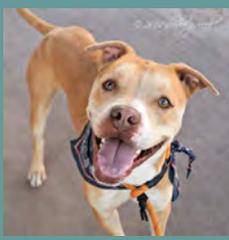




# Trailin' Tails

JULY — SEPTEMBER, 2014



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Happy Tails 2

NACo Award 3

Dog Days of Summer 4

Pet Obesity on the Rise 5

Fosters Needed 6

New Hope Spotlight 7

Friends of Animal Care 8

## Maddie's Pet Adoption Days Success!



The weekend of May 31st was a busy one for MCACC and 11 other animal welfare agencies as they participated in Maddie's Pet Adoption Days. The event was sponsored by Maddie's

Fund®, a family foundation created to help homeless pets across the country.

During Maddie's Pet Adoption Days, families were able to adopt a dog or cat at no charge. Each potential adopter was screened to ensure they could provide a good home.

Arizona Animal Welfare League, Arizona Humane Society, HALO Animal Rescue, MCACC and eight rescue groups in the Phoenix Animal Care Coalition all participated. The groups are also part of the

Fix.Adopt.Save. Campaign, which is working to end pet homelessness in the Valley.

The groups adopted 1,993 dogs and cats during the event and exceeded their goal of 1,500 adoptions.



## "UConn" Finds a Home at Maddie's Event



UConn arrived as a stray at MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center on March 24th. No one claimed him. But he found a loving home during the Maddie's Pet Adoption Days event on May 31st. We received the following note from his new family ...

"I adopted UConn from the east valley shelter. It has been five days now and he is turning out to be such a great and sweet dog. He's housebroken and has settled down considerably since I first got him. I think the volunteer who helped me with him was named Amy and when I get the chance I want to thank her for all her help. I know she was worried about him when he jumped up and licked me in the face but I assured her I was used to that with my other dogs. He is a wonderful dog and I can't even put in words how much I love this little guy. When I get the chance I will send some pictures of him. Thank you so much, Brian"



# Send Us Your Happy Tail!

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

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

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



Fuji

## Happy Tail

*We adopted our cat Fuji from the East Valley Center in Mesa, about four years ago. He was housed with the dogs because the shelter was so full. His card indicated that he was a stray, neutered male, about two years old.*

*We had to work hard to integrate him with our other cat, but perseverance pays off: they are the best of friends.*

*Fuji is a wonderful cat who is able to jump up and open doors. He is gentle and quirky. His markings are so interesting: there's a little white tip on his gray tail, like a snow-capped mountain. Hence, the name "Fuji."*

*We adore him.*

*— Janice L.*



Yuma

## Happy Tail

Hi, my name is Kristine and I adopted my bestie from MCCAC -East Valley in November 2009. She was a timid five-month-old stray named Darla (I assume for her very cute spot). My friend's husband picked her out for me. I was not even planning to adopt

that day. I am so glad that I did because she is my comfort & best pal. She has since been renamed to Yuma. She is now nearly six-years-old and my parent's favorite grand-pup. I only say pup because she makes up for her years with enthusiasm

and activity. She actually kept our home from being burglarized earlier this year and is constantly on watch. I am continually grateful for my dog and the great volunteer work that led her to me and my family.

*— Kristine G.*

## Decontamination Program Recognized Nationally

For the past nine years, MCACC has participated in the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station evacuation exercise. During the exercise, MCACC staff and volunteers demonstrate and teach emergency responders the process of animal decontamination.

MCACC was one of the first agencies in the country to attempt animal decontamination during a nuclear plant exercise and has become recognized as a leader in the field of animal decontamination.

Our Service Animal Decontamination guide has become recognized across the country. We've received calls from the Boston Public Health Commission, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the United States Army — all interested in utilizing our guide.

MCACC's West Field Animal Control Supervisor, Lt. John Reynolds, recently taught animal decontamination procedures to the Louisiana State Animal Response Team

(LSART) in Baton Rouge.

In addition to learning the protocol for decontaminating canines, the LSART program also included the decontamination of large animals, such as horses.

The program's latest success was being recognized by the National Association of Counties as a 2014 Achievement Award winner (see article below).



## MCACC Wins NACo Achievement Awards

Two of MCACC's programs have been awarded the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2014 Achievement Awards. The NACo Achievement Award Program seeks to recognize innovative county government programs.

MCACC's Decontamination Program for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and the Lost & Found Interactive Mapping Tool were both recognized for assisting pet owners and the local community. The Lost & Found Interactive Mapping Tool was launched in 2013 and is an online resource for people searching for lost pets.

Both innovative programs involve partnerships with other county or state agencies and are prime examples of the success that comes from collaborative efforts.



# Keep Pets Safe this Summer



MCACC alum, Beretta stays hydrated during a day foster outing

As triple digit temperatures continue to hit the Valley of the Sun, MCACC is reminding pet owners to keep pets safe in the extreme heat.

**Keep pets indoors.** On hot days, MCACC urges pet owners to keep pets



MCACC volunteer Dee Dee Purcell outfits her dogs with life vests.

inside. If you absolutely cannot bring your animal indoors, then be sure he has access to shade throughout the entire day. A dog house does not

allow air to circulate and provides no relief from the heat; tree shade, covered patios or tarps are preferable.

**Provide plenty of fresh, clean water.** Just like us, pets can get dehydrated. Provide plenty of water in a spill proof, non-metal bowl and if possible, keep it shaded. Change the water daily and remember many pets won't drink if the water is too hot.

**Limit exercise on hot days.** While your dog's paw pads may be tough, they are still sensitive and can be burned when walking on hot pavement. Limit your dog's exercise on hot days and walk him during the early morning or late evening hours.



MCACC alum, Tank, cools off

**Don't leave pets in parked cars.** Even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car can soar within minutes.

**Know the signs of heatstroke.** Heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heart-beat, difficult breathing, lethargy — these are all signs of heatstroke. If your pet exhibits any symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Remember, if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog!



Jefferson is hoping for a new home

## Dog Days of Summer Adoption Promo

What better way to spend your summer than with a new fuzzy companion?

MCACC's Dog Days of Summer Adoption promotion continues through August 31st and offers reduced and waived

adoption fees for dogs and cats.

All dogs (any age) are just \$20. Cats ages six months and younger are \$20 and we have waived the adoption fee for cats more than six months of age.

Every animal must be spayed or neutered prior to going home. Dogs older than three months of age receive a rabies vaccination and dog license.

Visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov) to see our adoptable animals.

## 54% of Dogs & Cats in the U.S. Are Overweight or Obese



*Albert arrived at MCACC in August 2013, weighing a whopping 28lbs! He has since been adopted and is slowly shedding some excess weight.*

According to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, an estimated 52.6% of US dogs are overweight or obese and an estimated 57.6% of US cats are overweight or obese. There are many health risks associated with obesity in pets, including osteoarthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and respiratory disease, and many forms of cancer. Pet obesity can reduce your dog or cat's life expectancy by up to 2.5 years!

For tips on how to help your dog or cat safely lose weight, visit [www.petobesityprevention.org](http://www.petobesityprevention.org). In addition to a pet weight translator (did you know that a 14 pound cat is the equivalent to a 237 pound man), the Association offers lots of tips to help your overweight cat or dog lose weight safely. They even have a daily dog food and exercise log that you can download to help track your pet's progress.

## Chihuahuas Trade Arizona for Missouri

Nineteen Chihuahuas are headed to a cooler climate and new families thanks to Paws Place Animal Shelter in Lake Ozark, Missouri.

Representatives from the agency drove nearly 1,500 miles to rescue the dogs from MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa.

MCACC staff barely had time to recover before they were approached by another animal rescue group that is interested in transporting Chihuahuas to their shelter in Minnesota.

Pit bulls and Chihuahuas are the two most common breeds found at MCACC shelters.



*Gizmo, a 9-year-old Chihuahua mix who had been at MCACC since April 3rd gets to ride up front for the trip to Missouri*

## Dog Adopted After Six Months at MCACC

She arrived at the East Valley Animal Care Center on December 16, 2013. She was brought in as a stray but her family never came to claim her.

Beretta was a 5-year-old, Dogue de Bordeaux/Pitbull mix. A big girl who often intimidated potential adopters with her size, her personality was just as

large as her stature, and she quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite.

The months passed and Beretta proved to be extremely resilient. Unlike some dogs, she wasn't bothered by the shelter environment. Beretta went on many Day Foster outings so that she could enjoy time away

from the kennels. We learned how much she loved water, how well she rode in the car and that toys were one of her favorite things.

Beretta was adopted on Sunday, June 15th. Almost six months to the day of her arrival. We wish her the best in her new home.



**Beautiful Beretta**

# Foster Success and Media Stars!



Bonnie

Bonnie and Clyde arrived at MCACC's West Valley Animal Care Center when they were just a few days old. They were sent to a foster home where they were bottle fed every few hours.

The Chihuahua/Dachshund mix puppies spent nearly two months in foster care where they were cared for until they were big

enough to come back to the shelter for adoption. While in foster care they were exposed to many different situations, including being handled by children and introductions to cats and other dogs.

The puppies were selected to appear in the Arizona Republic as the Pet(s) of the Week. It didn't take long for Bonnie and Clyde

to find loving families. We are thankful to all of our foster families for opening their hearts and homes to pets in need.



Bonnie and Clyde pose for their Arizona Republic Pet of the Week photograph

MCACC Offers  
Foster Volunteer  
Orientation  
Sessions Once  
Every Month

## Foster Families Needed

Have you considered becoming a MCACC foster volunteer? Here are some frequently asked questions from potential foster volunteers.

**What supplies are needed to foster?** It's up to the volunteer to provide the space, food, basic training, exercise, socialization and TLC. MCACC provides any

medical care and medications that may be required.

**How long will the foster animal be in my home?** It depends on the animal and his situation. The average stay is four to six weeks. Animals recovering from surgery, older dogs and certain breeds may require longer stays.

**Do I need to crate train my foster dog?** No, but it is an efficient and effective way to house train a puppy, or re-train an adult dog.

**Do I need to have an prior medical training**

**or experience?** No. Foster parents may be asked to dispense medication for their foster pet and must be comfortable following veterinary instructions.

**How do I become a MCACC foster volunteer?** The first step is to attend one of our Foster Volunteer Orientation sessions. These sessions are normally held once a month at our West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix.

For dates and times, please visit our Calendar of Events at [www.maricopa.gov/pets/calendar.aspx](http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/calendar.aspx).



Bottle Feeding Pups

## New Hope Spotlight: Arizona Pug Rescue (APARN)

When a Pug in need arrives at either of our shelter locations, one of the first groups we reach out to is Arizona Pug Adoption & Rescue Network (APARN). APARN's mission is



*Lester is just one of many Pugs looking for a new home*

to rescue abused, abandoned, homeless, unwanted, sick or injured Pugs. The group then works to rehabilitate the animals and find them loving homes. In addition to saving lives and finding adoptive

families, APARN also works to educate the public about this adorable breed.

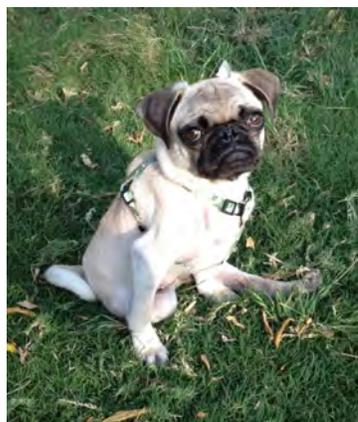
As one of our New Hope partners, APARN often takes sick or injured Pugs from our shelters. They were there when Hootie needed help.

Hootie arrived at our West Valley Animal Care Center in March. She has a congenital defect known as hemivertebrae and cannot use her hind legs. When Hootie gets a little older, APARN is planning to get her a canine cart to help with her mobility. But Hootie hasn't let her condition slow her down! She scoots and gets along quite well.

Hootie loves toys and is enjoy-

ing the time in her foster home with two other Pugs. At this time, APARN isn't sure when Hootie will be available for adoption.

We thank this amazing group for their work! For more information, please visit [www.aparn.org](http://www.aparn.org).



*Hootie is a special needs Pug currently in APARN's care*

*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!*

## Monsoon Season is Here! Keep Pets Safe ...



The storms and rain may be a welcome time for some, but they can be a source of distress for our pets. Follow these simple tips to keep pets safe this monsoon season.

**Keep pets indoors.** Loud thunder and blowing winds can scare even the calmest pets. It is not unusual for dogs to jump over or dig under fences in an attempt to escape during violent storms.

**Create a safe place for your pet.** A spare bedroom or extra bathroom is a great spot to keep pets until the storm passes. Be sure to include bedding, food, water and few favorite toys (don't forget a litter box for cats). Turn on a radio to help drown out the sounds of the storm.

**Distract your dog.** If your dog is anxious, try engaging her in an activity that will capture her attention. Practice commands, play fetch, etc. Don't punish your pet for being afraid and don't force them to "experience" the sound.

And most importantly, make sure your pet is **wearing proper identification** in case he does escape during a monsoon.



**Maricopa County Animal  
Care & Control**

**Visit One of Our Three Locations!**

**West Valley Animal Care Center**

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

**East Valley Animal Care Center**

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

**PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center**

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

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

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



Keller



Bella

# FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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