



Trailin' Tails

APRIL—JUNE, 2016



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

- Anatole France

Fix.Adopt.Save. Success!

On March 1st, MCACC was proud to be part of a press conference announcing the results to date of the Fix.Adopt.Save. (FAS) campaign.

FAS is a collaborative effort of the Alliance for Companion Animals (MCACC, Arizona Humane Society, Arizona Animal Welfare League, HALO Animal Rescue, PACC911, Altered Tails Barnhart Clinic, and the Animal Defense League of Arizona).

The FAS campaign aims to increase adoptions, spay/neuter services and fostering, while raising awareness about our community's pet homelessness problem.

During FAS's three-year campaign, euthanasia rates have decreased by 71% since 2012, saving more than 26,000 dogs and cats.

The campaign also focuses on increasing spay and neuter surgeries by offering free and low-cost options. Surgeries are performed on owned pets as well as feral community cats. During the campaign, there has been a 15% increase in spay/neuter surgeries and a 38% decrease of animals being brought to Valley shelters.

Fix.Adopt.Save. is a unique collaboration that has been recognized by other animal welfare groups across the country. Made possible by funding partners PetSmart Charities, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and the Arizona Community Foundation, FAS has been successful in accomplishing the goals that were set three years ago.

The campaign continues through this year and will continue its focus on spay/neuter efforts as well as working to find homes for our County's most at-risk breeds—Chihuahuas and bully breeds.

To learn more about Fix.Adopt.Save., visit www.fixadoptsave.org.



Fix Adopt Save Partners and Funders at the March 1st Press Event



Send Us Your Happy Tail!

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

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

Or email: gablem@mail.maricopa.gov



Happy Tail



Maisy

I adopted Maisy from Maricopa County Animal Care & Control in 2013 when she was just a kitten. I adopted her shortly after losing my Mr. Toon. Thought I'd share this picture of Maisy all grown up now. Thank you for your help!

- Carissa S.

Dear MCACC,

Freddie was adopted on March 8, 2012. He was a stray that no one claimed. He was a mere four pounds when I got him and he is now almost eight pounds! He quickly became the love of my life.

He stole my heart and is absolutely the BEST dog I have ever had. My husband and I have fostered 60 dogs during the past 5 1/2 years, none can compare to Freddie. I am keeping track of how many people would like to adopt him from me — so far it's 14 people! I will never give him up. Ever!

Freddie even came on vacation with us once (14 hours in the car) and came to dinner with us in many restaurants. He sleeps with me every night, loves to go for car rides and loves to sit in my lap.

Thank you so much for bringing him into my life!

- Lisa N.



Freddie



Tag Your Wag Campaign

Last year, fewer than 13% of dogs and cats at MCACC shelters were reunited with their owners. A majority of the stray pets that come to us have no form of identification. In January 2016, we launched an ad campaign in the hopes of increasing compliance.

The Tag Your Wag campaign includes billboards, radio and electronic advertisements aimed at creating awareness about the importance of

licensing dogs in Maricopa County. Instead of focusing on the legal aspect of dog licensing, the Tag Your Wag campaign draws attention to the fact that licensing dollars help care for homeless pets in MCACC shelters.

Stray dogs who arrive at MCACC with current license tags receive their first 24 hours at the shelter at no charge. Licensed dogs receive longer care periods at MCACC



shelters while staff exhausts every option searching for the dog's owner. If a licensed dog bites someone, the dog may be eligible for home quarantine instead of being quarantined at MCACC shelters. Finally, if one of our officers picks up a licensed dog, they will make every attempt to bring the dog home immediately, saving the pet and their owner a trip to the shelter.

We are hopeful the campaign will help increase our return to owner rates at the shelter!



Of the more than 30,000 dogs and cats that enter our shelters each year, fewer than 20% are reunited with their owners.

Licensing your dog is the only way to ensure you'll be reunited should your pet ever get lost.

You also help fund critical shelter services, including adoption, rescuing, spaying and neutering.

So tag your wag. And make your love official.

New / Renew Tag for your Wag

Make a Voluntary Donation

Sponsored by



First Tag Your Wag Event is a Success!

More than 100 owned dogs received free rabies vaccinations at our Tag Your Wag event on Saturday, April 2nd. Owner's were required to purchase a license for their dog(s) but all back fines were waived during this event.

Due to the tremendous turnout, we are hoping to have another Tag Your Wag event in May at our East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa. We'll be sure to post event details on our Calendar of Events, which is located at www.maricopa.gov/pets.



Bye Bye Pit Bull Labels

Beginning April 1st, Pit Bull is no longer listed as a dog breed at MCACC shelters.

The topic was first raised during last year's Citizens for Pets Task Force and after much planning and training, the Pit Bull label will be removed from the shelter's database system.

A dog labeled as "pit bull" may wait three times as long to be adopted from shelters than differently labeled lookalikes, according to a study published March 23, 2016 in the open-access journal PLOS ONE by Lisa Gunter from Arizona State University.

Additionally, Ms. Gunter found that when "pit bull" breed was not listed on the kennel card, there was a

14% increase in the number of adoptions.

Pit Bull is not an actual breed, but rather a generic term to cover a class of dogs with certain characteristics (think Terriers, Hounds, Shepherds, etc).

MCACC will begin using breed names such as American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire



MCACC Shelter Alum "Allspice"

Bull Terrier.

We encourage you to come visit our shelters and meet your new four-legged companion!



Bubba's Still Waiting ...

He arrived at our East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa on November 1st. A stray who had been dropped off at Arizona Animal Welfare League.

During his five months at our shelter, Bubba has

made many friends. This gentle giant loves belly rubs, walks and treats! He's been referred to as a "teddy bear" and a "gentleman." So why has he been with us so long?

Bubba prefers to be the

only pet, or in a home with another low-key, calm dog. He is good with kids and even knows how to sit for treats.

If you'd like to visit this boy, he's currently at our East Valley Animal Care Center.



MCACC Alum, "Amber"



Bubba and volunteer, Tanya

Get Fit and Help Shelter Pets!

HELPING
ANIMALS
ONE STEP
AT A TIME

resQwalk

MCACC has an amazing network of volunteers and donors around the valley, and we are always looking for easy ways that the public can make a difference for the hundreds of pets in need at our shelters. We realize that many people don't have the time to volunteer or don't have enough resources to actively contribute, but there is now another way to help!

Available on iOS and android, resQwalk is an easily accessible and straightforward app. Once the app has downloaded, the user simply has to select Maricopa County Animal and Care as their preferred organization. After that, all that's left to do is allow the app to track the distance you are walking or running. MCACC receives a certain amount for each mile logged; so far MCACC has logged over 1190 miles! Many volunteers use it at our shelters, but we encourage the public to use it when walking their own pet. resQwalk is a simple and efficient way to help the homeless animal population in Maricopa County – try it today!

For more information, just visit <http://resqwalk.com>.

Phoenix Police Officer Helps Rescue Pup

While out on regular patrol in March, Phoenix Police Department's Lt. Tom Van Dorn noticed several small dogs running through traffic. As Lt. Van Dorn slowed his police vehicle, one of the dogs scurried under the Chevrolet Tahoe and didn't come out.

Lt. Van Dorn discovered the Chihuahua mix had wedged

himself into the undercarriage of the vehicle. Our officers were called out and soon had "Tahoe" in MCACC custody.

While his home was already filled with dogs, Lt. Van Dorn did sponsor Tahoe's adoption fee. Tahoe was adopted within days of his ordeal. Our thanks to Phoenix Police!



Lt. Tom Van Dorn and "Tahoe" prepare for an appearance on Fox 10

MCACC Staff Named Animal Control Officer of the Year!



Congratulations to our very own Lt. Timothy Rummel for recently being named Arizona's 2015 Animal Control Officer of the Year.

Lt. Rummel has worked for MCACC since 1999 and was promoted to Lieutenant just over a year ago. He oversees our Field Enforcement Division at our East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa.

Lt. Rummel was nominated by two of his fellow officers and was voted the winner during a recent meeting of the Arizona Animal Control Association. While we certainly knew he was deserving of the award, Lt. Rummel was humble about the recognition, "I am so proud. Out of all the agencies in the entire state they chose me. I don't know what to say."

Transportation Day with our ACO's



Sgt. Kunszt Helps "net" a visitor to the MCACC table

We were proud to participate in a Transportation Day at God's Garden Community Church on February 27th.

We sent our Sergeant Chris Kunszt out to speak with the families about what it means to be an Animal Control Officer.

Sgt. Kunszt talked about the importance of

licensing dogs and shared information on our interactive lost & found mapping tool.

Transportation Day participants learned about microchipping and were able to scan a stuffed animal who had been implanted with a microchip.

Our goal moving forward is to educate County

residents on the services provided by our Officers. Gone are the days when we were referred to as the "dog catcher." Instead, our Officers do whatever they can to help pets in need.

In March our Officers reunited 78 animals in the field (meaning, they were returned before even entering the shelter!).

More Pets on the Move

Saving lives requires collaboration and a lot of teamwork.

Thanks to HALO Animal Rescue and Dog is My Co-Pilot (DIMC), nearly 50 small dogs were recently flown from Arizona to Idaho.

In the early morning hours of March 15th the dogs were loaded onto DMCI's newest plane and sent to the Idaho Humane Society.

The shelter, which is located in Boise, was eager to receive the dogs and anticipated being able to place them quickly into loving homes.

DIMC works to relocate

animals from areas of the United States where pet homelessness is an issue, to other parts of the country where those same pets are in high demand.

The dogs were flown to Idaho at no cost and both MCACC and HALO waived any fees associated with the dogs.

On April 15th MCACC will send eight Chihuahua mixes to the Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO).

This is not the first time MCACC has worked with this animal welfare agency. Last year HSMO transported 70 small dogs from Phoenix back to its

St. Louis shelter.

On April 23rd, 25 small breed dogs will be headed to Precious Pets Animal Rescue Society in Alberta, Canada.

While the dogs await their departure, MCACC volunteers are working to care for them, prepare all their travel documents and get them cleared medically to travel.

Many of the dogs selected for these types of trips have spent weeks at MCACC, but are adopted quickly once they are placed into areas where small breeds are in demand. We appreciate all of our partners for their support!



Dogs Prepare for Take Off at Scottsdale Airpark

New Hope Spotlight: HALO Animal Rescue

While HALO Animal Rescue has been a New Hope partner for quite some time, the last few years have seen a tremendous increase in the number of lives saved by the non-profit agency.

On January 1, 2013, HALO moved its main operations to MCACC's West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix. During that time HALO has transferred more than 22,000 shelter pets, giving them a second chance for a happy life.

In 2015 alone, HALO transferred and adopted 7,400 pets from MCACC shelters.

Moving forward, HALO is working to expand their adoption outlets and expects to

increase the number of animals adopted from MCACC by at least 10%.

And HALO isn't just saving lives! The agency has paid MCACC more than \$1 million in licensing and transfer fees since 2013 (\$68 per dog; \$33 per cat).

Through a grant with Purina, HALO provides all the wet and dry food and cat litter for the animals housed at the West shelter. Now Purina is currently testing a pilot project at our East shelter.

Since 2012, the Live Release Rate at MCACC's West Valley Animal Care Center has increased by more than 20%.



HALO alum, Fara snuggles with her new family

In this next year, MCACC and HALO are working together to increase the number of combined adoption events, both onsite and in the community to increase adoptions.

We support our friends at HALO and hope you will too. www.halorescue.org

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

Volunteer Spotlight: Samantha V.



Meet Samantha — volunteer extraordinaire at our West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix. Although she's been volunteering just less than one year, Samantha has the knowledge and expertise of someone who has been with us for much longer. Maybe she's learned some animal handling tips and techniques from her own Chihuahuas, "Cheech" and "Chong."

Like most of our volunteers, Samantha has an extreme fondness for animals. Add in her desire to be helpful, and becoming an MCACC volunteer seemed like a perfect fit. When asked about her favorite part of being a volunteer, Samantha was quick to reply, "Seeing the happy endings when dogs get adopted. Or ... all the puppy kisses! Tough choice!"

One of her favorite shelter pets left her with many memories, "I really loved our Project Dog, Taffy. Watching him become a loving, sweet, happy dog was fantastic. When he got adopted I was so happy for him — but I miss him dearly!"

If you'd like to volunteer, please visit pets.maricpa.gov and click on "How You Can Help."



**Maricopa County Animal
Care & Control**

Come Visit Us!

West Valley Animal Care Center

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

East Valley Animal Care Center

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

****Please Note: Beginning May 17th, we will no
longer be located at the
PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center**

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

(602) 506-PETS (7387)

www.pets.maricopa.gov



FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control



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

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

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

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



Tim and Nala