

# Furry Friends

A FRONTDOORS MEDIA PUBLICATION  
FurryFriendsAZ.com

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Pet Products

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a Forever  
Home*

Community members like Chip & Daryl Weil rally around  
Arizona Humane Society's groundbreaking plans

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\*Net proceeds constitute an average margin of at least 25% of the retail price of products, excluding the cost of shipping and tax on the purchase.

# HELLO, VALLEY ANIMAL LOVERS!



Karen Werner



Andrea Tyler Evans

**W**elcome to *Furry Friends*, a publication dedicated to celebrating animal charities throughout Maricopa County. We invite you to get to know several animal-loving philanthropists and learn about local animal welfare organizations.

As animal lovers, we had a lot of fun putting together this special publication. Check out the doggie den remodel that lifestyle and organizational specialist Leslie Lehr took on for her beloved King Charles Cavaliers. And consider treating your fur-kids to one of the specialty items featured in “A Pet Paradise.”

Also included in these pages is the *2022 Furry Friends Resource Guide*. Whether you or someone you know is looking to adopt, volunteer or support local organizations, this directory is a great resource.

To become a part of our *Furry Friends* family of nonprofits and businesses, please reach out to Andrea at [publisher@frontmoorsmedia.com](mailto:publisher@frontmoorsmedia.com).

Cheers!

**Karen Werner, editor in chief**  
(mom of rescue dog Tuco)

**Andrea Tyler Evans, publisher**  
(mom of rescue kitties Shelly & Sally)





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# Furry Friends

A FRONTDOORS MEDIA PUBLICATION

[FurryFriendsAZ.com](http://FurryFriendsAZ.com)

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Chip and Daryl Weil with their rescue dog, Gizmo  
Photo by Scott Foust Studios

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*Frontdoors Magazine is dedicated to the memory of Mike Saucier.*



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 Arizona Animal  
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- + Almost There Rescue
- + Arizona Animal Welfare League
- + Arizona Humane Society
- + Heidi's Village
- + Hospice of the Valley
- + Liberty Wildlife
- + New Life Center P.A.W.S. Program
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 Cool Cats



# GINNY JONTES

Founder of Heidi's Village

## 1 **Where did you grow up, and did you always have pets?**

I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. A couple of times, we had a pet dog. But we frequently stayed at my grandfather's farm in Letts, Iowa, in the summer. We got to feed and take care of the animals. Some of my best childhood memories are of the farm.

## 2 **How did you end up in Arizona?**

My sister and her family lived here. It was a dream to live where the winters are so mild — I didn't like the dreary winters of the Midwest.

## 3 **Why is animal rescue important to you?**

When my husband David and I moved to Phoenix, seeing so many homeless cats and dogs on the streets broke my heart. While working as vice president of PACC911 (Phoenix Animal Care Coalition), I got to know the rescue groups and understand their struggles in raising funds to feed and medically treat the animals. I started a fund to help them with those costs. Seeing the transformation of animals from being neglected, rejected, sick and abused to being happy, healthy and adopted was a joy I had never experienced.

## 4 **Who is Heidi?**

Heidi was a very special dog. While working in real estate, I met Joan, who had a house for sale. Joan greeted me at the door with a white schnauzer just like mine! She said Heidi was her husband's dog, but he had died and now Heidi was everything to her. She said I could purchase her home if I would take care of Heidi should she become sick and unable to care for her. Joan and I became friends, and a few years later, she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Joan was comforted to know that we would take Heidi into our home.

## 5 What sets Heidi's Village apart from other shelters in Phoenix?

Heidi's Village exists to help the rescue groups save more animals. If they don't have enough space in their homes, they can board their cats and dogs at Heidi's Village at a very low cost. In addition to boarding, we have a low-cost veterinary clinic, a grooming area, as well as a behavior training team that works with dogs with behavior issues. This makes the animals more desirable for adoption.

In addition, the design of Heidi's Village allows the pets in our care to decompress. We have six buildings with comfy kennels and play yards so the dogs can enjoy being indoors or in their own outdoor kennel patio to enjoy fresh air and play. At the center of the 5-acre campus is the ultimate play experience for dogs, a splash pad. It is the most wonderful decompression tool for our canine guests. The best way to see what sets us apart is to schedule a tour. You can see it all firsthand!

## 6 How do you work with other shelters in the area?

Heidi's Village fosters a community where animals are treated with respect, dignity and compassion. One way we do that is by providing resources and support to current shelter and rescue organizations. We provide short-term boarding to nonprofits at a reduced rate for cats and dogs. Our daily boarding fee includes food, housing, socialization/playtime, cat litter and cleaning. Heidi's Helping Hands is an application-based program for nonprofit groups requesting help with medical needs outside of typical wellness and sterilization. Rescue partners can apply for assistance when they lack the resources to provide medical care for treatable injuries or ailments. Heidi's Village currently offers veterinary services to rescue organizations and will expand to include services to the public in the future. Heidi's Village also provides special care for young kittens who cannot fend for themselves and

need round-the-clock care in our neonatal kitten nursery.

## 7 What is the Smitten Kitten Nursery?

One of the missions of Heidi's Village is to care for the most vulnerable animals. Phoenix's warm climate makes "kitten season" almost never-ending. This constant supply of kittens makes our neonatal kitten nursery so important. Neonatal kittens are less than three weeks of age, which is why they are so vulnerable. Orphaned or abandoned neonatal kittens require 24-hour care to survive. This includes frequent bottle-feeding along with keeping them warm in specially designed incubators. Without dedicated staff and volunteers, this needed resource wouldn't be possible. Your donations help to provide staffing, medical care, vaccinations, as well as food and other supplies.



# 10 QUESTIONS

{ fascinating people }



## 8 What do you do on a typical day?

A typical day starts with reading emails, texts and answering the ones I can. I make calls to friends and meet them for lunch. I also take a little time to think of new ways I can help Heidi's Village, creating new programs, refining policies and procedures or other ways to help the community.

I sometimes drop by Heidi's Village and give a tour to see what is happening. I have a wonderful, competent staff and enjoy visiting with various employees to see what is going on in their area, just chatting about them and their families

David and I love to play golf, so we try to play 9 or 18 holes each week. If not, we enjoy the weather and practice in order to play a better game.

No two days are alike, and each day is rich because of Heidi's Village, friends and family!

## 9 What is the best advice you've ever received?

No matter where you come from, you can be who you want to be with a dream, hard work, persistence and focus on achieving your goals and showing kindness along the way. A smile and a positive attitude are everything in my world.

## 10 What would readers be surprised to learn about you?

I am a very creative person. I love creating useful and unique things from what is around me. This is the spirit that created Heidi's Village. It was an idea in my head that I had to put onto paper and then make come alive with a brick-and-mortar building. I still want to create new programs to help the community. It is a joy that never ends with me!

To learn more, go to [heidisvillage.org](https://heidisvillage.org). 🐾





Bandana 5-pack, \$20  
Dog bowl, \$20

Tito's Handmade Vodka  
[store.titosvodka.com](http://store.titosvodka.com)

# A Pet *Paradise*



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companion some love

**Perrine Adams** | Lifestyle Editor

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**Hermès**  
hermes.com



Mackenzie-Childs courtly check ceramic cookie jar, \$238

**Cornelia Park, Biltmore Fashion Park**  
corneliapark.com



MZ Wallace Metro carrier, \$235

**Neiman Marcus,**  
Scottsdale Fashion Square  
neimanmarcus.com



Custom pet portrait, \$200-\$1,200

**The Painted Ladies**  
[thepaintedladies.org](http://thepaintedladies.org)



Verdun snaffle bit, \$240

**Hermès**  
[hermes.com](http://hermes.com)



Mackenzie-Childs  
bird feeder, \$198

**Neiman Marcus,**  
Scottsdale Fashion Square  
[neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com)



Organic treats for rabbits, guinea pigs  
and other small pets, \$12

**The Floppy Binkery**  
[etsy.com](http://etsy.com)

# We're rooting for the underdogs.

The My Sister's family of brands gave \$1 million last year to the Arizona Humane Society to help build their new hospital and shelter.

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luxury home consignment

[mysisterscloset.com](http://mysisterscloset.com)

A photograph of a blonde woman with a bright smile, wearing a blue and white patterned blouse. She is holding a small black and white dog with long ears, which is wearing dark sunglasses. The background is a wall with a blue and white floral pattern.

Puppy

# SANCTUARY

Lifestyle specialist Leslie Lehr walks us through a doggy den remodel

**Perrine Adams** | Lifestyle Editor

## Meet Leslie Lehr

Phoenix-based lifestyle and organizational specialist Leslie Lehr has built a business, Leslie Lehr Living, dedicated to living more with less. She strives to bring together joy and creativity for a healthy relationship with design that is refined and functional. She mixes contemporary styles with a dash of tradition, influenced by places she has lived — both coasts and the Southwest.

## Meet Cricket and Blue

9-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Cricket joined Lehr's family five years ago through the Cavalier Rescue Foundation of Arizona, a nonprofit dedicated to rescuing neglected dogs and placing them in qualified and loving homes. Cricket enjoys lounging on the sofa, cuddling, playing with her toys and chasing butterflies. Last summer, she lost her big fur sister, Clover, who was also a King Charles Cavalier. She was lonely without her companion, so the family recently brought home a little fur brother for Cricket, Blue, a 6-month-old Tri-color King Charles Cavalier Spaniel from Dulce Cavaliers in New Mexico.

## Cricket's Cubby & Blue's Castle

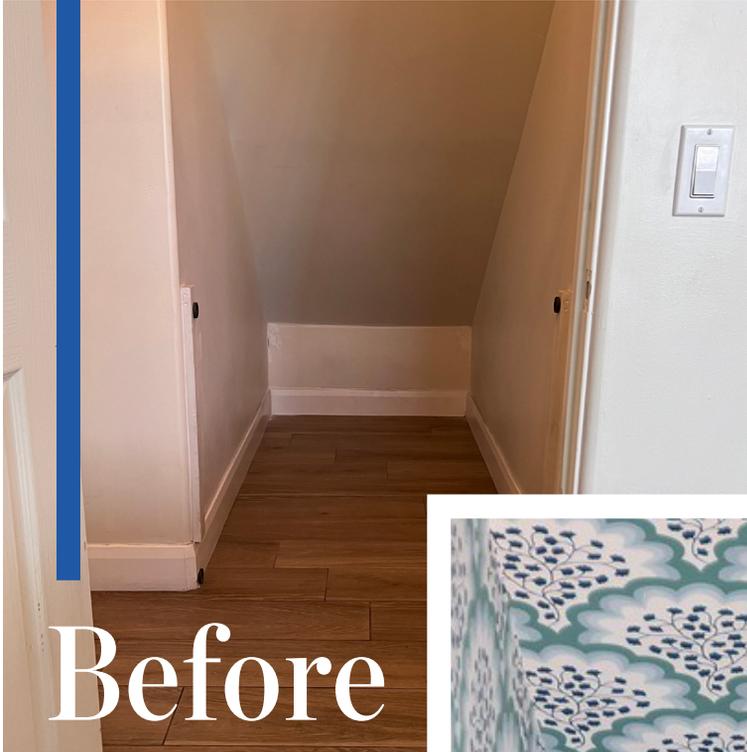
"As a lifestyle expert and organizing specialist, I am inspired by the opportunity to take unused and unusual spaces and transform them into stylish and functional rooms," Lehr said. "When we made the decision to downsize and needed a designated area for our fur babies, the area under the staircase appeared to be a perfect doggy den." 🐾



## How the Transformation Happened

Lehr explains how she executed the remodeling project to transform a small, drab space into a doggy sanctuary.

1. "The first step was to remove the door with the help of my contractor, Gilbert Gomez, seal the opening in the trim and install fresh paint on the trim and baseboards."
2. The outdated lighting fixture was replaced with a gold pendant light.
3. "To create a big impact in the small space, I turned to my friend Kalen Mehlman, interior designer and owner of Kalen's Place. I wanted to install a stunning wallpaper. We selected a print by Hygge & West for its contemporary and playful pattern. The hues mirror the color palette that is carried throughout our home."
4. "Kalen and I designed a new dog bed in my signature colors, blue and white. By using outdoor upholstery fabric, we created a dog bed that is stylish and functional. Kalen ordered the fabric and I turned to my go-to upholsterer, Robert Llamas from Roberto's Sofa Factory, to materialize our vision."
5. Custom details were added — such as laminated personalized placemats created by Lucy Grymes for the dog bowls — to make the space very special.
6. "The final touch, to add a pop of pizzazz, was a piece of abstract art created by local artist Laura Madden."



Before

Interior designer Kalen Mehlman helped Lehr transform the area under the stairs into a castle fit for her canines.



After

COVER STORY  
{ by judy pearson }





# Building a Forever

## Home

Community members like Chip & Daryl Weil rally around Arizona Humane Society's groundbreaking plans

**1957.** Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, the Cold War was in full bloom, Arizonans could buy a gallon of gas or a pound of hamburger for 30 cents, and the Arizona Humane Society opened its brand-new facility at Hatcher Road and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Sunnyslope. Its function was to take in unwanted animals and — with luck — adopt them out to new families. Although it's been expanded several times, that 64-year-old facility is still chugging along, bursting at the seams.

The good news is that during that time, AHS has launched many initiatives to care for the most vulnerable in the community, including a bottle baby ICU and kitten nursery, the Parvo Puppy ICU and isolation kennels, traveling

Emergency Animal Medical Technicians, and a pet resource center. The bad news is, with a human population now 10 times greater than in 1957 and an animal population many times larger than that, the need has exploded.

Daryl and Chip Weil felt that explosion reverberate in their hearts.

Daryl grew up in an animal-loving family. "My father was an animal whisperer," she laughed. "Whether it was a robin with a broken wing or a lost baby chipmunk, he was on the case." Daryl followed the family passion, supporting AHS and joining the board in 1995. Chip has always been an animal lover, too. Dogs were his thing, and his favorite, Binky, still conjures up smiles. "Apparently, I wasn't good at naming them," he said.

Under the Weils' fundraising leadership, the society was able to open the Nina Mason Pulliam South Mountain Campus in 2002. It vastly increased AHS's ability to tend injured and ill animals, along with increasing the spay and neutering program. Still, Maricopa County was second-worst in the country — only behind Los Angeles County — when it came to caring for stray, injured and unwanted animals. Then the man who would change everything arrived on the scene.

After 16 years with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York, Dr. Steven Hansen became the AHS top dog in 2013. Not only does his enthusiasm for the animals of Arizona shine through in every word he speaks, but his compassion and guiding hand have made measurable differences in Arizona animals' lives.

In the last eight years alone, AHS has saved an additional 130,000 pets over previous time frames. That equates to an 83 percent decrease in euthanasia. Intake has also declined by 61 percent during that time, largely due to AHS's Pet Resource Center. This call center's

kind and empathetic individuals connect pet owners with affordable resources.

Given what Arizonans and their pets have endured over the last two years, it's hard to imagine what might have been without AHS. "Our goal is to always keep animals in their homes," Hansen said. Providing discounted veterinary services and supplies helps them do that. But Hansen had a bigger vision, not limited by determination, but by space.

He dreamed of a new facility that would expand animal welfare. A facility where infectious diseases (previously fatal for lack of vaccines and treatment) could be controlled by ventilated air, scrubbed free of germs. One with an evening-hours clinic at affordable prices, kids camps for learning about animal care, and adult educational opportunities.

Hansen's vision has become the Rob & Melani Walton Papago Park Campus. And to make it a reality, Hansen could imagine no one better to serve as honorary chairs of the fundraising campaign cabinet than AHS's previous heroes, Chip and Daryl Weil. The Weils generously accepted the challenge.

So how does this campaign differ? First, it comes with a much larger goal than the South Mountain Campus had: \$49 million.

"This used to be a vacation destination," Chip said. "People came to visit and then went back to their hometowns to donate to their local charities. Raising a large amount was difficult, mostly coming from big businesses, like banks and newspapers."

Increasingly, local individuals are stepping up. "The Valley population has almost doubled since 2002. Wealth has expanded, too, and that's resulted in the creation of foundations and individuals' ability to contribute," Chip said.

Three foundations — the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, the Lazin Animal Foundation and the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust — laid the groundwork, along with Mike and Cindy Watts, who donated the land. Additional funding is still being raised. Both the Weils and Dr. Hansen are quick to point out that every donor dollar counts, whether it's \$5 or \$5,000.

So, what will those dollars accomplish? They will create an animal facility like no other in the country. "We are transforming what it means to be an animal in Arizona. The future of animal welfare is happening here. It's happening now. The idea of an animal shelter as a 'pound' is a historic relic," he said.



*Dr. Steven Hansen oversees AHS's organizational operations and leads the execution of its strategic plan.*





When AHS broke ground on the 72,000-square-foot facility last November — conveniently located near the juncture of the 202 and 143 freeways — it was with a very long list of features and benefits. When completed (projected to be in 2023), a pair of two-story buildings will be connected by a pedestrian “canyon,” all thoughtfully designed for pets and people. On one side, at the Nina Mason Pulliam P.E.T. Center, adopters will have a calm meeting space to get to know the animals, which will come from kennels that are full of light and have easy access to enrichment spaces for out-of-kennel time. Cats and dogs are separated by sound walls and have separate airflow systems to reduce stress.

The building on the other side is the Watts Family Medical Center, featuring the trauma hospital. Its size will allow for the treatment of thousands more animals each year, reducing the number needlessly euthanized in shelters across the state. The new campus will support shelters throughout Arizona and beyond. “We’re planning on collaboration, not duplication of services,” Hansen said.

In that vein, AHS will now have multiple locations, each serving a critical mission. The new one at Papago Park will replace and improve on the majority of operations at the Sunnyslope location, which will continue to serve as a community hospital with vet services. Meanwhile, the Nina Mason Pulliam South Mountain Campus will continue its critical role in the mission to rescue, heal, adopt and advocate for animals.

Equally exciting will be the collaboration with students from the brand-new University of Arizona veterinary program. There’s no teaching hospital on the Tucson campus, but the Papago Park Campus will give them the experience they need.

“There’s currently a shortage of veterinarians across the country,” Hansen said. “In addition to other valuable experience, students will receive field training for animal cruelty and exposure to shelter medicine.”

Dr. Hansen and the Weils have a bit of a mutual admiration society. The good doctor describes the couple as impactful and passionate. Without them, he feels the project might not have happened. They orchestrated the capital campaign cabinet, have hosted multiple events, and have helped educate other donors.

As for the Weils, Daryl said, “Dr. Hansen is a terrific leader. Whatever comes out of his mouth is worth listening to. He’s willing to go anywhere to talk about this project and the animals. I think it was Dr. Hansen’s leadership that really drew Chip into this project.”

Or maybe it was Gizmo. Several years ago, at an early capital campaign meeting, one of the other cabinet members came with a small carrier containing a dog she’d been fostering. Daryl asked to see it, and out strolled a fuzzball with fur pantaloons. At about 5 pounds, he had had a rough start to life, found wounded in a gutter with myriad health issues. With a Rottweiler bark in a tiny body, he made Daryl fall in love. So did Chip, and Gizmo has been to every cabinet meeting since.

Just as Gizmo found his forever home, the fabulous Papago Park Campus is the Arizona Humane Society’s forever home, made possible through the love and generosity of so many, to transform animal welfare for thousands of pets to come.

To learn more, visit [azhumane.org](http://azhumane.org). 🐾



## *Behind the Gifts*

There are countless philanthropic opportunities in the world. We asked these donors to explain why they chose the Arizona Humane Society for their generosity. Here's what they had to say.

### Lazin Animal Foundation

"Terry Lazin's mission was to prevent the abuse, neglect, suffering and euthanasia of treatable and adoptable homeless dogs. The Lazin Animal Foundation is honored to have made a gift for the Lazin Animal Foundation Trauma Hospital in honor of Terry's fighting spirit, unwavering compassion and dedication to saving the lives of dogs in our community."



### Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

"This gift builds upon the Trust's over 24-year focus on improving the lives of our community's dogs and cats, which always had a special place in Nina Pulliam's heart. We have a longstanding partnership with Arizona Humane Society and are proud to be part of this evolution in animal welfare."



NINA MASON PULLIAM  
CHARITABLE TRUST

### Rob and Melani Walton Foundation

"The Arizona Humane Society is a leader in our community, bringing together people and animals, and providing care for those who need it most. We are proud to support organizations like AHS that lead innovative, compassionate programs focused on elevating people, planet and purpose."



ROB & MELANI  
WALTON  
FOUNDATION



Photo courtesy of Altered Tails

# WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DECADE MAKES

The Fix.Adopt.Save. program dramatically reduces pet euthanasia and shelter intakes

**Tom Evans** | Contributing Editor

Ten years ago, the Valley had a really big problem when it came to homeless pets — there were just too many of them.

Animal shelters were struggling to keep up with the influx of intakes. And sadly, there were far more pets than homes for them, resulting in many of the animals being euthanized. In 2012, about 37,600 stray and surrendered dogs and cats were euthanized in Maricopa County shelters — a staggering number.



Photo courtesy of Fix.Adopt.Save.



Photo courtesy of Altered Tails

It was a sign of a growing city's growing pains, and animal supporters in the community knew something needed to be done. That's when the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable sTrust teamed up with PetSmart Charities and the Alliance for Companion Animals to launch a program called Fix.Adopt.Save., with the goal of reducing the number of unwanted pets through spay and neuter programs, increased focus on adoptions, and public education on responsible pet ownership.

"Fix.Adopt.Save. is the embodiment of so much that Nina Mason Pulliam loved during her life," said Lisa Shover Kackley, a trustee with the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. "She loved animals, and she understood the human-animal connection, and she was also a champion for education at all levels for the betterment of all ... it's probably the best, cohesive statement about what Fix.Adopt.Save. is to have the joining of the Alliance for Companion Animals and our partners.

"We had huge numbers of animals that were being euthanized because there wasn't kennel space and homes,

and spay-neuter was not as strongly embraced as it is today," she said.

Launched in partnership with animal agencies across the Valley — and with \$4 million in seed money from the Pulliam Trust and PetSmart Charities — Fix.Adopt.Save. set out to make sweeping changes to the Valley's animal welfare. While it may sound like a process — get the pet fixed, get the pet adopted, save the pet — the program's moniker actually represented three separate focus areas.

"It's each an individual category that has multiple programs and components in it," said Sonia Hernandez, project manager of Fix.Adopt.Save. "Obviously, the 'fix' is spay and neuter, the primary focus and where 99 percent of our funding goes. It's the one direct, impactful service that decreases the number of animals going into shelters."

"Fixing" pets is a matter of mathematics. For example, a single female cat left unattended can result in the birth of more than 200 cats in a single year, a factor of population growth beyond the exponential. Recognizing that not every

## NEXT DOOR

{ ahead of the curve }

feral pet is going to find a home, Fix.Adopt.Save. focused not only on pets in shelters, but also on ones roaming the streets to prevent this massive population jump.

Fixing is also a key part of the adoption process, ensuring that pet owners taking animals from shelters will not end up with, ahem, more than they bargained for. The behavioral aspects of fixing pets are significant as well — a spayed or neutered animal will not exhibit many of the more aggressive or annoying traits of a species, like marking territory or lashing out at other animals.

Saving pets involves more than just finding them a home. It means subsidizing medical care for pet owners who otherwise might have no other alternative than to put down a sick pet. And it means educating the public on their options for animal adoption, care and even surrender.

The results have been astonishing. Over the past decade, euthanasia rates in Maricopa County have dropped almost 90 percent, and intake at animal shelters has fallen nearly 60 percent. It's an amazing turnaround that has saved the lives of pets and helped find happy homes for thousands

of pets and pet-owning families.

"When I first began working with Fix.Adopt.Save., I realized this is really important work that a lot of other organizations that work in animal welfare don't have," said Dr. Nellie Goetz, chair of the Alliance for Companion Animals. "I think that's central to the continued success and continued education of the program."

There's much more to be done. Maricopa County's population continues to grow rapidly, and the sometimes transient nature of the population means that public education efforts must continue on an ongoing basis. The sheer number of new people means new pets as well, not to mention the side effects of the pandemic — delayed treatment of pets, a wave of adoptions and more.

But Fix.Adopt.Save. is up for the task.

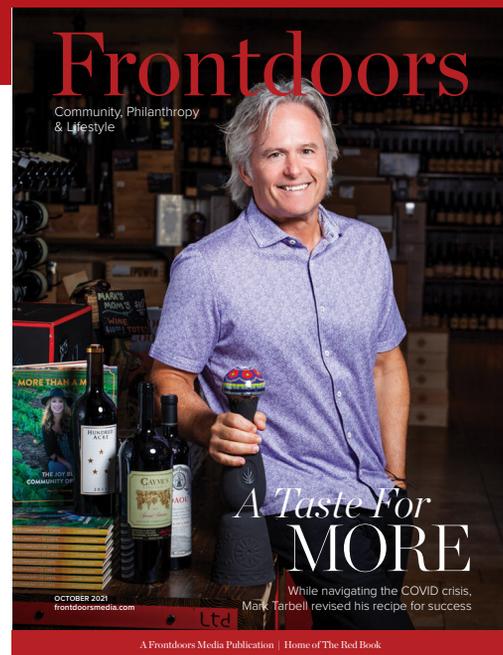
"It's putting that spay and neuter education and medical funding out into the community to try to get ahead of it," Hernandez said. "Hopefully, five years from now, we'll try to stay stable and maintain the levels we're at now, considering our population." 🐾

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# Pawesome *Portrait*

**LEE COURTNEY**

with her French bulldog, Ferrarri,  
and her Arabian horse, Ssequin



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# *A Day With* **ALESSANDRA NAVIDAD**

President and CEO of  
Arizona Animal Welfare League

**JULIE COLEMAN** | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

## **4:15 A.M. >> HUSTLE, BUSTLE + QUIET**

I begin my day by going to the gym for an hour in the morning. I must be out of the house by 7 a.m. to drop off my 13-year-old identical twin girls at the bus stop for school. My husband takes my 16-year-old stepdaughter to work, and my 17-year-old son drives himself to school. I head into work from there so I can be one of the first ones in the office. I use this time to walk the kennels — even the dogs are quiet! I also spend time journaling, goal setting, planning for the day and prioritizing what needs to be done during the week. This precious time with few distractions allows me to think about big things, such as how to reduce stress levels for the cats and improve their housing, or how to reduce the length of stay for the animals.



*In addition to her family, Alessandra enjoys spending time with her dogs, Ollie and Charli.*

## **8 A.M. >> A JOB OF PEOPLE CARE**

Since I'm relatively new in my role, I spend a lot of time on the organization's people and culture pieces, as these are important to me. I visit our two clinics that are adjacent to each other and share a surgery suite. One clinic serves homeless animals and the other, MD Petcare, is public-facing. I am hands-on because we are currently without a medical director, and I am leading the medical team. We are trying to build a pipeline and more diverse medical team, so I manage the recruiting, interviewing and hiring of candidates. I like being at the clinics to see the team in action and learn more about what they do.

My philosophy as a leader is to spend one-on-one time with my 10 direct reports. We discuss how we can work together to support their teams, what help they need to be a better manager and any struggles they are experiencing.

We are here to rescue animals that have suffered tremendous trauma by providing them with the care, love and compassion they need to get better and ultimately be available for adoption. This can take a toll on the team emotionally, and they can experience compassion fatigue. I am conscious of giving my staff time to connect with each other and decompress.

### 10 A.M. >> AN ORGANIZATION BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS

Connecting and meeting with donors is a big part of my role, whether via emails, phone calls or tours. I take donors on tours twice a week. It is a great way for me to learn more about the 50-year history of the organization and connect with our passionate donors.

I continue to learn the business of animal welfare and our various programs — adoptions, behavior, foster, medical — a full range of services for animals. I try to balance the day learning as much as I can about the team and programs, including identifying gaps and growth areas, with fundraising. I focus on what I can do as a CEO to help the organization move forward and am humble in recognizing what I don't know. I do not need to know everything. I have a strong team of veterinarians and staff who are experts. I am lucky and privileged to be here.

### 1:30 P.M. >> FOCUS ON A COMMUNITY'S FURRY FRIENDS

We are the only organization in the state that received a grant from PetSmart Charities to conduct a needs assessment of the 160,000 underserved Latinx community living near our shelter. It's a long-term project to invest in communities of color by giving pet owners resources, so they don't have to surrender their animals. We want to do a better job of meeting their needs and identifying their barriers to accessing veterinary care. My outreach staff and I are identifying and meeting with potential partners, such as New Pathways for Youth, Mountain Park Health Center and faith-based organizations, asking them to join this effort by distributing our survey to their pet owners.



### 3 P.M. >> SUCCESS IS THE CAT'S MEOW

We are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of animals coming into the shelter system because people are struggling economically, impacting their ability to care for their animals. We are incorporating shelter intervention strategies by providing case management and additional support so an animal can remain in its home. For example, our AAWL Cares program covers costs for those animals that might be surrendered due to medical expenses.

Despite COVID and staffing challenges, there is a lot we can be proud of. More animals were fostered in 2021 than the previous year. We found permanent, loving homes for 3,600 animals and were able to save more animals with severe medical needs last year than the prior year. We also restarted our monthly vaccine clinics that were on hiatus because of COVID. There is a tremendous need, because public vaccine events couldn't take place during the pandemic, resulting in an increase in some infectious diseases.

One of the things that makes us unique is our behavior team. We have certified dog and feline behavior managers, and we intend to grow this team. We have hired a full-time foster family coordinator whose focus is to recruit more foster families so animals can move into a home environment and reduce their stress.

### 5:30 P.M. >> PAW-SOME, QUALITY FAMILY TIME

Since I come into work early, I head home because I feel it's important for our family to eat dinner together. There are seven of us in our blended family — four kids, my husband and mother-in-law. You learn all kinds of things during dinner. Whenever teenagers are ready to talk, they open up! The remainder of the evening is focused on the kids doing their homework, and I listen to guided meditation with my daughters to wind down from my hectic days.

To learn more, go to [aawl.org](http://aawl.org). 🐾



# Furry Friends

## 2022 ANIMAL CARE & RESCUE RESOURCE DIRECTORY

A Frontdoors Media Publication



### ALMOST THERE RESCUE

Almost There Rescue is a nonprofit that specializes in helping homeless large-breed pregnant and nursing dogs and puppies. While dogs are at the center of what ATR does, ATR is also about people. Volunteers, adopters, fosters, donors and partners make this important work possible. Together, we are accomplishing bigger things, elevating the greater community and saving more lives. Our vision for the future is bright!

Thank you, Wrigley Mansion, for sponsoring this listing and supporting Almost There Rescue's mission: to save mama dogs and their pups, provide care and enrichment, and find loving, forever homes.

2611 E. Indian School Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85016



call: **(480) 336-9860**

visit: **[almosttherescue.org](http://almosttherescue.org)**

## ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY

The Arizona Humane Society saves the most vulnerable animals and enriches the lives of pets and people. As the safety net for our community's sick, injured and abused pets, AHS saves lives through some of the most innovative programs in the country: aggressive spay/neuter initiatives; comprehensive medical care in AHS's Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital™ and intensive care units; rescue and cruelty investigations by AHS's Emergency Animal Medical Technicians™ and a Pet Resource Center that helps keep pets in loving homes. The life of every pet saved is the direct result of gifts from thousands of friends, partners and donors.

1521 W. Dobbins Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85041



call: **(602) 997-7585**

visit: **azhumane.org**

## HEIDI'S VILLAGE

Heidi's Village fosters a community where animals are treated with compassion, dignity and respect. Heidi's Village offers traditional animal shelter services such as intakes for strays and owner surrenders and adoptions to new, loving homes. But we do more — a LOT more! Heidi's Village is the one-stop-shop of services for the animal welfare community in the Greater Phoenix area. Through collaboration with more than 30 rescue partners, our services impact animal welfare efforts throughout Phoenix. All of our services are located conveniently on-site at our state-of-the-art facility.

600 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85008



call: **(602) 241-4640**

visit: **heidisvillage.org**



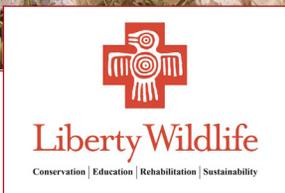
## HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY

Hospice of the Valley’s pet therapy teams bring joy to everyone they meet. As soon as they walk into a room, our patients and families feel better. There is something very comforting about the unconditional love that pets freely give — not to mention all of the precious cuddles, tail wags and wet kisses! Our cheerful teams visit our patients in homes, group homes, independent and assisted living communities, inpatient care homes, nursing facilities, trade shows and expos. Suitable pets include dogs, cats, bunnies and miniature horses with a current pet therapy certification.

1510 E. Flower St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

call: **(602) 636-6336**

visit: **[hov.org/volunteer/pet-therapy](http://hov.org/volunteer/pet-therapy)**



## LIBERTY WILDLIFE

A 41-year-old volunteer-driven, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organization with a national impact, Liberty Wildlife extends our expertise with native wildlife beyond furry animals to feathered and scaled species. We strive to provide high-quality environmental education, conservation projects for the community, expert medical rehabilitation of ill and injured wildlife, and demonstrate best practices of sustainability — preventing human-wildlife conflict, promoting appreciation of nature, and preserving Native American and Southwest cultural heritage. Ongoing activities support this mission and provide a beautiful setting for hosting personal and corporate events.

2600 E. Elwood St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

call: **(480) 998-5550**

visit: **[libertywildlife.org](http://libertywildlife.org)**

## NEW LIFE CENTER P.A.W.S. PROGRAM

New Life Center recognizes the vital role pets play in the healing process and is proud to be one of only 3 percent of domestic violence shelters in the country to accommodate survivors' pets. Between 25 and 50 percent of domestic and sexual assault survivors reportedly delay or refuse to leave an abusive and often dangerous partner because they're afraid of what could happen to the pet they leave behind. We strive to break down those barriers to resources for survivors and do what we can to make Arizona violence-free, because no one should have to choose between their safety and the safety of their pets.

P.O. Box 5005  
Goodyear, AZ 85338



call: **(623) 932-4404**

visit: **[newlifectr.org](http://newlifectr.org)**

## PACC911

*Uniting the pet rescue community — working together to save animals.*

PACC911 brings together more than 100 animal welfare organizations throughout Arizona to create a potent animal rescue community that works together under a unified umbrella. We provide education, adopt-a-thons, medical grants for rescued animals and have a pet food pantry for low-income families. Please save the date for our signature fundraising event, "Glimmer of Hope," on Nov. 13, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas. Contact Bari Mears at [bari@pacc911.org](mailto:bari@pacc911.org) with questions.

10645 N. Tatum Blvd., Ste. 200-516  
Phoenix, AZ 85028



email: **[bari@pacc911.org](mailto:bari@pacc911.org)**

visit: **[pacc911.org](http://pacc911.org)**



## PAWSITIVE FRIENDSHIPS

Pawsitive Friendships was founded in 2014 by Tosha Tharp-Gaitanis, the mother of a son with autism. She discovered that she increased his progress by incorporating her French bulldog, Zoe, into her son's therapy. This model became the inspiration for our organization. Our mission is to assist individuals with special needs who are not adequately progressing toward their goals by providing animal-assisted therapy. Our programs work with local special education schools, pediatric clinics and adult day programs. Contact us to learn how your dog, cat, pig, mini horse, alpaca, bird, reptiles and more can make a pawsitive impact.

3317 S. Higley Road, Suite 114-778  
Gilbert, AZ 85297



call: **(480) 353-7833**

visit: **[pawsitivefriendships.org](http://pawsitivefriendships.org)**



## POWER PAWS ASSISTANCE DOGS

Our mission is to provide highly skilled assistance dogs to people with disabilities, education and continuing support for working assistance dog teams, and to be a resource in the community for people with disabilities. We provide service dogs for disabled children or adults with physical challenges, Type I diabetes, PTSD or facilities serving sexual or domestic abuse survivors. Our community outreach includes summer camp or reading programs for kids and social engagement visits with seniors/ veterans. Power Paws is one of two agencies in Arizona accredited by Assistance Dogs International to train service dogs for the disabled.

8250 E. Rose Lane  
Scottsdale, AZ 85250



call: **(480) 970-1322**

visit: **[azpowerpaws.org](http://azpowerpaws.org)**

## TWO PUPS WELLNESS FUND

Two Pups Wellness Fund was launched in 2017 with a mission to help save the lives of ill, injured, abandoned and neglected animals through animal shelters and rescue organizations. Our vision is to stop the unnecessary suffering and euthanasia of treatable animals by helping to alleviate the financial burden on the rescue community and allow pets to receive the medical care they need to return to a healthy, pain-free life. To date, Two Pups has proudly helped fund care for nearly 10,000 animals.

4130 N. Marshall Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251



call: **(480) 490-7136**

visit: **twopups.org**

## WHISPERING HOPE RANCH FOUNDATION

Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation provides hope and healing to children with special needs through the wonders of camp, the beauty of nature and the human-animal connection. Like our campers, many of our animal residents live with disabilities and chronic or life-threatening illnesses. These “Nature’s Nurses” are the heart of the Whispering Hope experience, bringing children and animals together for healing. The bond that grows between campers and our gentle animals improves the lives of children with special needs. These powerful experiences give them strength in difficult times, improve medical compliance, and show them they are not alone.

P.O. Box 54070  
Phoenix, AZ 85078



call: **(602) 266-2216**

visit: **whisperinghoperanch.org**

**COOL CATS**

Jessica Kientz enjoys time with Frankie, a friendly feline at La Gattara Cat Café & Boutique. Inspired by cat cafes in New York City and Tokyo, this feline-based entertainment center and cat sanctuary provides a safe space to enjoy the company of free-roaming rescue cats in Phoenix. La Gattara has found homes for 831 cats in the past four years. And with events like yoga, drag bingo, comedy night, paint night, kids camp and more, La Gattara is a purrrfect place to hang out.

Visit [lagattara.org](http://lagattara.org) to learn more.



PERSONALIZED GIFTS FOR PET LOVERS

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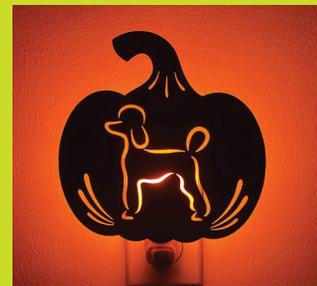
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# A lifesaving decade for dogs and cats

## Fix.Adopt.Save. 10th Anniversary



Our Community Commitment

**There is no better time than right now to be a cat or dog in Maricopa County.**

And it's because 10 years ago, people and organizations devoted to animals joined forces to create Fix.Adopt.Save., an initiative to tackle pet overpopulation in our community.

Before 2012, over 35,000 stray and surrendered dogs and cats were euthanized in Maricopa County shelters every year. Today, that number is down more than 88%.

Fix.Adopt.Save. prevents unwanted litters and reduces pet euthanasia through low- and no-cost spay/neuter surgeries, adoption, vaccine and wellness services and community education.

Thank you to the Alliance for Companion Animals and its member organizations for a decade of collaboration to change the plight of Maricopa County's pets.

**Altered Tails Barnhart Clinic | Animal Defense League of Arizona  
Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA | Arizona Humane Society  
HALO Animal Rescue | Maricopa County Animal Care and Control | PACC911**

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust is a proud founding and sustaining funder of Fix.Adopt.Save.

2012 – 2021



**EUTHANASIA**

**88%**  
Decrease



**INTAKE**

**58%**  
Decrease



**SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES**

**377,000+**



**PET ADOPTIONS**

**361,000+**

Visit [FixAdoptSave.org](http://FixAdoptSave.org) to donate and help end pet overpopulation and homelessness in Maricopa County.

[ninapulliamtrust.org](http://ninapulliamtrust.org)



Building a Legacy of Community Grantmaking since 1998

@pulliamtrust  