not only had a broken foot but was also not a sugar glider, but something she had never seen before! Turns out, he is a Short-tail Opossum (also known as a Pygmy Opossum), who are native to South America. We immediately took him in and we quickly realized what a special little guy we had. Otis love snuggling in his hammocks, making dens out of towels, and eating as many insects as he can find! As for his broken foot, it was deemed an old injury that had never received any medical attention and healed improperly. Luckily, it does not cause him any pain and he is seen climbing about his cage as if it works perfectly fine. Otis can be shy at first, but if you take it slow, you can become his new best friend (especially if you have a superworm in your hand). He currently resides in Shannon's office, where he gets treats and love daily.

Artist's Corner

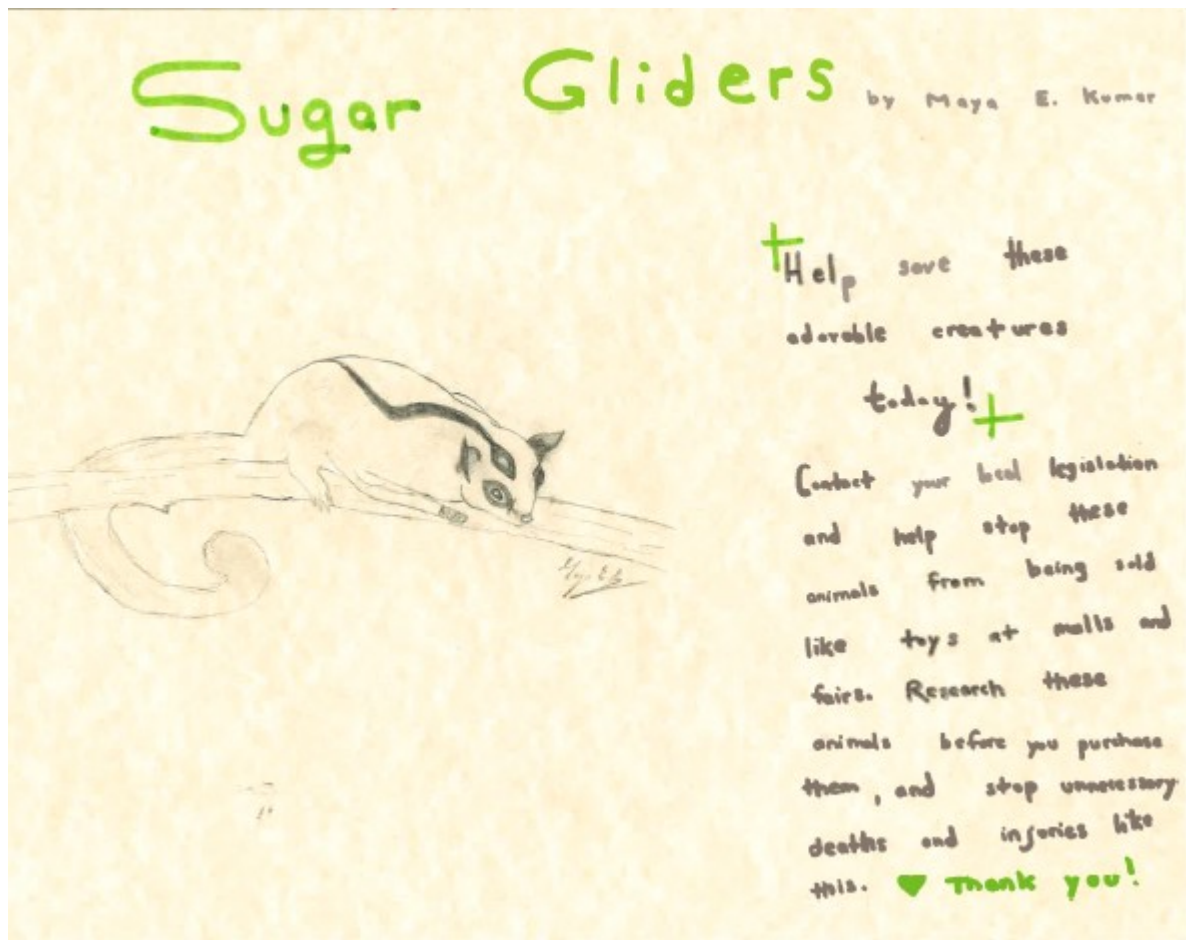
I Will be a Dream Come True...
or a total nightmare
My owner will decide which
Born to love - taught to hate



Penalize bad owners of all breeds
Not the breeds themselves

Sketch by Lauren Rusk

Artist's Corner



Sketch by Kati Dean



Sketch by Janie Christensen

For Your Consideration



Advocating for Wild Chinchillas A persuasive essay by Harrison Rooney

For many centuries, humans have ruled the earth and have implemented actions that aid the environment and preserve nature. However, humans have also implemented actions that harm the environment and therefore, harm themselves in the process. One example of these harmful actions is animal poaching – specifically, poaching chinchillas. Chinchillas are innocent creatures that humans have no reason to kill except to sell their fur for money. Chinchillas are a part of the endangered-species list, as there are only two species of chinchillas left in the world; their main predator is man. A law that makes it illegal to poach chinchillas now protects these small creatures, but many people continue to hunt them illegally and continue to add to the devastation of the chinchilla family. Take steps to ensure that chinchillas can never again be hunted for their fur.

Poachers are lured to hunt chinchillas and strip their fur by the promise of large rewards, and they are led to believe these killings are acceptable since many people are in the business of selling chinchilla-fur clothing. Chinchillas' fur is extremely soft due to their dense coats that have adapted to their cold habitat. Because their fur is so soft, coats and other clothing made of the fur are popular in colder climates. Poachers can make a substantial amount of money by hunting the chinchillas and selling the fur to companies who manufacture clothing from the fur. Unfortunately, each full coat made of chinchilla fur requires between 120-150 dead chinchillas. These poachers hunt the defenseless chinchillas simply because they are enticed by money and do not think about the consequences of their actions. They are led to believe these killings are acceptable, as they think we humans can simply breed more animals in a chinchilla farm. However, these bred chinchillas will never know what it is like to grow up in the wild, and it is simply immoral to breed more to replace the ones they murdered. Killing chinchillas is unethical, as it ends an innocent creature's life, breaks up families, and harms the environment where chinchillas live by destroying the bond between plants and the chinchillas that help keep the plants alive.

Hunting chinchillas for their fur is criminal and unethical. Chinchillas are loving and harmless creatures that make wonderful pets for families. They are an excellent alternative to normal pets that one might be allergic to, as their dense fur structure reduces hair loss and causes them to be hypoallergenic. As pets, they are not difficult to care for and are very lovable. In addition to making great pets, we humans use chinchillas benignly for scientific research, as their range of hearing is similar to a human's range of hearing. Hunting these harmless creatures down is immoral and cruel.

For Your Consideration

If poachers are allowed to continue trapping them, the chinchillas' fates will be that of Romeo and Juliet's. In the 1940s, an entire species of chinchilla was completely wiped out, and two other species were nearly eradicated as well when millions of chinchillas were hunted down and killed for their fur (Blueplanetbiomes.org). We must not let this happen again, so we must take action.

Poaching chinchillas is wrong not only for ethical reasons, but also for environmental reasons too, as chinchillas are an essential part of maintaining their natural environment. They aid their habitat by distributing and replanting seeds in the wild in order to proliferate the growth of Nature's children, and they provide food that other animals feed on when they plant these seeds. A chinchilla's job of feeding the plants around it in order to grow food for other animals is like a human's job of working in order to feed his or her family. Just imagine an innocent creature walking through the bushes when it is suddenly ripped off of its feet and pulled into the air to be left dangling by a rope trap. How can poachers be allowed to torture and slaughter these poor creatures and exterminate Nature's family? By murdering chinchillas, poachers are also hurting the environment; these acts cannot continue.

No longer should chinchillas be removed from their habitat illegally. No longer should they be stripped of their protective coats and thrown away like rubbish. No longer should poachers be allowed to hunt these innocent creatures down and kill them. We humans have the power to prevent these small animals from becoming extinct, so I implore you to prevent the butchering of this species. Killing animals simply for the purpose of making a small profit is dishonorable, villainous, and cruel. Humans should be not allowed to impose their power upon those creatures that are less powerful than them in order to benefit their lives in the smallest way – having a slightly more comfortable piece of clothing to make themselves look slightly more extravagant. This behavior is intolerable and something must be done about it. You must pass laws preventing these actions forever and put forward a more extreme sentence for breaking these laws. If something is not done about this issue, there will be yet another eradication of a species. It is heartbreaking to think that such an innocent creature might be eliminated off the face of the earth because we humans want another piece of clothing. I urge you to contemplate these facts, and I hope you make these important changes to save these adorable animals.

Animal Experiences

Hissing Cockroaches

By Aleesia Hernandez

The fall semester of Teen Tracks 2014 was my first semester as a Teen Tracker. But of course, one of the things I had to do was learn how to handle the hissing cockroaches. I absolutely hate bugs. So you can imagine the fear I felt, knowing that had to hold one of these things. As the roach was being passed around, I got really nervous as it slowly approached me. Then came my turn. I was so nervous and shaking but I put out my hands and the roach was set into them and I immediately relaxed. It wasn't bad at all, and frankly it was pretty cool!

Fast forward a couple weeks later to the Walk To Save Animals. AAWL had a booth set up, where us Teen Trackers each presented a different animal to the public. One of those animals was in fact the hissing cockroaches. But I was a completely different person than I was when I first held them. I walked right up to the cage, picked up a roach, held it in my hand, and showed it to people coming up to the booth. It was hilarious to see their faces of fear and disgust, because they reminded me of myself and how I was once that way, but then I learned that the cockroaches weren't bad at all. But without Teen Tracks, I would never have done something like this and I wouldn't be the fearless person I've become. I am so thankful for this amazing program constantly bringing me out of my comfort zone.



Autumn the Tarantula



With 8 segmented legs and rose colored hair, Autumn may look intimidating at first, but she is really quite delicate. She is a Chilean Rose Hair Tarantula and is commonly found in Chile, Argentina, and Peru. Her species eats insects and usually lives for 5 to 15 years. At first glance, Autumn may look frightening, though once you get to know her, she isn't scary at all. When she's in our hand, her feet have been compared to Q-tips walking on your palm. She is very active at first, but once she calms down and gets comfortable,

she will just sit in your hand. Despite her first impression, Autumn is an exquisite creature and although she isn't defenseless, she isn't dangerous when handled correctly.

-Anneka Weicht & Lauren Fettis

What AAWL is to Me

AAWL is an extraordinary place. It is Arizona's largest no kill shelter. From dogs to degus, this shelter has it all. Not only is it a shelter, but an education center. In Teen Tracks you can work with exotic animals, to the loving dogs and cats.

Every animal is treated with the appropriate love and care that is needed. At AAWL you will find many places you can go to help your pet, which include, an adoption center, a vet care (which spays and neuters all of their animals, to stop breeding and over population), and an education center, as mentioned before.

In Teen Tracks we've learned many things, with hands-on learning. In each semester we learn about different things and animals. For four hours a week we learn about the natures of animals.

In the vet clinic, they help the animals in the shelter. As previously mentioned, they spay and neuter the cats and dogs to stop overpopulation, to stop filling the shelter.

In the adoption center, you are able to adopt cats and dogs. Not sure how you feel about the cat and dog when it's in the condo? You are able to open it up and praise the cat inside. For the dogs you can ask to take them to a yard. With the cats, some are placed in rooms, available to civilians, to go in and play with the cats, or just sit and praise them!

Are you wanting a forever pet? Come right down to AAWL, to give a pet a forever home.

~Devon Hill



Ever since I was a toddler, I knew I wanted to become a veterinarian. By the time I was fourteen, I felt stuck because there was a lot of vet-related things I wanted to do, but couldn't due to my age or lack of experience. This made me crave vet or animal experience even more. I tend to be more mature than others my age, especially in fields of interest that deal with my future. That being said, I started searching for places that would allow people my age to get experience with animals. But I didn't want to be somewhere that would just show animals; I wanted hands on experience. I

found information about the Jr. Vet Experience program and read that we would actually get to do things that interested me, such as dissections. One of my favorite experiences with that program was dissecting a pigs heart because I got to take a syringe and inject blue food coloring mixed with water into a vein and watch it spread throughout all the other veins in the heart. I also got to suture the pigs heart up! It was my first time and I had just learned how to do it, and I did an amazing job.

The Jr. Vet Experience was only the beginning of my experience at AAWL & SPCA. I went on their website and found their advanced Camp Vet summer program. I was immediately interested since the last experience went so well. I ended up doing a total of two or three weeks of that. I gained a lot of knowledge from the summer program and I saved everything we were given. I even took notes during the program in a vet journal I have to keep track and further my knowledge of animals and becoming a vet. I was getting the experience I wanted and loved. I got to microchip a kitten, give a dog her rabies shot, help out with giving a cat an ultra sound to see if a problem she was having was in her bladder, I got to observe multiple spays and neuters on both dogs and cats, and I got to observe a kitten her hind-leg amputated.

Both the Jr. Vet Experience and the advanced Camp Vet summer program were found by me on my own time without the help of my parents or anyone else, but my mom found out about Teen Tracks. Once again, I was immediately interested. This is my second semester at Teen Tracks and I am a handler. I enjoy the love I get to give the animals and that I get to be involved here. The AAWL & SPCA has provided me with the knowledge and opportunities I have desired and it has been so wonderful being here. It has honestly changed my life in a positive way so much and I am very fortunate and grateful that I can get such an awesome and serious experiences at this age!

~Makenna Martin



Animal Experiences

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT PIT BULLS

BY
LUKE ZIMMERMAN

Pit Bulls are very loving and caring dogs. Some people love them, but others misunderstand the facts about pit bulls. Here are some TRUE facts and statistics about Pit Bulls.

- Pit Bulls don't have locked jaws, they have the same jaws just like other dogs.
- Pit Bulls are less likely to bite than some other breeds. The golden retriever has a better chance of biting you according to the American Temperament Testing Society. Pit Bulls are easy to train with, they are sensitive to your feelings, and you can verbally train a pit bull. It is a myth that Pitt Bulls are unpredictable. Some say they can be fine their entire live and just snap one day. Mr. Reid, an expert on Pitt Bulls says they are no more likely to snap than any other breed.
- Some say these dogs can tolerate huge amounts of pain. Mr. Reid believes this is an exaggeration. They are often wimpy and many times do not like to go into the cold rain. If they are aroused or agitated, they may be less responsive to pain however.

I also have some personal experience with my pitt bull named Abby. She is a fantastic pet. The things I like most about her are that she is not at all aggressive to anyone. She never bites and is a very loving dog. She loves to play in the back yard with our German Shepard named Josie. She is funny because she does not like to get her feet wet in the grass after it rains. She also snores when she sleeps. Her favorite game is tug of war. She also loves to fetch the frisbee and get walks on the leash. My wish is that people change their negative views of Pitt Bulls.



Things to Remember

Upcoming Dates:

New Teen Application Deadline: September 5, 2015

First Day and Orientation for New Teens: September 12, 2015

See you in the fall!



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 Shannon Nalley at snalley@aawl.org or call 602-273-6852 ext. 131 if you have questions.