



# Trailin' Tails

JANUARY—MARCH, 2016



## Will You Paw It Forward in 2016?

The holidays may be over, but the spirit of giving continues through MCACC's new Paw it Forward program. While acts of kindness are always encouraged and appreciated, the program is an initiative to inspire this type of kindness from people all over the Valley every day of the year.

Paw it Forward will highlight and emphasize the acts through a Facebook Event on MCACC's Facebook page that will contain videos, photos and information posted by people who have either "pawed it forward" or been affected by an act of kindness performed by someone else.

The inspiration for the program comes from Lily Rue and her Facebook page. In August, a customer sponsored the adoption fee for several dogs. Included in their sponsorship was a card dedicating the act

to Lily Rue and directing people to her Facebook page. Baby Lily Rue was still-born in August 2014. To honor her, her family created a Facebook page where they encouraged people to conduct random acts of kindness in Lily's honor. Lily's family is thrilled to be the catalyst for MCACC's Paw it Forward program.

You can Paw it Forward by sponsoring an adoption fee; becoming a volunteer; donating food, bedding or blankets to the shelter; signing up to be a foster parent; paying to have someone's dog or cat microchipped. The possibilities are endless!

Don't forget to document your kindness on the Paw it Forward event page—  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1493405437656727>

*"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."*

- Anatole France



**MCACC Alum, Karl, Helped Sponsor Adoption Fees**



**Students at Bright Beginnings School in Chandler collected items for the shelter**



# 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)



## Happy Tail

Dear MCACC,

We adopted Rikki on January 19, 2014. He was on the euthanasia list due to ear and eye infections, and a corneal ulcer. Our veterinarian was concerned as his ear canals were so swollen, she couldn't see into them. Our vet thought the ear canals might need to be removed entirely.

We have a 12-year-old female Lhasa who has IBS, due to stress. We took a chance adopting Rikki. They did not meet prior to his moving in, as we could not risk exposing our older dog to other animals. Rikki came to us a very loving and trained youngster (two-years-old). He has been a blessing in our household.

- Denise F.

Here are a few photos of Nutmeg. We visited her yesterday and she was ready to leave the shelter. She has kennel cough and was spayed on Thursday; looks like she might have recently had puppies. She is very mellow and had a good first night in her new home.

The kids love her already. My daughter likes that Nutmeg is so low key and that she can hold her leash and walk her—she can't do that with our rambunctious four-year-old dog.

Thank you!

- Erin Z.



Rikki



Nutmeg

# A Happy Howliday for Shelter Pets!

The community support for our shelter animals was absolutely overwhelming this past holiday season. Toys, food and blankets arrived in abundance!

For the second year, the Santa Paws Project collected new toys for the dogs and cats in our care. Valley Pet Club locations served as drop-off spots and hundreds of toys were collected. The toys were brought the shelter and distributed to the dogs and cats a couple of days prior to Christmas.

Volunteers arrived at both East and West shelters on Decem-



ber 23rd for our annual shelter pet holiday feeding. Each animal was served a meal of moist food, topped with treats.

As we prepared the meals, members of the community shuffled through the lobby



carrying armloads of new fleece blankets in time for the holiday.

In the week leading up to Christmas, Girl Scout Troops and schools collected toys,



treats, canned food and other supplies for the shelter pets.

And finally, nearly \$5,000 in sponsorship dollars were collected to pay the adoption fees for some of our long-time canine residents.

Words cannot describe the appreciation we feel for our community. Our hope is that the love and generosity for the animals continues into the New Year. To support MCACC, visit [www.maricopa.gov/pets](http://www.maricopa.gov/pets) and click "How You Can Help."

## It's Always Yappy Hour at Salut Kitchen Bar!

We stumbled across this amazing establishment last summer when they offered to host a mobile adoption event and Salut Kitchen Bar in Tempe quickly became one of our faves! Of course we love their pet friendly patio (you can bring your own dog) but they also have great food and drinks.

Come out and see it for yourself when we have another mobile adoption event on January 22nd from 4 to 7pm. Stop by on your way home for work and adopt a new friend! Salut Kitchen Bar is located at 1435 E. University Drive in Tempe. For more information visit [www.salutkitchenbar.com](http://www.salutkitchenbar.com).



# FRIENDS to Honor Heroic Acts



Human Hero,  
Dr. Kit Slocum

Friends of Animal Care & Control recently announced the winners of their 2016 Hero Awards. The 13th Annual Hero Awards gala, presented by PetSmart Charities, will be held on Saturday, February 27th at the Omni Montelucia Resort in Paradise Valley. More than 400 attendees are expected to turn out to celebrate an evening of heroism.

The event will honor five Animal Heroes and one Human Hero.

This year's Human Hero is fondly known throughout the community as Dr. Kit. Honored for her tireless work helping animals in low income and underserved communities, Dr. Kit recognized that many of these pet owners don't have access to veterinary services.

In 2010, Dr. Kit purchased a mobile RV clinic and drove vet services to these communities in need. Over the next four years, Dr. Kit spayed or neutered 20,000 dogs and cats!



Hero Award Winner,  
Stormy

spot and with assistance from Saving Paws Rescue and Lulu's Fund, Stormy and her puppies embarked on their next journey. Despite a 25% chance of survival, Stormy fought to stay alive.

Want to hear the rest of Stormy's story? Then join us at the Hero Awards on February 27th.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.azfriendsofanimals.org](http://www.azfriendsofanimals.org).



One of five animal heroes, Stormy was found by a local construction crew after a severe monsoon storm. The German Shepherd was filthy, emaciated and trapped underneath debris with her litter of pups. Stormy was dug out of her

# It's Spring Home Show Time!

We are proud to once again participate in the Maricopa County Home & Garden Show at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

The show runs March 4-6. We'll be there all three

days with plenty of cute, adoptable pets who are looking for loving homes.

Anyone who donates at least two cans of new/unused puppy or kitten food will be given one FREE admission ticket into the

show. In order to receive your free ticket, you must bring your donation of at least two cans of pet food to Gate 2.

For more information, visit [www.maricopacountyhomeshow.com](http://www.maricopacountyhomeshow.com).

MATTRESSFIRM PRESENTS  
MARICOPA COUNTY  
**HOME & LANDSCAPE SHOW**  
**March 4•5•6**  
University of Phoenix Stadium  
[MCHomeShows.com](http://MCHomeShows.com)

# New App Raises Funds by Walking!!!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**ResQwalk**  
**in January**  
**and Earn**  
**Extra \$\$\$**



Now you can get in shape while giving back to the community! MCACC recently joined ResQWalk. This app (available on both iOS and Android phones) helps shelter pets with just a few simple steps ...

1. Look for Maricopa County Animal Care & Control and choose us for your support.
2. Take a walk! Or a run! Or a hike! We encourage you to participate with your furry friend or a shelter dog, but it is not necessary. The app uses GPS to track how long you've been active. Data is not used for the GPS, but is used for other app features (i.e. uploading photos).
3. Encourage others to participate! The more people walk for MCACC pets, the more donations we receive.

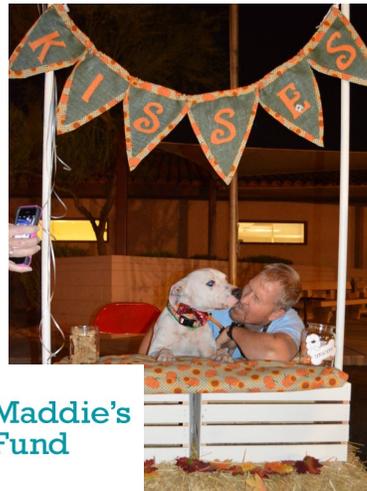
Plus, during the month of January we can earn an extra \$1 for every new person that joins our organization and completes at least one walk. For more information, visit [www.resqwalk.com](http://www.resqwalk.com).

## Fall Festival Success!

We're happy to announce that our Fall Festival was a tremendous success! There was a line of potential adopters when we opened the doors at 6pm on November 14th. Nearly 60 dogs and cats were adopted as a result of the event. In addition to every animal receiving a complimentary microchip, adopted pets went home with toys, food and treats.

MCACC staff and volunteers manned information tables and carnival games while a portable photo booth was there to capture photos of newly adopted pets.

The Fall Festival was made possible by our friends at Maddie's Fund



Maddie's Fund

## SniffAZ Raises \$75K for Spay/Neuter Efforts!



SniffAZ, a not-for-profit, all-volunteer Valley organization dedicated to funding low cost and no cost spay/neuter services, donated \$75,000 to fund 1,154 spay/neuter surgeries of companion animals in Maricopa County. The proceeds were generated from events hosted by SniffAZ, including SNIFF2015, a cocktail event and auction held in November.

SNIFF 2015 was held at Gainey Golf Ranch and hosted more than 300 guests. In addition to fundraising activities via silent and live auction items, the event featured adoptable dogs from MCACC which resulted in three successful adoptions.

To support SniffAZ and their efforts, visit [www.sniffaz.org](http://www.sniffaz.org).

The SNIFFAZ Board of Directors presents a check for \$75,000 to Friends of Animal Care & Control

## Maddie's Fund Reporting



Cinderella, one of 10,816 dogs adopted from MCACC in 2015

As a recipient of grant funding from Maddie's Fund, MCACC is required to post our annual stats for public view. We break our Maddie's reports down by calendar year and here are some highlights from 2015:

The number of animals coming into our shelters decreased by approximately 3% in 2015. While intake was down, adoptions

increased from 11,504 to 12,343 (10,816 dogs and 1,527 cats).

Our rescue partners continued to support our efforts by rescuing 11,421 pets through our New Hope program.

Additionally, we were able to return 4,316 dogs and cats to their owners.

Fewer animals entering the shelters, more animals being adopted and returned to their owners, and rescue groups regularly taking dogs and cats from our shelters, all result in a decreased number of euthanasia.

Although 6,905 animals were euthanized, it was 1,756 fewer animals than the previous year.

## MCACC Launches Pets and Vets Program

On November 14th, in recognition and appreciation of U.S. veterans' service to our country, MCACC launched its Pets and Vets program.

The Pets and Vets program benefits veterans by waiving their adoption fees for all animals at any of MCACC's three valley locations and offsite adoption events.

Adopters will be responsible for paying the \$17 licensing fee for adopted dogs (there is no licensing fee for cats).

Adopters will also have the option to pay for additional services such as micro-chipping, additional diagnostic tests, etc.

The program will offer services upon verification of veteran, reservist or active duty status. Verification documents must show veteran status as honorable, general, general under honorable conditions or discharged and released under conditions other than dishonorable.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, up to 30% of returning soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The VA acknowledges that owning a pet can reduce stress and aid in mood lifting, making pets a great option for anyone, including returning soldiers or those

with PTSD.

"We are excited to be able to give back to the veterans in our community," Shelter Division Manager Linda Soto said. "They have given so much for our country and we are happy to offer reduced cost services for pets who may aid them in adjusting back to life at home or simply be a furry companion."

The program is currently scheduled to run indefinitely and is valid at any MCACC adoption location or adoption event. All pets are spayed/neutered prior to going home and dogs over three months are rabies vaccinated and County licensed.



Boe, adopted thru the Pets and Vets program in December

## New Hope Spotlight: AZ Small Dog Rescue

Arizona Small Dog Rescue (AZSDR) is a nonprofit rescue shelter who takes most of their animals from MCACC or other area shelters.

AZSDR is run by dedicated volunteers who are devoted to rescuing and saving homeless, unwanted, abandoned, neglected and abused dogs.



**Kosmo is a 9-year-old Poodle mix in need of a home**

AZSDR operates an Adoption Center at 1102 West Hatcher Road in Phoenix. Inside their adoption center you'll find adorable adoptable pets in search of loving homes.

In addition to their Adoption Center, AZSDR actively participates in many adoption events throughout the Valley. Their upcoming events are listed on the AZSDR website at [www.azsmalldog.org](http://www.azsmalldog.org).

Like most shelters, AZSDR survives on donations. Many of the dogs they rescue come to them with illnesses and other pre-existing medical conditions. As you can imagine, the cost of veterinary care adds up quickly!

The shelter also has a Wish List



**Silly, relaxed and ready for a new home — meet Fluke!**

that contains cleaning supplies, storage items, pet supplies, etc. This list can also be found on their website at [www.azsmalldog.org](http://www.azsmalldog.org).

We are grateful to the support of AZSDR and we encourage you to support their efforts. We couldn't do it without their help! Thank you!

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

## Volunteer Spotlight: Lisa Zato, MCACC East



Two years into her volunteer gig at MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center and Lisa Zato has no plans to slow down! Lisa began volunteering to help the voiceless dogs and cats that have to call the shelter a "home." She spends most of her time at the shelter helping with adoptions and walking dogs. Lisa attends every Wag & Walk Adoption Hike at Userly Mountain Park and is an advocate for all the shelter pets. And although she's experienced many difficult days, there's one thing that keeps Lisa coming back ...

"Seeing the dogs and cats leave the shelter for loving forever homes, especially the long-timers who have sometimes endured months at the shelter. Receiving happy updates from their new families is always heartwarming," she says.

And with all those pets she sees on a daily basis, is there one that stands out? "Picnic. He was my first kennel pull on my buddy day at East. A big beautiful Pittie boy. He was really strong! He's now living a good life in his forever home."

Want to volunteer? Visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/help.aspx> to get started!



## Maricopa County Animal Care & Control

Visit One of Our Three 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

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

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



Suzy



Bowie

# FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control



Tim, an Army veteran who suffers from severe PTSD, was having trouble certifying his beloved dog Nala as a therapy dog because she wasn't spayed. He thought he couldn't afford the procedure, until he heard about the free spay/neuter surgeries made possible by the generous donations of Friends of Animal Care & Control (FRIENDS).

Thanks to you, thousands of Maricopa County pet parents like Tim get the help they need each year. FRIENDS is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit organization that raises money to support shelter intervention programs at MCACC. The largest of these programs is the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP provides no-cost spay/neuter services to low-income residents of Maricopa County.

Nala is now on her way to becoming a certified therapy dog, and Tim will soon be able to live a normal life. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to make a difference in the lives of people and pets like Tim and Nala. Please visit [www.azfriendsofanimals.org](http://www.azfriendsofanimals.org) to make a donation.



Tim and Nala