



Trailin' Tails

JULY — SEPTEMBER, 2015



Shelter Long Timers Enjoy Day Trip

Who doesn't enjoy a trip to Sedona? Several of our long time shelter residents recently had the opportunity to spend a day exploring the red rocks and watering holes near Wet Beaver Creek.

The trip was planned by PHOENIX Magazine, who will be featuring the pups in their July issue. The dogs (most of whom have been with us longer than 30 days) were assigned a day foster volunteer who transported them to and from their modeling gig.

After hiking the trails, the dogs enjoyed splashing (and dragging some of the volunteers) in the cool water. The socialization, exercise and opportunity to spend time away with a day foster volunteer is a highlight for many of our dogs. To learn about becoming an MCACC volunteer, visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/help.aspx>.

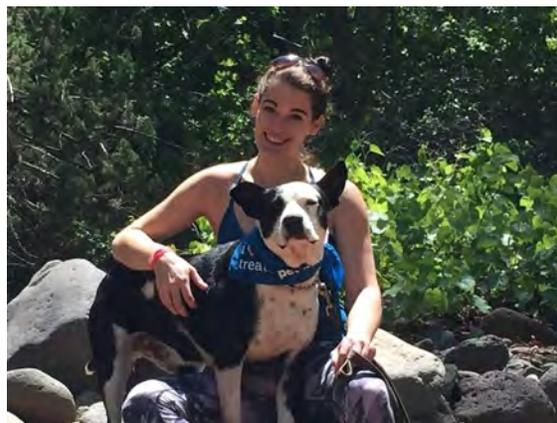
Pick up your July PHOENIX Magazine at Safeway, Fry's Marketplace, Bashas', A.J., Target, Whole Foods and many more locations. Visit www.phoenixmag.com.



Group shot!

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Diane and Dexter take a break



Exploring the red rocks and water



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



Dex Hanging Out

Happy Tail

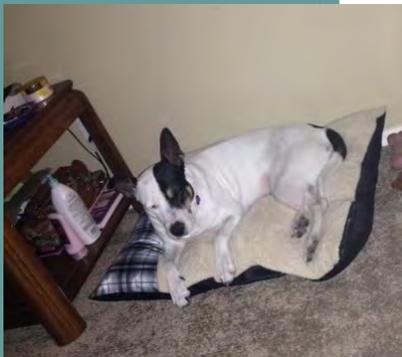
Dear MCACC,

I waited two years after losing both my dogs to cancer before I began looking for a new fur-ever friend. We have always adopted shelter dogs so my daughter took me to East Valley Animal Care and Control just to "browse."

I went looking for a small to medium size dog. Dexter (aka Gumby) caught my eye, so I took him outside to see if we were a good fit. Needless to say I now have an exuberant rather large and lanky puppy that weighs 75 pounds and loves life.

Thank you for our amazing dog! He is chewing an Oinkie not smoking a cigar in the picture.

— Sharon



Miss Gracie

Happy Tail

I adopted miss Gracie in March and she is an absolute doll. I believe she was surrendered by her owner.

All my dogs have always been kennel trained and that's where they slept.

She has slowly been sleeping outside the

kennel and running the house. Gracie is totally cat and kid friendly.

I leave for work and have no stress about anything happening while I am gone.

Miss Gracie is spoiled rotten and just the best dog ever!

So glad I came to your East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa and found her. Love her to death.

— Tiffany

MCACC Hosts Community Baby Shower

We were thrilled to host our first Animal Shelter Baby Shower at our West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix on May 30th.

Spring and summer months are the busiest seasons at our shelters, with more than a hundred dogs and cats entering our doors each day. Many of these animals are too small to go up for adoption and need to be sent to foster homes until they are big enough to find their permanent families.

The goal of the baby shower was to find new volunteers who would be interested in

becoming foster parents. Because the need for foster families is Valley-wide, we invited our New Hope partners to set up tables and recruit volunteers for their own agencies and rescue groups. Micayla (pictured below) signed



up to foster for the Arizona Humane Society and left that morning with her first foster kitten.

We encourage anyone who is

interested in becoming a foster volunteer to attend one of our upcoming volunteer orientation sessions. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, complete an application online at <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/help.aspx> and you will be contacted by staff from our Alternative Placement Division. They'll be able to answer any questions you may have about fostering.

Fostering is a great way to help homeless pets — you are literally giving them a second chance at life!



Wag & Walk Wins National Award

Great news regarding our popular Wag & Walk Adoption Hike Program! The innovative program was recently awarded the “Best in Category” award from the National Association of Counties. Launched in 2013, the program is a unique collaboration between MCACC and our friends at the County’s Parks & Recreation Department.

While the main goals of the program are to bring attention to shelter pets and encourage people to visit County parks, the program benefits long-time shelter residents by giving them an opportunity to get out of their kennels and interact with potential adopters. To watch a quick video about the program, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XA3pHyBrrpY>.



Volunteer MJ and “Payne” visit with a young hiker

Citizens for Pets Task Force Update



Task Force recommends hiring more clinic staff

After six months and countless hours of hard work, the Citizens for Pets Community Task Force presented its final list of recommendations to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on May 4th.

The Task Force was put into place to review the service level and processes of MCACC. As a result of the Task Force member's commitment to the animals in our community, 35

recommendations with 108 strategies were formed and presented to the Board.

The recommendations focused on the following areas: Medical Care, Sanitation, Behavior, Adoptions, Marketing & Outreach and Budget & Funding. Examples of recommendations include hiring additional veterinary staff, improvements to current dog evaluation process, enhancement of volunteer program and outreach.

Approximately 50% of the recommendations have already been implemented. Funding remains a hurdle but the agency is getting creative in finding ways to pay for improvements. We've received grant funding that will enable us to provide Bordetella vaccines



Shade structures being constructed at East Valley Animal Care Center

to the dogs at our East Valley Animal Care Center. Grant funding has also been allocated for the purchase of four large screen monitors to be placed in the lobbies of our Mesa and Phoenix shelters. These monitors will feature adoptable pets, adoption pricing, announcements, etc. Finally, grant funding has been secured to purchase new microchip scanners for several departments at both Care Centers and for our Animal Control Officers in the field.



Members of the Citizens for Pets Task Force

Brownies Help Homeless Pets



The girls pose with their donations

We were thrilled to hear the girls in Brownie Troop 799 had taken time (and initiative) to collect donations for the animals at our PetSmart Charities Everyday Adoption Center in Scottsdale.

The girls (grades 2-3) also enjoyed some time meeting the canine and feline residents at the adoption center.

If you'd like to have a donation drive for our shelter, call 602-506-7387.



Dog Days of Summer Adoption Promotion



Chloe cools off during a Day Foster Outing

The summer months are a busy time at our shelters with more than 100 dogs and cats entering our doors each day. To help get the animals out of the shelter and into loving homes quickly, we've started our summer-long adoption promotion.

The Dog Days of Summer promotion kicked off in June and will continue through the end of August. During that time, all dogs under six months of age are \$75; dogs over six months of age are \$20; cats under six months of age are \$20 and cats over six months of age have waived adoption fees. All animals must be spayed or neutered prior to going home. Dogs over three months of age will be rabies vaccinated and go home with their County dog license.

The special takes place at all MCACC locations and during our off-site mobile adoption events.

DNA Testing Reveals Unique New Breed!

Thanks to a donation from our friends at Mars Veterinary, we were able to test the DNA of one of our long-time shelter residents.

Gator originally arrived at our shelter last year. After more than six months, he found a home, but was returned this year due to separation anxiety. Gator is a big boy, and his size

may be intimidating to potential adopters. We thought the test results might help Gator find a new home. After submitting a saliva swab, the results are in and say hello to Gator, our first Staffordshire Pom-Pei Hound (American Staffordshire Terrier, Pomeranian, Shar-Pei, Blood-hound). You can meet (and adopt) Gator at our East Valley Animal Care Center.



Even Gator finds his new breed amusing!

Mobile Adoption Events = Success!



MCACC Volunteer Coordinator, Deb Wood-LaFave, introduces Bambi to her new mom

It seems more and more Valley restaurants are featuring large, outdoor dining areas. Misting systems, ping pong tables and Astroturf abound. And while the weather may have forced us indoors for the summer, we are already looking forward to the fall and more off-site mobile adoption events.

In the past six months, our friends at O.H.S.O. Brewery have hosted three mobile adoption events, offering potential adopters a chance to interact with shelter pets — minus the shelter. Regardless of whether the animals are adopted at the event or not, they enjoy the opportunity to spend time out of their kennels and socialize with humans and other pets.

Visit our Event Calendar at www.maricopa.gov/pets for a list of upcoming adoption events.

Dogs Get Makeovers for Adoption



Special thanks to our friends in the grooming department at the PetSmart at 4380 N. Miller Road in Scottsdale.

This store houses our PetSmart Charities Everyday Adoption Center and during a recent PetSmart Charities adoption weekend, the grooming team gave doggie makeovers to several of our canine

residents. Not only did the bathing, haircuts and styling make the dogs look better—they felt better, too! You could easily see it in their attitude and behavior.

Plus, sometimes it is easier for potential adopters to envision the dog in their home when the pup is groomed and looking pretty.

Do you have experience in pet grooming? We are always in need of volunteer groomers.

Visit www.maricopa.gov/pets to learn more.



Charlie helps care for the horses every day in his new home.



Unlikely Duo Goes Viral

It's not unusual for MCACC staff to see small and large dogs come in together, but this pair was unique. The tiny Chihuahua found comfort sleeping on the back of her Boxer friend. A photo snapped of the two in their kennel quickly spread on the internet and soon everyone was inquiring about the adorable duo.

Potential adopters expressed interest on Facebook, but one person stood out. Sonya B. from Orange, California emailed MCACC staff to inquire about the dogs. Along with a heartfelt message, Sonya sent photos of her home and current dog.

When no one showed up at the designated time to adopt the pair, staff immediately called Sonya. After bursting into tears, she promised to drive to Phoenix and be at the shelter by the time we opened our doors.

Now named Libby and

Charlie, the two have another canine brother named Bentley.

Sonya routinely sends videos and photo updates of the entire family.

These two couldn't have found a more perfect home!



Now in a loving home, Libby still picks Charlie's back as her favorite place to sleep.

New Hope Spotlight: Furever Friends Rescue

Furever Friends Rescue (FFR) was founded based on the question, "What would happen to my animal(s) if something happened to me?"

Furever Friends President Nancy Babos has made it her mission to care for the pets of people faced with life-changing circumstances. The Gilbert based rescue agency take pets



Bleeker is searching for a loving family

from people who are entering hospice care, nursing homes or assisted living facilities. And in the process, easing the minds of pet owners who can simply no longer provide the care their pets need. FFR cares for an animal until he/she finds a permanent home.

FFR also New Hopes animals from MCACC on a regular basis. Because the rescue doesn't have a shelter, they do their adoptions in several Valley PetSmart and Petco locations.

FFR operates entirely on donations, grant funding and monies generated through adoption fees. Many of the dogs and cats who come to FFR require medical attention but adoption fees are not increased



14-year-old Roxy is available through Furever Friends

based on the amount of resource taken by a particular animal. Last year, FFR kitty Darcy's medical bills topped \$1,800, but her adoption fee remained \$50.

If you'd like to help Furever Friends Rescue, visit their website at www.fureverfriendsrescue.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 Photographer Helps Dogs Shine



Heather with Chi Town alum, Zoey

Her nights are busy as an Emergency Room RN while her days are spent scouring the internet for cute Chihuahua clothes and photo shoot ideas. Her pictures of the adorable dogs in MCACC's Chi Town are wildly popular, but volunteer Heather Haltmeyer, is the face *behind* the camera.

Shortly after she began volunteering in October 2013, Heather realized her contribution to Chi Town would be to showcase the dogs through photography. "There are so many Chihuahua mixes in the shelter, it's important to try to make them stand out," she says. And Heather isn't ashamed to admit that some of the photos are gimmicky, "I love seeing a picture help a dog get adopted and of course, for purely selfish reasons, I love dressing the dogs up in silly costumes and getting a giggle out of it."

Heather has made it her goal to showcase the animal's personalities through her pictures and if the success of Chi Town's Facebook page (address at left) is any indication, she's certainly reached her goal. For more information or to become a volunteer, visit www.maricopa.gov/pets.

<https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyAnimalCareandControl#!/pages/Chi-Town/326202840812756?fref=ts>



**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



Cinderella



Sir Winston

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.

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.