



# Trailin' Tails

APRIL — JUNE, 2014



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Happy Tails 2
- Chi-Town 3
- Day Foster Program 4
- Project Dogs in Mesa 5
- Dangerous Toxins 6
- New Hope Spotlight 7
- Friends of Animal Care 8

## Fix.Adopt.Save. Celebrates One Year!



### Fix. Adopt. Save.

Our Community Commitment

It's been one year since the launch of the innovative Fix.Adopt.Save. campaign.

Through the financial support of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and

PetSmart Charities, the three year campaign aims to increase adoptions, spay and neuter services, fostering of shelter animals and raising awareness about the pet homelessness problem in Maricopa County.

The Fix.Adopt.Save. campaign brings together seven local animal welfare groups (Altered Tails, ADLA, Arizona Humane Society, AAWL, HALO, MCACC and PACC911) who are combining their efforts to ensure the campaign is a success.

During its first year, the campaign has seen a 5% reduction in the number of animals entering Valley shelters. The spay/neuter portion of the program provided spay or neuter surgeries to 41,676 owned animals and adoptions increased by 1,287 animals. Finally, euthanasia decreased by 14% — resulting in an additional 5,405 animals saved.

If you'd like to support the Fix.Adopt.Save. campaign, please visit [www.fixadoptsave.org](http://www.fixadoptsave.org).

## “Meatball” Causes Media Frenzy



In late January, Meatball the cat was surrendered to MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center. He was unlike any cat the shelter staff had ever seen—weighing in at a WHOPPING 36 pounds! The “fluffy” feline had been shuffled from home to home before finally being brought to MCACC.

Due to his size, he was moved to an administrative office at the agency's West Valley Animal Care Center. Meatball was so large, his litterbox was a Rubbermaid under bed storage container. Within hours the large kitty was a media sensation. Not only was he shown throughout the United States, but stories were also aired in Germany, England and China!

Meatball has since been rescued by a veterinary clinic in Gold Canyon who has past experience with overweight kitties. He's doing well and slowly shedding some pounds.



# Send Us Your Happy Tail!

Did you adopt a dog or cat from MCACC? We'd love to hear how they are doing. Send your stories and a photo to:

Public Information Office  
MCACC  
2500 S. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Or email: [gablem@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:gablem@mail.maricopa.gov)



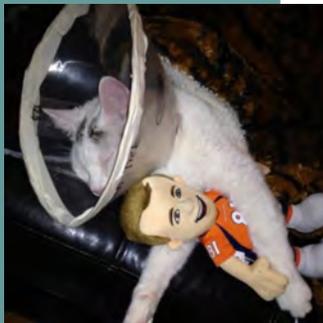
"Lilah"

## Happy Tail

It has been three and a half years since I adopted one of my best friends Lilah. I initially had my eye on a sweet, light-eyed Pitbull puppy. He had only been there for a day or so. One of the staff members pointed out that there was a dog at the end of the aisle that had been pulled off the e-list twice, and that that day was going to be her last. I agreed to go see her, but that I was not planning on adopting.

As soon as I took her out of the kennel and into the tiny space to play in, I noticed this immense sense of happiness and joy that emanated from her. I looked at her with watering eyes and it was as if she was trying to tell me (unknowing of the fact that she was going to be put down that day), "Life is good! Can't you see?!" I looked at the woman who had pointed her out to me and said, "Well...I'm taking her".

Thanks again for all the work you do, I know it's never enough but still, it was enough to make me write you a happy tail! — Jennifer G.



"Bob"

## Happy Tail

Just wanted to touch base with you and let you know "Bob" aka Vinnie is doing awesome! !!!

Finally able to take his cone off after several attempts. ..he likes to clean himself to the point of baldness which was causing skin issues.

I finally got brave and took it off even though he had no issues wearing it all day every day.

We have transitioned him to wearing a t-shirt which he again has no issues with. We had blood work done, recheck for FeIV which of

course is still positive. Had others things checked as well and all is good. We Just love him!!! Such an awesome cat.

Thanks again for your help with getting him to his forever home.

— Julie B.

# Chi-Town is Saving Lives!



for small dogs with special needs. Those could be dogs who are fearful, shy or who may be recovering from surgery or illness. Most of our residents are some sort of Chihuahua mix (hence the name).

Chi-Town is our nickname for Chihuahua Town, which is located at our West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix. It's an area devoted to caring

Our Alternative Placement Team and Chi-Town volunteers spend countless hours caring for these animals to prepare them for adoption. Sabrina

(pictured right) is a former Chi-Town resident. She was extremely fearful when she arrived at our Shelter on Christmas Day. But after some time in Chi-Town, she was adopted in March.



## Are Dog Bites on the Rise?

There have been several high profile dog bite stories in the news lately and many Maricopa County residents are wondering if this should be a concern.

5,000. In FY2013, we received 4,878 bite reports (4% decrease from FY2012) and we don't anticipate any large fluctuation in reported dog bites for FY2014.

around dogs. Don't approach an unfamiliar dog; if you are approached by a strange dog, do not run away or scream; teach your children not to pull on a dog's tail, ears or feet; do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, caring for puppies or playing with a favorite toy.

For the past five years, the number of dog bites reported to MCACC have hovered near

Although the numbers have declined, we still want to encourage everyone to be safe

## Bashas' and AJ's Support Spay/Neuter Efforts

During the month of April, Bashas' and AJ's Fine Foods stores are coming together to raise funds for FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control. Shoppers will be given the option to have a donation to the nonprofit agency added to their final bill at the register. Money raised through the promotion will be used to help fund MCACC's Spay Neuter Assistance Program. Last year's campaign raised more than \$30,000.

In addition to their financial support, select Bashas' and AJ's Fine Foods stores will be hosting animal adoption events on April 27th.

For more information, visit [www.saveshelterpets.org](http://www.saveshelterpets.org).

**Bashas' FRIENDS**  
of Animal Care & Control

Meet Molly  
SHELTER DOG #107,133

**SAVE SHELTER PETS.**  
Donate at the Register Today.  
Learn more at [SaveShelterPets.org](http://SaveShelterPets.org)



# Become a Day Foster Volunteer!



“Picnic” Makes a Friend on a Day Foster Outing

Many of the dogs at our East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa have been at the shelter for weeks, and sometimes months.

We created the Day Foster Program to provide these dogs with an opportunity to spend some time away



from the shelter and enjoy the companionship of humans.

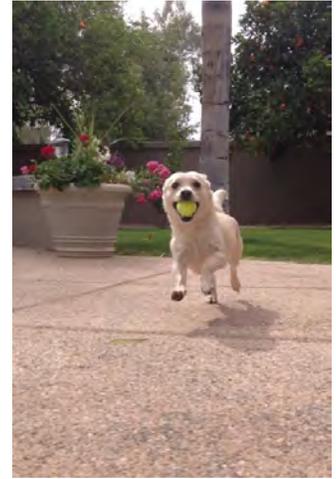
MCACC Day Foster volunteers attend a brief orientation and are then allowed to remove pre-selected dogs from the

shelter for a morning, afternoon or an entire day.

The volunteer chooses where they will go with their foster dog, and in the past few months the most common outing has been hiking.

This program not only gives the animal some much-needed “fun” time; it also provides our volunteers with a glimpse of what a dog may be like once adopted.

Day Foster volunteers are asked to photograph their outings and provide MCACC staff with a detailed description of their time together. Did the dog enjoy the car ride? Did he walk well on a leash? Did he interact with other humans and if so, what was the reaction?



The photos and descriptions are then highlighted on MCACC’s Facebook page for potential adopters.

If you’d like to become a Day Foster volunteer, please complete a volunteer application online at <http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/help.aspx#volunteer> and be sure to mention you want to be a Day Foster!



MCACC Volunteer Priscilla

# Kitten Season Approaches; Fosters Needed

Spring signals the start of kitten season at animal shelters across the Valley.

It is not unusual for people to surrender entire litters of puppies and kittens — most of which are too young to be put up for

adoption. We are seeking volunteer foster parents who can care for these little ones until they are ready to find permanent homes.

Foster parents care for the animals in their own homes

and the length of time needed for each animal varies.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer foster parent, please visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets>.

# Project Dog Program Launches in Mesa



Meet Flynn. He's a Project Dog. He arrived at MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa and he was terrified, scared, and cowering in the corner of his kennel. Our new Project Dog program works with dogs like Flynn. Animals who need some socialization and love before they can be considered adoptable.

MCACC staff and volunteers are assigned a Project Dog that they work with several times a week. The dogs are walked, cuddled and taught that humans aren't so bad.



Eventually the day arrives that they are ready for adoption. And when that happens, there's usually someone ready for them! Here's a happy (and social) Flynn with his new family.

## Hotel Valley Ho Helps Pets!

Since 2011, the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale has been donating its discarded linens to the animals in our care.

MCACC volunteer Sophia Little cultivated the relationship with the hotel and continues to serve as point person for the donations.

Whenever the hotel switches

out linens, Sophia is there along with several other volunteers, to help collect the items.

Not only are we grateful to the Hotel Valley Ho for their continued support, but we are proud and happy to have such an amazing group of dedicated volunteers.



## Free Event to Help Friends of Animal Care & Control

Join us on Thursday, May 1st at Starfire Golf Club at Scottsdale Country Club for the 27th Anniversary of PALS (Pets & Animal Lovers Service).

The event benefits three Valley animal rescue groups including Friends of Animal Care & Control, Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue and Medical Animals In

Need will also be beneficiaries of the event.

The celebration runs from 6pm to 9pm and is FREE to attend. Guests are encouraged to bid on one (or more) unique silent auction items—with 100% of the proceeds going to all three event beneficiaries.

The first 100 attendees will receive a free meal, cocktail and goodie bag!

For more information and to RSVP please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1510972579128976/>

For more information on PALS, please visit [www.ourpals.com](http://www.ourpals.com).



# Fix.Adopt.Save. Awareness Day



“Nana”

On March 24th, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 5, 2014 as “Fix.Adopt.Save. Awareness Day.” The proclamation is in recognition of the hard work and accomplishments of those organizations and funding partners behind the three-year Fix.Adopt.Save. campaign. Visit [www.fixadoptsave.org](http://www.fixadoptsave.org) for more information.



The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors with representatives from AAWL, ADLA, Altered Tails, Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Humane Society, Friends of Animal Care & Control, HALO, MCACC, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and PACC911.

## Beware of Dangerous Toxins

According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, prescription human medications tops the list of potentially poisonous substances to pets.

Here are the other nine top toxins reported in 2013 ...

**Insecticides.** Be sure to always read the label when using insecticide in your

home, yard or on your pet.

**Over-the-counter human medication.** Ibuprofen, naproxen and some herbal products such as fish oil are just a few medications that pose a threat to pets.

**Household products.** The list ranges from fire logs to cleaning products.

**Human food.** You’ve heard it before, but keep dogs away from onions, garlic, grapes and raisins.

**Veterinary products and medications.** Flavored medications can be tempting to your pet, so keep them out of paws reach.

**Chocolate.** The #1 people food ingested by pets can cause vomiting and seizures.

**Rodenticides.** Mice and rat baits ingested by pets can cause internal bleeding and kidney failure.

**Plants.** More than 9,000 cases in 2013 were pet owners calling because their animal ate a plant.

**Lawn and garden products.** Often made of bone meal and manure, these are tempting to pets.

<http://www.aspc.org/blog/top-toxins-poison-our-pets>

Human prescription medications tops the list of potentially poison substances to pets.



“Royal”

# New Hope Spotlight: AZ Chihuahua Rescue

On February 28th, MCACC's West Valley Animal Care Center had 25 fewer Chihuahuas, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Arizona Chihuahua Rescue (AZCR).



*Fox10's Anita Roman Reports on the Chihuahua Mission*

Representatives from the Pennsylvania rescue group, Paws to Heart, reached out to AZCR about the high number of Chihuahuas at Maricopa County shelters. The rescue was interested in transporting a

group of Chihuahuas to Pennsylvania, where there is currently a limited selection of small dogs.

AZCR immediately took action and contacted MCACC's Alternative Placement Department to see if we could help.

While MCACC identified the Chihuahuas who would go on the 2,400 mile road trip, AZCR began raising funds and collecting crates for the Chihuahua Mission.

AZCR volunteers immediately provided assistance and it is through their efforts that the Mission was not only a success, but something that may be repeated in the future.

For more information about Arizona Chihuahua Rescue, visit [www.azchihuahuarescue.org](http://www.azchihuahuarescue.org).



*"Paco" is one of the Arizona Chihuahuas who now calls Pennsylvania home!*

*Our New Hope Rescue Partners are one of the reasons our euthanasia rates have decreased. In appreciation, each quarter we will showcase one of these amazing groups!*

## Warm Weather Safety Tips for Pets ...



*"Beretta" Enjoying a Recent Day Foster Trip*

Summer is right around the corner and so is extremely hot weather. We'd like to remind pet owners to keep their animals cool (and safe) during this dangerous time of year.

**Never leave your pet in a parked car** (even with the A/C running). On a warm day, the temperature in your car can reach 120 degrees in just a few minutes.

**Avoid taking your dog for walks during the heat of the day.** Early morning and late evening times are best. And remember, if the pavement is too

hot for your bare feet, then it's too hot for your dog's paws!

The **best place for your pets on a hot summer day is inside your home**, but if you cannot keep them indoors, then make sure they have **plenty of shade and water**. Keep water in a spillproof, non-metal bowl and make sure your yard has shade at all times throughout the day.



**Maricopa County Animal  
Care & Control**

**Visit One of Our Four Locations!**

**West Valley Animal Care Center**

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)  
2500 S. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

**East Valley Animal Care Center**

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)  
2630 W. Rio Salado Parkway  
Mesa, AZ 85201

**PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center**

Old Town Scottsdale  
(Adoptions Only)  
4380 N. Miller Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**Under One Woof Adoption Center**

Metro Center Mall  
(Adoptions Only)  
9617 N. Metro Parkway, #1116  
Phoenix, AZ 85051

**(602) 506-PETS (7387)**

**[www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)**



"Brutus"

# FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control



Friends of Animal Care & Control (FRIENDS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. As a "friends of" group, FRIENDS goal is to raise money to support MCACC.

FRIENDS provides a valuable service by supporting MCACC's non-mandated programs. The largest (and we believe most important) of these programs is the SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program).

SNAP provides no-cost spay and neuter services to low-income residents of Maricopa County.

Without FRIENDS financial support, SNAP would not be as successful. And without your support, we would be unable to make a difference in the lives of animals in our community. If you'd like to make a financial contribution to FRIENDS please visit our website at [www.azfriendsofanimals.org](http://www.azfriendsofanimals.org).

You can also support FRIENDS and MCACC by shopping at the FRIENDS Thrift Shop. Proceeds from the shop's sales help fund SNAP.

**FRIENDS Thrift Shop**  
**12625 N. Cave Creek Road**  
**(just north of Thunderbird)**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85022**  
**(602) 923-6914**

Store Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and  
Saturday: 10am—4pm  
Tuesday and Thursday: 10am—  
6pm

FRIENDS Thrift Shop also accepts donations of gently used clothing, accessories, furniture and home goods.