

**The
Tucson**
January/February 2021



A publication dedicated to promoting the human/animal bond and raising awareness of shelter and rescue animals.

**Dylan Capshaw:
A Journey to Improve
the Animal/Human
Condition**

**Finding Gobi: The Story of
how a Runner and a Stray Dog
Brought the World Together**

Dental Care: Cats, Dogs & Horses

**Rescued Hearts Cellars –
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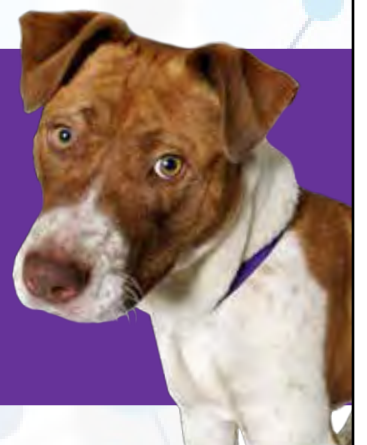
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2. Upload the photo onto our website at thetucsondog.com from January 4th through January 24th.
3. Our panel of judges will choose a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner and prizes will be awarded for each place.
4. The winners will be announced on our website and our facebook page on February 1st. The winner will receive a private photo shoot with Tucson Dog Magazine cover photographer, Candice Eaton. All entries must be available for photo shoot for the cover picture by appointment between February 6th through the 7th.

For more info go to: www.thetucsondog.com or call (520) 345-2801

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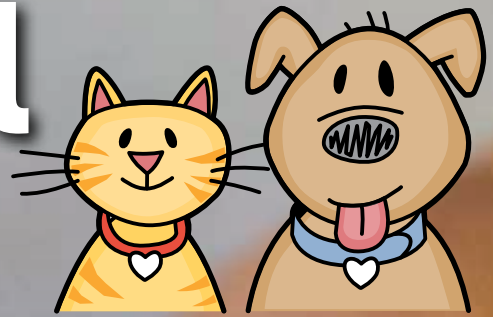
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The Tucson **DOG**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Story

- 14 Dylan Capshaw: A Journey to Improve the Animal/Human Condition

Regular Features

- 8 The Leader of the Pack Speaks
- 8 Greetings from Gracie: January Is National Train Your Dog Month
- 18 A Visit to The Dog House: Dogs for Adoption
- 19 From the Directors Desk: HSSA
- 20 The Scratching Post: Cats for Adoption
- 24 Kids & Animals: Animals Helping Kids

Special Features

- 4 The Tucson Dog 2nd Annual WOOFstock Cover Dog Contest
- 10 Welcome, Zelda!
- 12 Finding Gobi: The Story of How a Runner and a Stray Dog Brought the World Together
- 16 Dental Care: Cats, Dogs & Horses
- 22 Rescued Hearts Cellars - Uncorking the Generosity

Important Information

- 9 Calendar of Events
- 21 Animal Resource Guide
- 25 Pet Directory: Pet Related Services
- 26 Important Numbers
- 27 Tucson Dog Advertisers Index

On the Cover

Dylan Capshaw with friends Jade the kangaroo and Penelope the dog.



14

COVER STORY

Dylan Capshaw:
A Journey to Improve the Animal/Human Condition

Finding Gobi: The Story of How a Runner and a Stray Dog Brought the World Together



12



Dental Care:
Cats, Dogs
& Horses

16

Rescued
Hearts Cellars -
Uncorking the
Generosity



22



Kids & Animals:
Animals Helping Kids

24

IN THIS ISSUE

The Tucson Dog Staff & Writers



Ann Herrington - Publisher/Editor - Ann began working in animal welfare in 1997 when she adopted a shelter dog named Harley who changed the direction of her life. She utilized her experience working in the media and advertising for many years to help shelter animals through education and off-site adoption events. In 2008, she founded the first of 4 magazines, The Prescott Dog. She continues to dedicate her life to helping rescue and shelter animals through awareness, education, and adoptions. Email: ann@thetucsondog.com



Heather McShea - Sales Manager - Heather is the owner of a local Home Health Care company and often volunteers in helping find new homes for the pets of her hospice patients. She has three rescue dogs of her own but has a constant flow of neighbor dogs stopping by all the time; She calls her house the neighborhood dog park. Heather's love of our most vulnerable populations has lead her to Home Health Care and helping all animals in need. Email: heather@thetucsondog.com



Rebecca West - Staff Writer - Rebecca is a freelance writer and editor for print and digital who loves to travel the globe. A life-long pet owner, she adores animals and has taken part in fostering dogs for military members during deployment. She has given many rescued and surrendered dogs the forever home they always wanted, and her two favorite canine quotes are, "Be the kind of person your dog thinks you are," and "My dog rescued me." Email: nomadshighway@gmail.com



Bonnie Craig - Staff Writer - Bonnie lives with three dogs, a cat, nine chickens, and a Betta fish. As well as writing, she enjoys painting and playing music. She is passionate about the natural world and loves gardening, botanizing, hiking, and camping. Most evenings she can be found in the garden listening to the chickens and playing endless games of fetch with a certain ball-obsessed border collie. Email: bonniehooligan@yahoo.com



Emily Dieckman - Staff Writer - Emily loves to tell stories - especially about animals. While she impatiently looks forward to living in an apartment that allows dogs, she fills her time with writing, reading, cooking and petting other people's dogs. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California State University, Fullerton, and her writing has appeared in several magazines and newspapers. Email: emily.dieckman@gmail.com



Brian W Pettepiece - Staff Writer - Brian has a life-long affection for dogs and has been lucky enough to utilize his passion for canines in his professional life, operating a pet photography studio and participating on the board of animal related charities. Brian is attending the University of Arizona and loves to camp, hike, and generally spend as much time with as many dogs as he can. Email: poptop_vw@yahoo.com



Bella Wexler - Staff Intern/Writer - Bella is a student at Catalina Foothills High School, born and raised in Tucson with her family's two dogs and one cat. Her passion for promoting animal welfare has been inspired by her mom's dedication to fostering homeless pets and her sister's volunteer work with local rescue groups. She is grateful for the opportunity to learn from such a caring and talented team at the Tucson Dog Magazine and is honored to write about local people and pets. Email: bella@thetucsondog.com



Gracie - Canine Writer - Gracie is a 4 year-old former shelter dog who loves giving pet parents tips on how to keep their four-legged friends healthy and happy with her column, "Greetings from Gracie." She loves playing with her brother Andy, who is also a rescue. She loves traveling, Tucson and the many friendly animal lovin' people and their pets she has met. Email: gracie@thetucsondog.com

THE TUCSON DOG

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The Tucson Dog reserves the right to editorial control of all articles, stories and Letters to the Editor. The Tucson Dog assumes no responsibility for errors within its publication. The views herein do not necessarily represent the policies of The Tucson Dog and should not be construed as endorsements. The Tucson Dog was established in June 2017 and is a nonpartisan publication that is published bi-monthly by Ann Herrington, Founder. Entire contents copyright 2021 by The Tucson Dog. Layout, Design and Graphics by EMI Printworks, Prescott, AZ., Linda Morris - Lead Designer, Mark Davidson - Production Manager.

The Leader of the Pack Speaks!

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year and WELCOME TO 2021!! I've never been so happy to welcome a new year considering all that happened last year! My hope and prayer is that 2021 will bring healing to our country and that we will return to normal sooner, rather than later.

I want to thank you for continuing to support us and to our advertisers whom without, we would not be here. Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in The Tucson Dog. Also, if you have a business and would like to support us, please consider advertising in The Tucson Dog. We welcome your support as last year hit us hard! If you would like to advertise with us, please contact our Sales Manager, Heather McShea at (520) 448-2580 or email her at heather@thetucsondog.com.

We are happy to announce that we will be holding our 2nd Annual WOOFstock Cover Dog Contest. You can see all the details in this issue on page 4. Our contests are always fun yet difficult to judge as we have so many beautiful dogs to choose from. So, dress up your dog in his/her best WOOFstock costume and join in the fun! As far as our WOOFstock event goes, we do have it scheduled for late March but we will see if we are able to hold it. We will keep you posted on that!

I am so thrilled about our cover story this issue and feel like it is a great way to start the year! 14-year-old Dylan Capshaw is an extraordinary young man who is doing remarkable things to help people and animals. I have always known that the next generation would be our biggest hope of ending homelessness and animal abuse that is still out there in so many ways. We have shared many stories with you about some incredible young people in our "Kids and Animals" feature but this young man takes the cake! I don't even know where to begin about all the things this he is doing to help animals and people so I'm just going to let you read the story. I will say that his work is so incredible and has been recognized in such a big way that he is one of 20 finalists for the "Kid of the Year" award sponsored by Nickelodeon, Time Magazine, and Time for Kids. He is exactly what our world needs and we are so proud to bring you this story!

Another incredible story we are bringing you is about an avid runner named Dion who was running along the sand dunes of China in the Gobi desert and found a little dog trailing behind him. He was aptly named "Gobi" and you will not believe this story! This little dog brought the world together in ways you cannot imagine including a lifelong friendship, three books and a pending Hollywood film. This is the most inspiring story about what one little dog can do! We at the Tucson Dog know all about that kind of love and devotion and we are so thrilled when we can share these stories with you. All I can say is, NEVER underestimate the power of animals, especially our beloved dogs who are truly amazing!

2020 was one of the most devastating years we have ever had, and I've seen people display the worst and the best to others. I am choosing love, kindness and hope and I would like to ask you to spread the word! You never know what losses or problems those around us are dealing with on any given day but especially the effects that 2020 has had on us. So please, be good to each other and practice random acts of kindness whether it is a smile, a compliment, or a deed as we all need this right now.

I would like to leave you with some beautiful words from a song that speaks to my soul and maybe to yours. It's by Lenny Kravitz called, Here to Love. *"Just think twice, before you cast your stone at someone's soul. It's their life so the choice is theirs and theirs alone. We're not here to judge, we are here to love. There's no room to hate, we are just one human race, we must rise above, we are here to love, there's no time to waste anymore."*

Sending you much love and good wishes for the New Year,

Ann



Greetings from Gracie

January Is National Train Your Dog Month

Dear Humans,

Did you know that January is National Train Your Dog Month? Since you humans like to make New Year's Resolutions, make a resolution to learn something new with your four-legged friend.

What is National Train Your Dog Month? The Association of Pet Dog Trainers began their National Train Your Dog month campaign in January 2010 in the hopes of raising awareness about the importance of proper pet training and healthy socialization to a dog's well-being.

Why January? Because so many dogs and puppies are adopted around the holidays, and because a good number of those dogs are given up to animal shelters or abandoned soon after.

APDT understands training could be the one thing that makes or breaks a dog's chance to stay with their family and in their home. Training Keeps Dogs in their Forever Homes.

Though most people who get a dog do so with the best intentions, those who wind up surrendering their new pets to the shelter often do so because they just can't cope with their dog's behavioral issues.

Maybe the dog is hyperactive, yappy, or destructive. Perhaps they're fearful, shy, lashing out, or behaving aggressively. Most often, it's not because they're bad dogs. It's because they don't have the tools they need to know how to behave appropriately.

Inexperienced owners might try temporary fixes that only make problems more severe, like isolation from the house and family, yelling, shock collars, or worse. By the time these dogs end up in a shelter, they're confused and ill-equipped for life in a home.


That makes January the perfect month to remind pet parents, new and experienced, to take the time to train their furry friends. With consistency, well-timed praise and rewards, a level head, lots of practice, and the guidance of an experienced dog-training professional, you and your pooch will learn and grow all year long.

Check out The Tucson Dog Magazine for trainers or ask a friend or your veterinarian for a referral.

Lastly, remember that training your dog is not only beneficial; it's also a lot of fun. Dogs thrive on mental stimulation. We love the chance to learn and practice something new and more than anything, we love your attention and feel good when we work together!

Remember, time spent training is time spent bonding, making priceless memories, and building a strong relationship between you and your dog. Isn't that what having a dog is all about?

Peace, Love & Biscuits,

Gracie 

Calendar

JANUARY

Mon. Jan 4th - Jan. 24th

The Tucson Dog Magazine's Annual WOOFstock Cover Dog Contest

FREE Online contest at
www.thetucsondog.com

Join us for another fun contest and a chance to get your dog on the cover of The Tucson Dog Magazine's Mar/Apr 2021 issue as our official WOOFstock pooch!

Dress up your canine pal in his/her best WOOFstock costume and enter online at www.thetucsondog.com. Entry is from Jan 4th through midnight Jan 24th.

The winner will be announced on Monday, Feb 1st, 2021.

Entry is free and prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners.

The winner must be available for the Cover Photo shoot with our awesome Photographer Candice Eaton on either Saturday, Feb 6th, or Sunday, Feb 7th.

For more information, email heather@thetucsondog.com or call, (520) 448-2580.

Sat. Jan 9th - 11am-11pm

Native Grill & Wings Fundraiser 10255 E. Old Vail Rd, Tucson 85747

15% of proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona from Native Grill and Wings from 11am-11pm on this day. Pet VIP dog teams will be on the heated patio from 12:30pm-2:30pm! For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/hssaz/>.

Sun. Jan 17th - 8am

Tucson Rescue Now Fundraiser 2905 E. Skyline Dr., Ste. 208, Tucson 85718

On Sunday, Jan 17th, we will hold a fundraiser poet portraits marathon to help support Tucson Rescue Now. 50% of your sitting fee and 10% of the profits from your entire purchase will be donated to TRN. There are only 5 sessions available for this date, so sign up quickly. Go to www.ceatonphotography.com/TRN for more info.

**Sat. Jan 23rd - Sun. Jan 24th -
7:30am-10:30am**

Buffalo Exchange \$1 Clothing Sale HSSA's Main Campus, 635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson 85705

Shop men's and women's clothing and accessories for ONLY \$1 each. All sales benefit HSSA and the pets they serve. So, get your thrifting shoes on and shop to save lives! For more details, go to www.hssaz.org/clothes.

**Sat. Jan 23rd - Sun. Jan 24th
(See schedule for times)**

5th Annual *Free Virtual* Southern Arizona Equine Health Symposium

We wish we could be together to commemorate our 5th anniversary this year, however we still have lots of New and Exciting info to share with you via eight live 1-hour webinars (Free). For the full schedule and Free Registration, visit tinyurl.com/SAZEHS

FEBRUARY

**Mon. Feb 1st - Mon. Feb 15th - 6am
on Feb 1st 'til 10pm Feb 15th**

Online Virtual Cover Dog Contest

It's time to pick Tucson Lifestyle Magazine's Cover Dog again! This time we are going virtual. Is your dog amazing, captivating, or just plain adorable? Submit your dog's photo, have your friends and family donate to help you win, and they could become a star! For more details to submit your dog's photo, go to www.hssaz.org/CoverDog.

**Sun. Feb 28th - 10:30am-10pm
MOD Pizza Fundraiser
4386 N. Oracle Rd Ste. 150,
Tucson 85705**

20% of all proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona from MOD Pizza between 10:30am-10pm on Sunday, Feb 28th. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/hssaz/>



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Special Feature

Welcome, Zelda!

Story and photos by Emily Dieckman

After years of writing for the Tucson Dog, staff writer gets dog of her own, and finds joy and connection during the pandemic.

My boyfriend and I have been talking about getting a dog since before we moved in together 3.5 years ago.

At first, we'd wanted to make sure we enjoyed living with each other before bringing another living being into the mix. Then it was that our apartment didn't allow dogs. When we moved to a dog-friendly place, I felt bad that we'd leave the dog home alone all day while we were at work, and he worried about how we didn't have a fenced yard. We might want to move out of the country someday and bringing a dog along would be difficult.



Ready to play as soon as Mom is done with work

We had a lot of excuses, but when we added them all together, we were left with the simple fact that we were scared. A dog is a big responsibility, and we didn't want to mess it up.

In 2020, we saw with a whole new sense of clarity that there were much, much bigger things to be afraid of. I started working from home full-time, so concerns about leaving the dog alone in the house, at least for the time being, were moot. As the COVID-19 pandemic dragged on, it seemed more and more like the time was right – not just because the logistics were lining up, but because the comfort of a furry companion sounded more appealing than ever.

When we got an email from Pima Animal Care Center about an urgent need for dog fosters, I felt like it was a sign. On November 1st, we walked into the shelter to see who was available and walked out with Zelda, a 1.5-year-old shepherd mix who was as black as night and had been picked up as a stray. She'd been having a hard time getting comfortable in the shelter and was taking anti-anxiety medication. I struggle with anxiety myself, so I couldn't help but giggle at the thought of Zelda and I home alone together, worrying all day.

While Zelda was anxious her first couple of days at our house, she grew comfortable almost as quickly as we grew to love her. No fewer than four people reached out to us about adopting her within a week. In the end, of course, we decided to keep her.

Zelda has enormous ears that seem to remain at attention even when she's asleep. She knows how to sit, lay down, and roll over onto her back. When she's excited in the morning, sometimes her tail wags so hard against the bookshelf next to our bed that the sound wakes me up.

On one of our first walks, Zelda and a Pomeranian, who was walking by with her owner, started straining at their leashes to greet one another. I warned the woman I wasn't sure exactly how Zelda did with other dogs, because I'd only had her since the day before.



Zelda among the leaves

We cautiously let Zelda and the Pomeranian, whose name turned out to be Leia (both named after princesses!) approach one another, and I said a silent prayer that Zelda wouldn't bite the Pomeranian's head off. It was answered. They touched noses, looking something like a sweet little canine version of The Creation of Adam.

I was so excited and proud that Zelda had made (and not mauled) a new neighbor friend, that it wasn't until later that it hit me how nice it had felt for me, too. I couldn't remember the last time I'd approached one of my neighbors to chat. Having a dog felt like some sort of superpower that allowed me to go up and make conversation (from a safe distance) with all sorts of new people.



Zelda and Jeff taking a break after an intense match of tug-o-war

Bear from next door, who is so enormous that I suspect he might actually be a bear, and whom Zelda seems to fear and idolize equally, like a little girl does her older brother. And then there are her most frequent playmates: Fiona and Vinnie, a husky mix and a miniature Australian border collie. They live one building over, and Zelda and I stop by so often that I actually remember their owner's name too (it's Jessa).

When we got a dog, we didn't just get a brown-eyed, big-eared goofball who plays a mean game of tug-o-war and is a world-class snuggler. We got all of the friends – canine and human – that she was brave enough to introduce us to. And during a pandemic, no less! Thank goodness for dogs.



An afternoon picnic with our new dog was just as idyllic as I'd hoped it would be

An added benefit? In dog neighbor world, no one seems to expect you to remember their names, because everyone just remembers each other by their dogs' names anyway. "Hi Zelda!" the owner of the pit mix from down the street will say. "Zelda's so excited to see Molly!" I'll call in response.

Our little social butterfly has made several friends in the neighborhood: There's Molly and Bentley from down the block, who would chase after balls together forever, if we let them. There's



Unsure what book she should read next!

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Special Feature

Finding Gobi: The Story of How a Runner and a Stray Dog Brought the World Together

Story by Bella Wexler - Photos Courtesy of *Finding Gobi*



Dion and Gobi in the Gobi Desert

The sand dunes Dion tread in Northern China’s Gobi Desert were barely wide enough to accommodate his own two feet, let alone the four paws that trailed behind him. It didn’t help that the scruffy little dog to which those paws belonged was also nipping at Dion’s shoes. It’s hard to believe that this moment would give way to the mobilization of hundreds of volunteers, international news features, meet and greets with world leaders, three books, a pending Hollywood film, and a lifelong friendship. But it did. The story of Gobi and Dion bridges continents, ages, and mediums to deliver a universally inspiring message: compassion and determination aren’t unique to any one culture or species, but born of our capacity to connect them.

Dion Leonard and his wife, Lucja didn’t always love to run. Improving their fitness was their inspiration for starting the sport recreationally and then as race competitors. After persevering through his first marathon in France, Dion’s next race was an ultra-marathon race in South Africa where he finished 6th. Dion then would travel to China to run a 155 mile race in the Gobi Desert of Northern China. In fact, it was this race that radically changed the trajectory of his life.

At the end of day one of the race Dion noticed a small dog around the campsite. The amused competitors fed her from their limited supply of self-provided food. On day two, Dion was about to cross the Tian Shan Mountains and was met by that same little dog. They took some time to warm up to each other, of course, as the dog had been attempting to chew apart Dion’s running gear. Nevertheless, they grew close pretty quickly, with Dion aptly naming the pup, “Gobi”.

By the end of the race, Dion and Gobi were irrevocably bonded. Besides having completed a race requiring remarkable physical endurance together, they also

overcame emotionally trying circumstances when tasked with saving a severely fatigued competitor, ultimately costing them first place in the race. Through thick and thin, Dion and Gobi survived together and had no intentions of parting ways at the finish line.

In order to raise funds to bring Gobi with him to Edinburgh, Scotland, Dion established a crowd-funding campaign. It was a wild success, leading Dion and Lucja to donate all excess funds to organizations that support stray dogs. All was in order for Gobi’s homecoming when, suddenly, the unthinkable happened.



High fives with Dad

While in Edinburgh waiting for Gobi to be cleared by the Chinese government, Dion received a devastating phone call; Gobi had gone missing. The Chinese city of Urumqi has a population of 3 million people and uses languages completely foreign to Dion. Nevertheless, he booked a flight there as soon as possible, determined to find his dog.



Dion, the press, and volunteers search for Gobi

By this time, many international news outlets already had their eyes on Gobi’s heartwarming story, and her disappearance set off waves of support for Dion’s search. In Urumqi, Dion amassed a team of hundreds of Chinese volunteers who, inspired by Dion’s devotion to finding his lost friend, combed the city in search of Gobi.

The experience “helped to overturn so many assumptions” about Chinese treatment of animals, reflects Dion. In this way, reuniting Gobi with Dion did more than bring them back together, it helped people of even vastly different cultures shed their differences and grow closer together as well.

Thankfully, Gobi and Dion were eventually reconnected and now live a happy life in Tucson. Although Gobi has retired from races, her adventures have far from ended. Dion has written and published three books documenting his and Gobi’s story for readers of various age groups to enjoy. The children’s book tells a visual story through Gobi’s eyes while the adult book (a New York Times bestseller called *Finding Gobi*) addresses themes such as Dion’s traumatic upbringing that compelled him not to leave Gobi behind. The different angles presented across the three books educate about everything from the value of exercise to animal welfare to overcoming adversity. Gobi’s story



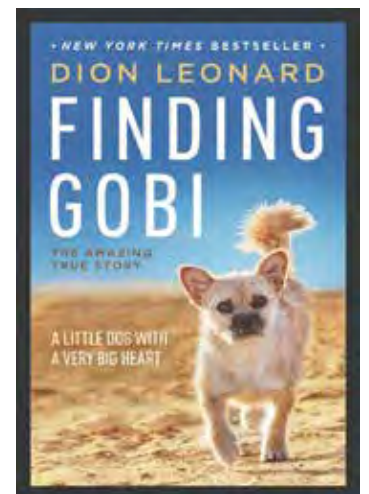
Gobi and Laura play in the snow

became so popular that it is also being adapted into a film by Sony Pictures. Moreover, their friendship has led the pair to meet the British Royal Family, president of Slovenia, and several other world leaders and celebrities.

Despite her newfound fame, Gobi has always stayed grounded. She spends her days “lounging around and chilling out”, Dion says. Despite Gobi’s former life as a stray, she fits

right in at home. She even has some sibling rivalries with her feline sister, Lara, who has her own book called ‘Lara Runaway Cat’ a fiction book of her journey to find herself and happiness. At the end of the day, though, the two are happy to share a forever home and family.

From the mountains and deserts of China all the way to the sofa of her current Tucson home, Gobi has certainly had an exciting life. Her and Dion’s enduring companionship has touched the hearts of thousands of individuals worldwide, bringing people and pets closer together against all odds. To learn more about Gobi and Dion’s journey and get your very own autographed (and pawtographed) copy of their books, please visit www.findinggobi.com.



Finding Gobi chapter book

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Cover Story

Dylan Capshaw: A Journey to Improve the Animal/Human Condition

Story by Rebecca West Photos by Jason McCoy

For much of the U.S., watching an impending storm raging through the South or barreling up the Eastern Seaboard is a dissociative experience. There's a certain amount of head-shaking as to why people live there, thoughts of "better there than here," and "those poor people." But most forget about it within a matter of hours, unless it's somehow affected them directly (they own property in the storm's path or loved ones reside there).

There are those, however, who feel the need to help in some way – albeit usually from a safe distance. Donations of water and goods come rolling in to help those unfortunate souls who have sustained loss. But few people consider traveling to the ravaged areas themselves. That's not how one 5th grader in Arizona rolled after seeing the carnage and devastating flooding left in the wake of 2017's hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana.

Instead, he not only took it upon himself to raise funds for relief efforts, but he also informed his parents that he wanted to buy a plane ticket to Houston to personally deliver the money himself. The cause he chose to support was in aid of the countless animals in need there and the organizations trying to facilitate their rescue. The images the 11-year-old had seen on television had deeply affected him, starting him on a journey to improve the animal/human condition. That remarkable boy was Dylan Capshaw of Scottsdale, Arizona, founder of the Dylan Capshaw Wildlife Foundation.

Enthusiasm, dedication, and passion best describe Dylan, who's devoted nearly every spare moment of his young life to the advocacy of animal welfare since that time and, more recently, to COVID-19 frontline workers. The latter of the two causes has also worked into a nonprofit, but we'll get to that later.



Dylan Capshaw & his family
(Dad David, Mom Amy, Sister Sammie)

was able to raise \$1,500. Not bad for a 5th grader. He has been fortunate in having two terrific parents, David and Amy, who both support and encourage Dylan's dreams. One of his quests is to inspire youth to take charge and pursue their passions.



Dylan Capshaw's Menagerie photo Shelley Franklin

take long, though, before he began to make a name for himself among animal welfare advocates. In fact, his very first rescue stemmed from a phone call related to help with a dog in New Mexico who'd been discovered in a trash can. It gradually snowballed from there.

Now, he has between 50-60 animals personally under his care, including two aviaries, a reptile room, a hedgehog, prairie dogs, and tons of other critters. He's even got a 24/7 phone line set up for help with answering questions the public might have, and he sends out newsletters people can sign up for via his website – which, by the way, he designed himself!



Dylan Capshaw tending to members of one of his aviaries

Accepting pretty much everything, Dylan is the last hope for many people with rescued animals who have nowhere else to turn. Noting that 70 percent of them come from out of state, his foundation even covers transportation costs. His most exotic rescue to date is a baby girl kangaroo named Jade from an animal ranch in Texas. Rejected at birth, the tiny glob of pink flesh with its eyes fused shut needed to be cared for round the clock, with Dylan having to set his alarm at night for hourly feedings. The dedication paid off, as Jade will be 2 this April.

As far as the rescue aspect, his next goal is acquiring more property for a sanctuary beyond his parents' home. As you can imagine, he's pretty popular at school with all of the wildlife he's in charge of, and lots of kids want to volunteer. Beyond that, they've also

The money raised was eventually donated to the Rescued Pets Movement, a smaller Houston shelter whose goal is to relocate homeless animals for a second chance at happiness within a stable and loving forever home.

"I recognized the need for outside help with all of the dogs and animals struggling in the water from all the flooding. Many of them appeared to be abandoned or lost. I knew that for me, even though I was a kid, it was time to take charge and help out however I could. That's how I got started."

In the early days after his 2017 donation, his endeavors mainly revolved around raising money for rescues and elevating awareness for the organizations involved. It didn't



Dylan Capshaw and Jade

school work, and he's obviously one busy teen.

Another obvious is that as a kid he doesn't know everything there is to know about the critters he rescues yet, so he's been fortunate to be able to turn to the Arizona Exotic Animal Hospital, who he says have been amazing in all their help, and Liberty Wildlife in Phoenix regarding advice when he's at a loss. He is extremely grateful to both institutions.

Additionally, the Dylan Capshaw Wildlife Foundation takes part in fundraisers and sponsorships, and he's even adopted a stretch of road for upkeep because he believes that having a trash-free planet is key to keeping animals safe. It makes sense. As to fundraisers, he tries to do one big event a year, and 2020 was all about the Australian wildfires. He had intended on going to Sydney in April of 2020 to deliver the monies he'd raised, but his plans were unfortunately disrupted due to COVID-19.



Dylan Capshaw & Baby Jade

Which brings us to his second nonprofit organization. Back towards the beginning of the pandemic, Dylan learned how to make masks and face shields with a 3D printer and soon launched the nonprofit For the Frontline, which has sent over 3,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to those on the frontlines across America, gaining him more national



Dylan Capshaw Keeping His Road Clean Photo David Capshaw

recognition.

"I saw that there was a PPE shortage and that the frontline workers that were out there helping us couldn't go home to their families. So, I started making them, and we sent out thousands of care packages."

On the local home-front, he's also delivered catered food to five different fire stations and two COVID ICU wards in hospitals across the Valley after partnering with various restaurants. If you're starting to feel like a slouch right about now, wait for it. It gets better: Dylan is also the driving force behind a new and very affordable PPE vending machine called the Sanitation Station located in the Scottsdale Quarter. The first of its kind, it was unveiled on December 4, 2020.

The icing on the cake is that Dylan's hard work was recently recognized by his becoming one of 20 finalists for the first-ever "Kid of the Year" honor sponsored by Nickelodeon,

been inspired, which is something he feels good about. When we asked him if he'd always had a fondness for all creatures great and small, he admitted that up until he was 7 years old nearly every weekend was spent at some sort of a zoo, so, yeah.

As cool as it sounds for a youngster, it's not all fun and games. In fact, it's very much like living on a farm. Dylan is up between 5-6 a.m. every day to start caring for the animals and ultimately spends five hours a day on their feeding, care, and maintenance. Add that to his

Time Magazine, and Time for Kids in 2020. He was initially nominated by a family friend for the wildlife work he was performing and then gained recognition for his PPE efforts. Over 5,000 nominations from all over the country came pouring into the first-time event, which makes his becoming one of only 20 finalists that much more impressive.

"I considered it a real honor, and it's been really amazing to be included in it, especially considering all of the other finalists and what they've done. Seeing everyone and what they've accomplished is just so incredible. Nickelodeon and Time recognizing young people making a difference feels so great. It's been really wonderful."

His competition was tough, filled with smart, conscientious overachievers all striving to bring about positive change for the planet and its inhabitants. For his part, when looking forward, Dylan stated that he'd very much like to keep his animal rescue work going. Then came a rather surprising revelation: he's also eyeing a future career in Arizona politics to realize some of the changes he'd like to see come about on a local and national level.



Dylan and his Sanitation Station Photo Amy Capshaw



Capshaw offering treats to one of his buds

When asked what role he felt he could play in the government arena, true to form, he envisions making a difference with animals and environmentally. He points to simple things we can all do right now, like eschewing plastics and other small steps to bring about greater long-term sustainability. Another suggestion he made is making the right choice even when no one is looking. It's hard to believe he's only 14.

Our final question posed to the teen influencer was whether or not he had a message he'd like to share with others, and without skipping a beat, he declared, "It's never too soon or too late to make changes reflecting your passion. Regardless of your age or when you start, nothing is too big or small to pursue or accomplish."

By the way, Dylan doesn't just want to be a politician in the House or Senate. Oh, no. He wants to eventually become governor of Arizona, and we can absolutely see him accomplishing this in the not-so-distant future. Kudos, Dylan, for always aiming high!

For more information on this remarkable young role model's animal foundation, it's work, and how you can help, visit: dylancapshawwildlifefoundation.com. For his pandemic efforts, visit: forthefrontline.org.

Special Feature

Dog and Cat Dental Care

Oral hygiene is just as important for pets as it is for people. In fact, 50% of dogs and cats over three years have gum (periodontal) disease, making it the most common disease suffered by small pets.

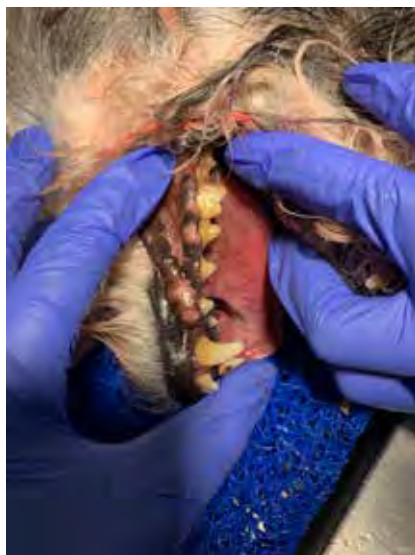
Periodontal disease develops when plaque builds up on teeth and hardens into tartar. This creates pockets of space between the teeth and gums where bacteria thrive. These bacteria not only cause problems like painful tooth decay inside the mouth, but can also enter the bloodstream and spread to other parts of the body, harming the heart, liver and kidneys.

Signs and Symptoms of Early Periodontal Disease

- Bad breath
- Plaque build-up on teeth
- Red or irritated gums

Signs and Symptoms of Advanced Periodontal Disease

- Tooth Discoloration
- Loose Teeth
- Swelling in or around the jaw area
- Difficulty eating and drinking or appetite loss
- Frequently dropping toys or food



Caring for Your Pet's Teeth at Home

The best way to prevent gum disease is with regular dental care, including professional exams and cleanings and at-home care. There are several steps you can take at home to maintain the oral health of your cat or dog.

- Regular Brushing - Brushing is the most effective thing you can do to prevent or manage gum disease. We recommend brushing your pet's teeth daily to keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy. Be sure to use a toothpaste specifically formulated for pets and use a comfortable soft bristled brush.
- Special Treats and Chew Toys - Let your pet chew on toys and treats specially designed to promote oral health. There is also a dental diet formulated to decrease tartar.
- Objects to avoid- Do not allow your pet to chew on antlers, bones, rocks or knotted rawhides. All which risk fracturing the teeth.

Schedule a Pet Dental Exam in Tucson Today

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) recommends adult pets (one year and older) have an annual dental exam. For the safety of pets, the AAHA also requires that dental cleanings for cats and dogs be performed under general anesthesia.

Adobe Veterinary Center is an AAHA certified veterinary hospital, and we are proud to provide complete dental services for dogs and cats. From dental examinations, dental x-rays, and professional cleanings to tooth extractions and oral surgeries, we are fully equipped to meet all of your pet's oral healthcare needs. Our veterinarians always perform an oral examination as part of a pet's routine check-up, but we recommend scheduling a dental appointment right away, if you notice any of the signs or symptoms of periodontal disease in your pet. To learn more about Adobe Veterinary Center's small pet dental services, we welcome you to contact our office today.

Watch this short instructional video on Arizona Veterinary Dental Specialist website: <https://youtu.be/bxFd18CmCZw>

Equine Dentistry

A horse's teeth "erupt" until the age of 25-30. On their natural diet of grass, the grass wears down their teeth, and the action of reaching down to graze, and then raising the head to chew, changes the jaw position. The horse's upper molars are spaced farther apart than the lower ones, which makes for efficient grinding of grass. Grazing horses raise their heads to chew.

However, when a horse has a diet of grain and hay (such as alfalfa), there is less fiber in their diet, and the tooth surfaces are not ground down. When these surfaces become uneven, the horse cannot move his jaw sideways, and then the teeth become even more uneven. Eventually, there are sharp points in the horse's mouth, making chewing a painful experience.

Often a horse who is losing weight will turn out to have a tooth problem. Once the teeth have been floated properly, chewing is easier, and the food's nutrients can be processed efficiently.

Likewise, a horse with behavior issues may have a tooth problem. It's hard to work and be nice with razors cutting the inside of your mouth every time you eat!

The following concerns can be related to issues involving the teeth. If your horse exhibits these symptoms, you should have seek medical attention as soon as possible for your horse:

- Loss of weight or general condition
- Dropping feed
- Whole grain in manure
- Tilting head while chewing
- Head tossing / resisting the bit
- Bleeding gums
- Swelling on face or jaw
- Bad odor from mouth or nose

Sedation helps to eliminate any anxiety the horse might have. The horse's head is put into a brace called a speculum. This allows the dentist complete access to the horse's mouth.

The specialized power tools, which only a veterinarian is allowed to use, make quick work of floating. They look a lot like the power tool section at a home improvement store, but the attachments (carbide blades, rotary instruments) are designed specifically for equine dentistry.



Your Large Animal veterinarian will examine your horse's mouth for:

- molar edges
- Abscesses
- Bite misalignments
- Cracked molars
- Wolf teeth interference
- Deciduous teeth
- Gum inflammation / periodontal disease

Help keep your horse's mouth comfortable and free of ulcers.

Story Provided by Adobe Veterinary Center, Sarah Olson, Second Nature Marketing

2021 CELEBRATE
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Even though I am no longer an Animal Health Care Professional, I want to contribute to the well being of local animals in need. When you choose me as your Realtor, whether you are Buying, Selling, or Investing in real estate, upon the Closing of your home, I will donate \$250 to a local non-profit animal charity of your choice in your name. Buy a Home, Provide a Home.



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A VISIT TO THE



DOGHOUSE

All the dogs on these pages are available for adoption now. If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends, please contact the group listed with the picture.

THE ANIMAL LEAGUE OF GREEN VALLEY:
(520) 625-3170 (Appointments 10-2. \$85 Adoption Fee.)



BENJIA

I'm a good-natured 6 y/o, 70-pound female Shepherd mix who will tell you up front that I'd like a home without steps & no other dogs. I really love people & enjoy being in my crate. I also like to play, but don't ask me to walk on a leash!



PRINCESS

I'm a super friendly 1 y/o, 48-pound girl who looks like a Shepherd mix. I really enjoy playing with people (including small children) & other dogs. Pools are loads of fun. I can do "sit" & would love it if you'd teach me lots more. Please come & meet me!



MANNY

Ready for the best snuggles of your life? I'm a neutered, medium-energy 6-7 y/o Bulldog Mix who's up to date on all vaccines, adores toys & walks, is house trained, nondestructive indoors, & loves nothing more than being with my peoples. I know basic commands & am best suited to homes with older kids as an only dog, or slow introductions with a lower energy dog. Call my friends at Cherished Tails Senior Sanctuary 520-904-9384.

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona
(520) 327-6088 Ext. 173



KING

Hey there, I've got a huge smile on my face because I am so excited to be your new friend! I'm an easygoing boy who is great at walking on a leash. I am 7 y/o & would love to find a home where I can be your only pet! Meet me by making an appointment at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.



BANDITO

Hola! I may look like I'm full grown, but I'm actually still just a 9-month-old puppy. I have lots of energy & enthusiasm, & I love to go for walks & play. I enjoy learning new tricks & getting to know other dogs here at the shelter. If you have an active lifestyle & are looking for a new best friend, you should come meet me!

To be contacted for a PACC adoption appointment: pima.gov/adopt, or sign up to foster at: pima.gov/foster, 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900. M-F, 12p - 7p. Sat & Sun 10a - 5p. \$0 adoption fee. A \$20 license fee applies to adult dogs. Adoption includes spay or neuter, vaccinations, microchip, & a free vet visit.

HERCULES ID# A717542

I'm a very friendly 3 y/o guy, but can be a bit shy when you first meet me. I sit pretty with all four on the floor & love showing off how well I respond to commands like sit, down, and shake. When I gets tasty treats, I'm gentle & take them with a soft mouth. I also leash up nicely for walks. In my previous home, I was an indoor pup who was house trained and slept in my crate like a good boy.



RAYSON ID# A719017

I'm an eager-to-please 1 y/o pup who knows how to have a blast! I enjoy running, playing, fetching balls, & jumping in the kiddie pool while pawing at the water. Treat motivated, I'm also aware that I must keep my paws on the floor & wait to be leashed for walks that I love!!!



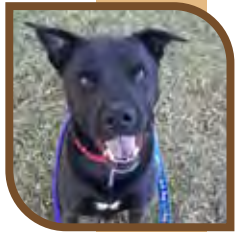
ROCKO ID# A715602

I'm a 3 y/o gentle & sensitive soul who will love being with you. I'm a little shy, but you'll quickly realize what a lovely companion I am. As a bonus, I leash up well & enjoy going for walks right by your side.



TIBERIUS ID# A720343

I am a 6 y/o super smart guy who would love to show you how well I can sit, shake, speak, & wait. I'm a loose-leash walker who readily responds to my name, makes eye contact, and welcomes petting. In my previous home, I was housebroken & trusted to be left unattended indoors when home alone.



TRENT ID# A722874

I am a 3 y/o handsome pup with a terrific personality. Leashing up nicely, I have good manners and walk loose-leash by your side. I am very attentive to my human partner & make good eye contact. While out for strolls, I enjoy smelling all the smells. At home, given the opportunity, I'll crawl into your lap. I'm friendly, easy-going, with a gentle temperament who will unconditionally love you.



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From the Director's Desk

Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Story by Steve Farley Photos Courtesy HSSA

As much as many of us are happy to have 2020 in our rear-view mirror, last year was full of many positives for pets at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Even though we had to scale back aspects of our operations due to COVID-19, because our donors and volunteers stepped up we saw record levels of adoptions, grew our Wellness low-income veterinary services, saved thousands of animal lives, and served our community with innovative new programs. To carry out our mission we are growing in even more exciting and impactful ways in 2021, so keep your eyes on HSSA!



Volunteer doing training

January is a great time to show your commitment to yourself and to your community. This year we hope that you will support our service to pets in need by making a resolution to become a Humane Society of Southern Arizona volunteer and/or monthly donor. Signing up to sustain our lifesaving programs with a



Volunteer playing with pup

regular donation is as easy as surfing to hssaz.org/donate and selecting the tab "Donate Monthly". A contribution of just 50 cents a day over a year can pay for needed vaccinations for ten homeless pets so they are ready to find their forever homes.

There are many ways to volunteer – from walking dogs at the shelter in the early hours of the day to scouring the

internet from home to help bring lost pets home with our new Pet Detectives program. We also encourage people to consider becoming a foster for HSSA at this time. Spring is right around the corner and that's when we most need the help of our dedicated family of fosters to help our youngest and most vulnerable pets. Learn more at www.hssaz.org/volunteer

As they say, necessity is the mother of invention – we've had to learn how to raise money for needy pets in entirely new ways this past year. One of our most creative ideas is here to say – March Muttiness! Our first annual edition last March featured eight shelters from across the country competing against each other in a tournament-style bracket to see if we could outfundraise each other. Not only was it a whole lot of fun, it raised a whole lot of money to help homeless pets all over the country. Stay tuned to HSSA's Facebook page in late February to learn more about the 2021 edition, which is going to have many, many more shelters from classic rivalry towns – it's sure to be a slam dunk!



March Muttiness

Food Distribution is here to stay for families in need. In November 2020 we put out the call to our community of pet lovers and you RESPONDED in outstanding numbers to help us fill out pantries for the upcoming 2021 pet food distributions. Because of your generosity

this past year we are able to provide free pet food to families in need of assistance on the first Sunday of every month. This is just another way that HSSA is striving to help pets stay in their homes and out of the shelter system. No pet should end up at a shelter if their loving owners are having trouble providing food. Learn more about this vital program by visiting www.hssaz.org/food



Food Distribution

February is National Pet Dental Health Month and we are excited to share our extensive and expanded low-cost dental services now offered

to the public. At HSSA our Clinic veterinarians have been educating the community on the importance of pet dental health. With the help of our wonderful donors we are now able to provide low-cost dental cleanings to public pets. We've been lucky enough to add a new Veterinarian to our team so we are now able to schedule even more of these



Getting a dental exam

life-enhancing procedures into the new year. Please visit www.hssaz.org/clinic to learn more.

After a lot of hard work and careful preparation, the University of Arizona's new College of Veterinary Medicine (UA-CVM) welcomed their inaugural class of future vets last fall, and we at HSSA are proud to be partnering in their training.

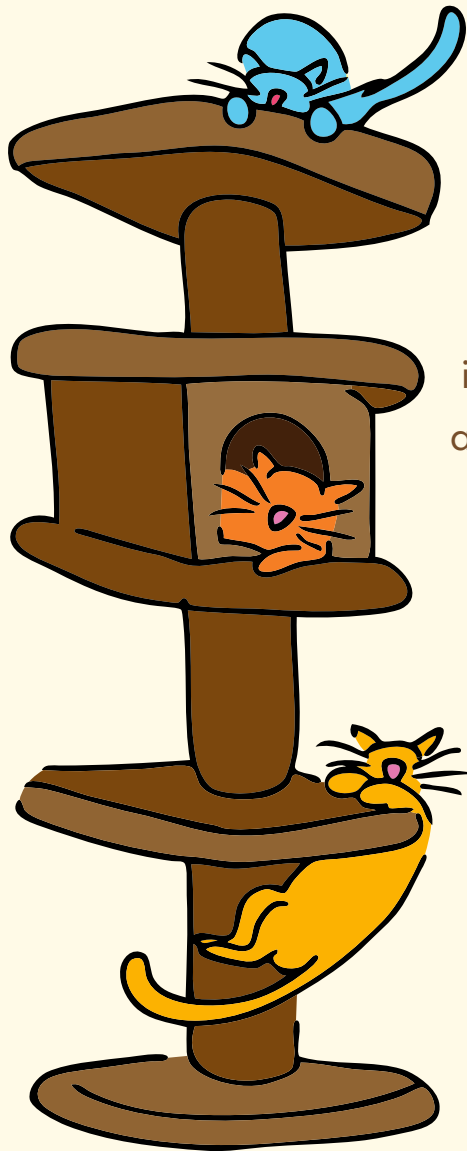
Our Medical Director Dr. Katie Halstead and Animal Care Supervisor Kim Ward have been selecting dogs and cats from our shelter who need a little break from the kennels and taking them on a road trip to the UA-CVM's campuses in Oro Valley and at the campus farm. The first-year students then get to learn gentle handling by working with our pets. More than a few have been so taken with our pets that they also adopted them. I got a wonderful email recently from Dr. Ryane Englar, the professor working with these students, and I wanted to share some of it with you:

"The students *LOVED* seeing them all. It is heartwarming to see their faces light up – both people and dogs – and to see the lift it gives to all involved. You have given us the best gift possible by assisting our students in their educational journey. I am truly grateful. Tonight finds my heart thankful for you, and all that you do, to make my job that much easier. Students are learning in leaps and bounds – and we have the HSSA to thank for that!" We are so grateful to be able to help nurture the next generation of veterinarians, and to work with great folks like Dr. Englar. I'll be sharing more about our ongoing collaboration with UA-CVM in future Director's Desk articles into 2021 and beyond.



Steve Farley

The Scratching Post: Cats for Adoption



All the cats on this page are available for adoption now. If you are interested in meeting any of these adorable friends, please call the group listed with the picture.

Pima Animal Care Center: PACC is currently doing appointment-based scheduling for people interested in adoption. To be contacted for an adoption appointment: pima.gov/adopt, or sign up to foster at: pima.gov/foster, 4000 N. Silverbell Rd., 724-5900. Monday - Friday, 12pm - 7pm. Saturday & Sunday 10am - 5pm. \$0 adoption fee. Adoption includes spay or neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip, & a free vet visit.



SHOONER DSH ID# A722389

I'm a 10 y/o super loving gentleman who enjoys having company. I like being petted and told just how handsome I am. I'll immediately thank you for your love with the sweet sound of my purr. I would dearly love a foster (or forever!) home.



TAMALE DSH ID# A717245

I'm a 4 y/o and quite the character! I'm a little bit sweet & a little bit independent. I'm currently in a foster home & recently discovered how fabulous it is to sleep by the window! I enjoy hanging out high on a cat perch, will listen intently if you read me a bedtime story, & I love to roll around on my back.



ZOE ID# A571272

I'm a 9 y/o who's an incredibly sweet companion cat. I currently hang out in the shelter as an office cat in the feline room. I'm friendly & fun. While I am vision impaired, it doesn't slow me down one bit! Won't you get to know me?



BUTTERBALL DSH ginger & white

I'm Butterball, & one day I got lost, but luckily, I found myself outside of The Hermitage! I'm a little shy, but I would love to be your best purring-friend! I'm a big, gorgeous boy that's only 7 y/o, so I have a lot of snuggles to share with my new family. Contact The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary, 5278 E 21st St; Tucson, AZ 85711; www.hermitagecatshelter.org; info@hermitagecatshelter.org

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona
(520) 327-6088 Ext. 173



CASSIDIE

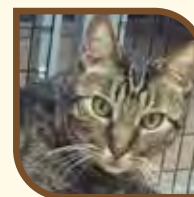
Hi! I'm an 8 y/o boy who prefers a quiet & relaxed lifestyle. I'm much more of a wallflower than a party animal, & I'm looking to go home with someone who gets me. I love snuggling up in comfy spots & enjoy being affectionate with people that I've gotten to know. Please come meet me.



RUCA

Greetings! I am an outgoing social cat with lots of energy to play! I'm about a year old & I'm looking for a nice, loving home where I can spend the rest of my life. I'm a sweet girl who loves to run around & play with toys. I would love to go home somewhere where I can settle down & be myself!

THE ANIMAL LEAGUE OF GREEN VALLEY:
(520) 625-3170 (Appointments 10-2 Adoption Fee \$45)



BOBCAT

I'm an 11 y/o ticked tabby guy who is FIV positive (I come with Vet Care Support for Life). My best friend is Siam. We've been together all our lives & need to be adopted together. I like people & am playful & outgoing. We'll be your greatest companions! (Adoption fee for both: \$45.)



SIAM

I'm a 12 y/o Snowshoe Siamese lady who's a bit shy with people. If you'll spend some quiet time with me, you'll see that I really want attention & affection. A home for Bobcat & me would be most welcome. (I also have Vet Care Support for Life.)

Animal Resource Guide

Area Shelters

Animal League of Green Valley
Onsite Adoptions
7 days a week - 10a-2p
1600 West Duval Mine Rd.
Green Valley 85614
(520) 625-3170
www.talgv.org

HOPE Animal Shelter
Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Thurs, by appointment
Fri-Sat-Sun noon-4p
8950 N. Joplin Ln.
Tucson 85742
(520) 792-9200
www.hopeanimalshelter.net

Humane Society of Southern Arizona
Main Campus
Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Sat 11a-6p
Sun: noon-5p
Closed Major Holidays
635 W. Roger Rd.
Tucson 85705
(520) 327-6088
www.hssaz.org

HSSAZ Pawsh @ Park Place
Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Sat 10a-6p
Sunday 11a-5p
5870 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson 85711
(520) 881-7406

PAWSitively Cats No Kill Shelter
Onsite Adoptions
Mon-Sat 10a-2p
1145 N. Woodland Ave.
Tucson 85712
(520) 289-2747
savecats@PAWSitivelycats.org
www.PAWSitivelycats.org

Paws Patrol
750 W. Camino Casa Verde
Green Valley 85614
(520) 207-4024
www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org

Pima Animal Care Center
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Special Feature

Rescued Hearts Cellars – Uncorking the Generosity

Story by Brian Pettepiece

Nestled in the heart of Arizona's sprawling wine country lies a beacon of hope for southern Arizona's homeless dogs. Rescued Hearts Cellars is a non-profit operated by Rancho Rossa Vineyards located in Sonoita, AZ. Breanna Hamilton and her husband Chris own the winery and vineyard and are the winemakers. The proud parents of several rescued dogs, Breanna had the idea to raise funds to support local rescues that are caring for critically ill dogs when their latest rescue puppy named George Bailey fell ill.

Rescued Hearts Cellars, a 501(c)3, donates 100% of the proceeds from their bottles of Rescued Hearts labeled wine to local animal rescues to assist with the expenses of providing veterinary care to critically ill dogs. As you can imagine, veterinary bills can quickly add up and healthcare is often one of the biggest expenses that animal rescues face in their care of these furry friends. This is what makes the Rescued Hearts Cellars wine label so special.

Adopted by Breanna and Chris in January 2018, George Bailey quickly won their hearts and they named him after a character in their favorite Christmas movie. But a couple weeks after they adopted him, they noticed that he was not feeling well. They rushed him to an emergency vet in Tucson and within thirty-six hours they got news they weren't ready for. George's kidneys were failing, and he needed emergency dialysis right away. But the only place that he could receive that treatment was at a specialty animal hospital in San Diego. So, in the middle of the night, Breanna and Chris drove George to San Diego so he could get the dialysis that would save his life.

George ended up staying in the hospital there for a month. Unfortunately, during this time his kidneys did not improve. It became apparent that George's kidneys were failing.



George Bailey Photo Hollie Hansen

The vet there informed them that dogs generally don't do well with kidney transplants and regular dialysis for him was not a good option. So, the decision was made to give him one more round of dialysis and bring him home so he could spend his last few days there with them at the vineyard.

Breanna was determined to make his last few days as fun as possible. She said that they had a week of fun puppy stuff. They went to the lake in kayaks, they ran around the vineyard, and George had a ton of fun. One week later they had to say goodbye to George for the last time. Breanna had a particularly hard time adjusting to his loss. It was the first time that she had lost an animal and she was devastated, especially



George with winemakers Breanna and Chris Hamilton Photo Hollie Hansen

since they had fought so hard to save him. Breanna, reflecting on how she felt back then, stated that "I pretty much said 'OK, I'm done, I don't want to do anything.'" In her grief, she retreated from the winery. She hired someone to operate the tasting room and had a hard time even coming in to check on things. After four months, at her husband's urging, she realized that she needed to come back to work. But she knew that the only way she could feel good about continuing the business was if they devoted part of the winery to support other animals that might find themselves in desperate need of medical care like George. So Rescued Hearts Cellars was born.

Their main fundraising campaign is not the only work that Rescued Hearts Cellars and Rancho Rossa Vineyards does to support southern Arizona's homeless pets. One Saturday each month the winery does what they call Support A Rescue. On that day, an animal rescue comes to the winery and brings pets that they have up for adoption. On Support A Rescue Saturdays, donations from the sales of ALL their wine, not just the Rescued Hearts label but their main Rancho Rossa Vineyards label as well, is donated to that rescue! Visitors to the winery on that day can both taste delicious wine and meet and interact with dogs that are still in search of their forever homes. Due to the restrictions set in place during the pandemic, they were not able to host this event in 2020 but they will be starting the event again in 2021. In 2019, this event raised \$16,000 for local rescues! They will be starting this event again as soon as they can. Contact the winery for more details about their next event date.

Rescued Hearts Cellar's main fundraising goal for 2020 was to raise \$20,000 and they hit their goal right before the end of the year! In early 2021, Breanna will get the word out to local rescues that they can apply for grants to begin to receive these funds. This year the winery will have thirteen different wines available for sale bearing the Rescued Hearts Cellars label. So not only can you enjoy delicious wine, but you can feel great knowing that every dollar from that tasty bottle will go toward caring for a dog in need.



Rancho Rossa Vineyards, home to Rescued Hearts Cellars Photo Jenelle Bonifield

For more information about the important work that Rescued Hearts Cellars is doing or to learn more about their wine and mission, contact Breanna Hamilton at rescuedheartscellars@gmail.com.

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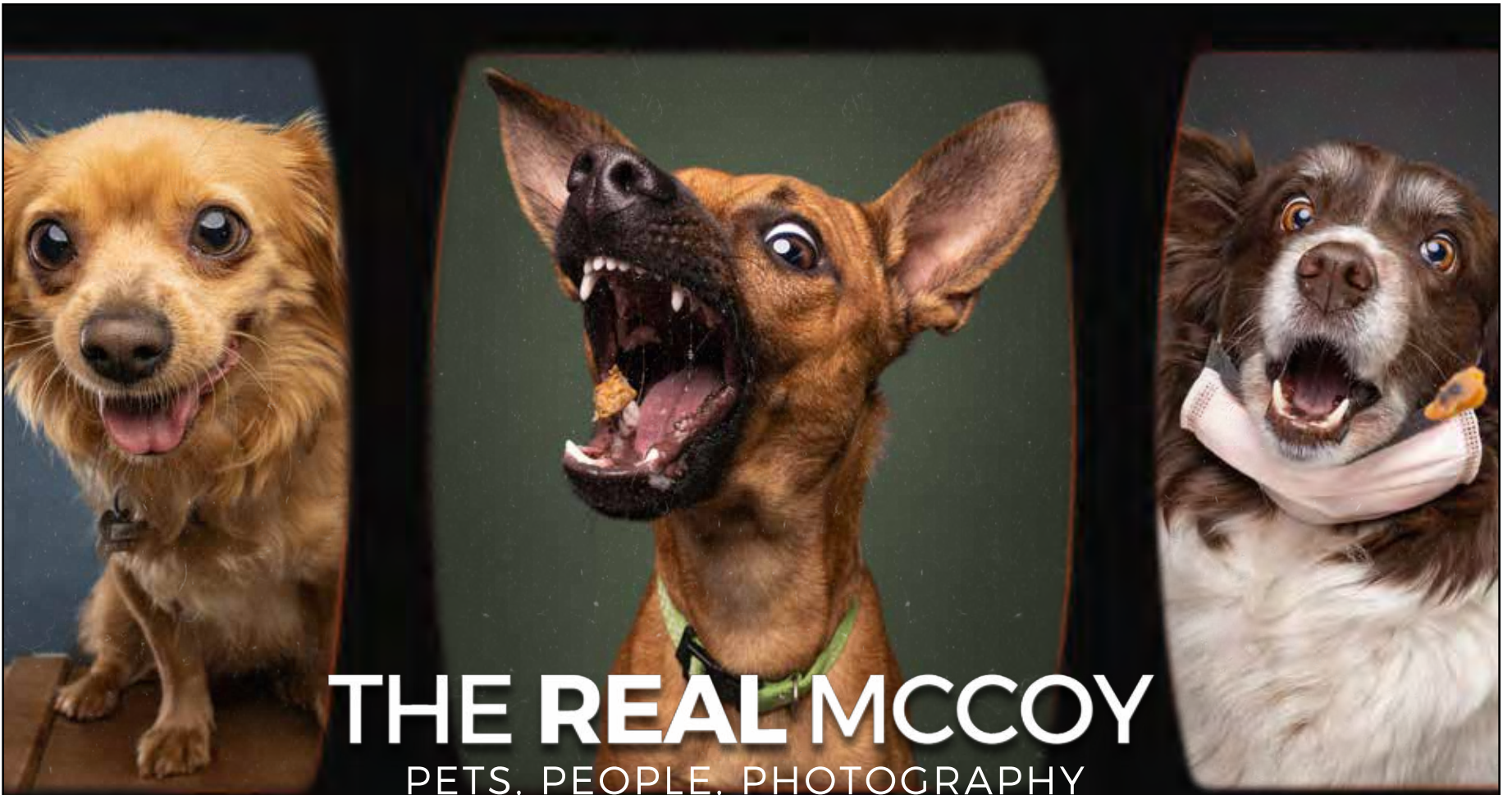


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Kids and Animals

Kids & Pets, Saving One Another Through Love & Understanding

Story by Rebecca West



Bentley and his new pup at JCASM
Image via Jackson County Animal Shelter - Michigan Facebook

The bond between canines and humans is well established. Dogs are our best buds, faithful companions, and loyal protectors. They bring us joy, make us laugh, and ease our sorrows. They're even responsible for the increased longevity of us upright bipeds and recognized for providing a whole host of mental and physical health benefits. As such, they are also often the bridge between young children and the harsh realities of life, making their worlds brighter and more bearable.

Road to Recovery

Recently, a story made the news of a sweet young boy and his kindred puppy for the fact they both shared the same birth defect, a cleft lip. For the 2-year-

old Michigander named Bentley, it was love at first sight when his father brought home an adorable 2-month-old shelter pup suffering from the same medical malady. While Bentley has had two corrective surgeries, having someone who has shared your journey can be priceless on the road to normalcy and acceptance, especially as a child.

When his dad, Brandon Boyers, visited the Jackson County Animal Shelter and came across the puppy, he knew instinctively the pair would be a perfect fit. After Facetiming his wife Ashley about the find, she immediately exclaimed, "Get her! We need her." She later added, "To see him have something in common with a puppy means a lot, because he can grow up and understand that he and his puppy both have something that they can share in common."

The shelter snapped a series of heart-tugging pix showing an overjoyed Bentley cuddling and bestowing kisses on the simpatico pup. Noting "Bentley found his match today," in a Facebook post, they continued with, "It's so hard to put into words how meaningful this adoption is to all of us, so we are going to let the pictures speak for themselves." And boy do they!

Sign of the Times

In nearby New Mexico back in 2015, an overwrought dog growing up in the state's various shelters had a stroke of luck. At only 10 months old, Baxter, who'd become a quivering mess, had to be carried out of a kennel due to the noise and commotion at the busy facility before ending up at Animal Humane New Mexico (AHNM). Adoptions director Sam



Baxter and Neeva share sign language
Image via Humane Society New Mexico Facebook

Blankenship said at the time, "Baxter was completely non-responsive, as he had learned to shut down rather than deal with the stimulations that were depleting his personality."

Fortunately, Baxter's life and circumstances improved dramatically when he was adopted by a loving family with a special-needs child named Neeva, who was 4 at the time. Neeva's parents had been looking for a four-legged companion for her, but it couldn't be just any dog. Neeva was born deaf, and her family wanted a dog that would be patient and gentle with her. They went to AHNM and found Baxter just waiting for somebody to bring him home to love and understand him.

Neeva communicates through American Sign language (ASL) and was limited in her interactions with the outside world. Of course, her family knows ASL, but few others do. Since Neeva and Baxter both had the same needs, in that they craved interaction and understanding, it seemed like another perfect fit.

She took it upon herself to try teaching Baxter what her signing meant, and her mother Chelsea Goff swears Baxter understands. The lovable mutt learned how to sit, stay, and go all through sign language. Neeva even gave him his very own name in ASL. For his part, Baxter has helped Neeva with her confidence, and at becoming a better signer with all of the practice the two get communicating with one another.

Goff stated, "He is such a sweet, gentle, and friendly pup and we are having so much fun with him in our 'pack'." Since the pair found each other they've become inseparable and do everything together, blossoming into happier and more fully developed versions of themselves just by being around one another.



Therapy dogs reduce stress
Image via Alliance of Therapy Dogs Facebook

People recovering from injuries, illness, and those dealing with depression or anxiety improve markedly with pet therapy. Therapy dogs are now deployed at airports to destress harried travelers and in court systems, through nationwide programs such as the Courthouse Dogs Foundation and Florida's K9th Circuit Court, for calming children. A recent study in the journal *Preventing Chronic Disease* demonstrated that kids with dogs are less anxious than others.

Additionally, therapy dogs have even been shown to improve reading skills in children suffering from lack of confidence and/or low self-esteem. The concept of Dog Days Afternoons and Paws for Reading library programs has kids practicing their reading with animals present to listen. While initially thought "whacky," within weeks the turnaround in behavior and reading skills was clearly evident. In 2017, it was revealed that infants exposed to higher levels of pet allergens might actually have a lower risk of developing asthma by the age of 7.

The benefits of dogs are seemingly endless.

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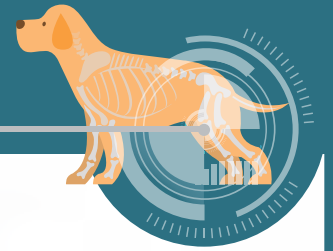
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Will my family be responsible for the debt?

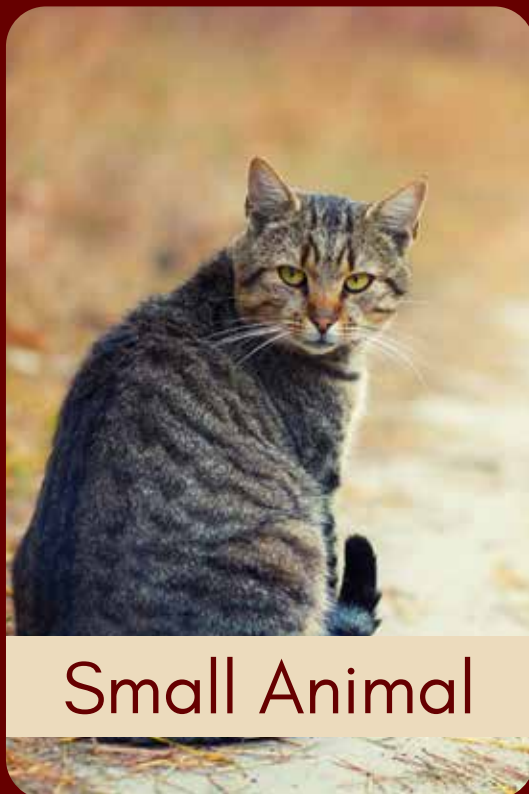
NO! A reverse mortgage is a non-recourse loan, so if your value ever falls below what you owe, your family will never have to pay the deficiency.

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