

PIMA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE newsletter

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We're Up for the Challenge. Are You Ready to Help?

Pima Animal Care Center was picked to be in an elite group of 50 shelters to compete in the 2014 ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge!

That means we'll be competing for a chance at more than \$600,000 in prizes! Any additional resources will help in our efforts to treat more pets with medical conditions and will help in our efforts to increase spay/neuter opportunities.

But importantly, we'll be winners no matter what, because we'll be challenging ourselves to save more lives than ever before.

We've set a goal of 5,000 pets saved from June 1, 2014 through Aug. 31, 2014.

We're going to need your help to get there, so stay posted as we get closer to the competition.

Stuff the Bus February 22nd for Pets of Homeless Veterans

No pet should suffer or go without, just because they don't have a roof for protection.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, between 5 to 10 percent of homeless people have dogs or cats.

Pima Animal Care Center every year teams up with Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans to provide free vaccinations and licensing to pets of homeless veterans, along with pet food and pet supplies.

The Ace Hardware location at 11921 N. First Ave., just south of Tangerine Road, will be hosting a "stuff the bus" event on Saturday, Feb. 22. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and of course, we'll be holding an adoption event, too, to help more of our pets find homes!

If you're interested in helping, we're looking for pet food, but the following items also would come in handy for our well-traveled friends:

- Collapsible food and water bowls
- Dog back packs and camel packs
- Dog shoes and Clothing • Collars and leashes
- Light weight tents and crates

The donations will assist Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans, which is hosting its 15th annual event to connect homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless with services that will help them become self-sufficient.



*"Building a better
community for
people and pets!"*



FRIENDS OF THE FURRY

Healing touch for shelter pets

Once a week, an unusual sign goes up on the doors at Pima Animal Care Center's administrative offices: *Quiet please, massage in progress.*

No, it's not a perk for busy volunteers and staff.

It's a reprieve for pets from the stress of shelter life, as part of a relatively new field known as small animal massage therapy.

Michele Rappoport, who holds certification in the field after completing a 200-hour program, has been volunteering weekly to work the tension out of pets.

Rappoport saw big changes right away when she massaged animals at a county shelter in Atlantic County, New Jersey. "I saw almost immediate behavioral changes with both cats and dogs and wanted to put it to use here immediately," she said.

Not only does massage reduce the stress hormone, cortisol, she said, but it helps calm agitated animals, rebuilds trust in abused and frightened pets, and provides overall socialization that will make them better candidates for adoption. "I just think it's a portal to open up other ways of healing," she said.

Rappoport tries to focus on animals that are most in need, whether they're depressed because they've been in shelter for so long, or brand new and adjusting to the initial shock.



She realized very quickly that she's going to need more hands.

She'll be leading massage workshops in the coming months to teach volunteers and staff basic techniques to use as they're working with animals.

"The scope of what is done here is still amazing to me. It's also a really dynamic environment and a big time of change so I'm happy to be a part of it."

**RECOGNIZING LOCAL
CITIZENS WHO HELP OUR
ANIMALS!**



Ocaño to provide shelter leadership at a critical time

Pima Animal Care Center is thrilled to introduce Jose Ocaño as our new shelter manager.

As volunteer coordinator, Ocaño helped grow our volunteer base from less than 100 to about 700 in just a year, as well as starting an intern program and hosting dozens of open houses.

He's been caring for animals his whole life, tending to them throughout his childhood. He got his professional start at 18 years of age as an animal-care technician.

He plans to explore opportunities for staff training and for community education to help keep more dogs and cats out of the shelter in the first place.

"The day has finally arrived where I get the chance to affect the highest capacity of change and for that I feel excited, motivated, and honored for this opportunity," he said.



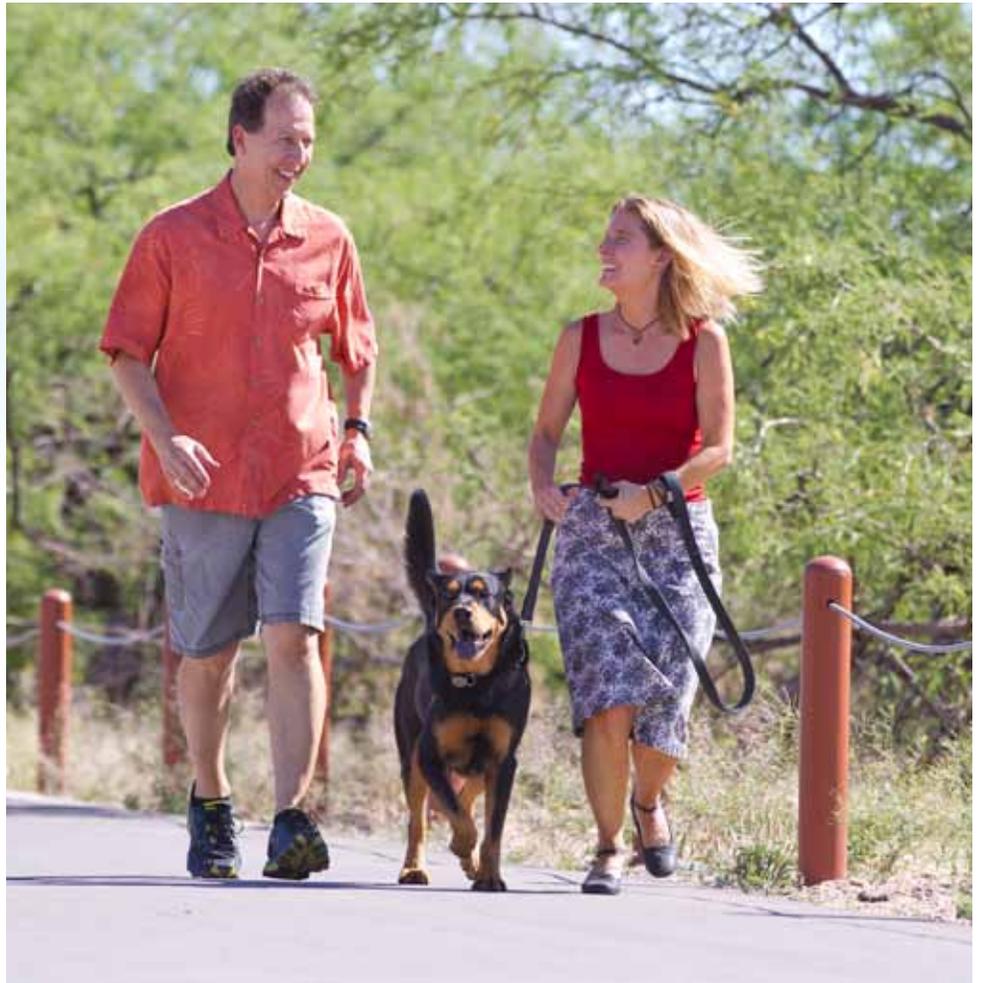
Woofs and Tail Wags of Thanks!

Here's a big tail wag to the good folks at Holistic Animal Care who made a donation of 1,500 pounds of food to our shelter. We go through a lot of food feeding about 25,000 animals a year and this generous donation will feed our lucky pups for about two weeks!

A big paw high-five to Central Pet grooming, who groomed several of our pets at no charge, including some matted to the skin, to make them more comfortable and adoptable. Thanks for helping us find homes for these little guys.

And thanks to every single one of you who donated beds, towels, blankets, food and toys for our pets over the holidays.

We received the beds in such a way that we could not identify the individual donors, so please know that if we didn't thank you personally, you made a difference in the comfort of our pets and our hearts are thankful for that.



Single Mingle at PACC, February 23

Make social connections and do a good deed at our Feb. 23 Single Mingle!

Want to connect with others in the community while doing a good deed at the same time?

Come to our fun, casual Dog Walk and Cat Cuddle, only for singles!

Pima Animal Care Center is closed on the last Sunday of every month for deep cleaning, so that's the perfect day to make sure all our pets have a chance to get out a play for an hour or so.

Join us on Feb. 23 in the parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

We'll have light refreshments and a meet-and-greet with fellow dog walkers and then we'll get you a wingman for a scenic stroll around Christopher Columbus Park.

There's no pressure! Just a chance to have a great time with other singles and tie in some unconditional puppy love at the same time!

We'd love to see you. Just drop a line to jose.ocano@pima.gov to RSVP so we know how many volunteers we need on hand!

Watch for our tent-warming event coming soon!



Celebrate International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day February 23

Check out this easy homemade peanut butter dog biscuit treat:

Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour (you can use another type of flour if your dog is sensitive to wheat)
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/3 cup peanut butter, chunky or smooth
- 1 ¼ cups hot water
- Additional flour for rolling

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F
2. Mix dry ingredients together
3. Mix in the peanut butter and hot water. If dough is too sticky, add more flour.
4. Knead the dough well.
5. Roll out the dough into ¼ thickness and cut into shapes with a cookie cutter or roll dough into 1" balls and make a cross hatch fork mark on the dog cookies, just like you do when making human peanut butter cookies.
6. Bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet for 40 minutes. Turn off the oven and let them cool overnight or cool them completely on a wire rack before serving.

Store in a sealed air tight container at room temperature for one week; in your refrigerator for 3 weeks; in the freezer for up to 6 months.

We want to hear your reviews! If you have photos or a story to tell about making this, let us know!

February Adoption Events



Feb. 1 Adoption Event, La Encantada Shopping Ctr., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 8 Adoption Event Petco, 22nd Street and Harrison Road, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb.15 Pet Speed Dating, Pima Animal Care Center, 4000 N. Silverbell Road

Feb. 15 Adoption Event PetSmart, 10625 N. Oracle Road, Oro Valley, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 22 Adoption Event Oro Valley Ace Hardware Adoption event and "stuff the bus" dog supply drive for homeless veterans, southwest corner of First Avenue and Tangerine Road, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Find Your Match!

at the
**Pima Animal Care Center
Sweethearts' Weekend**

Pet Speed Dating! February 15

Bella likes long walks along the river park! Buster enjoys cuddling in front of the TV! We've got lap warmers and ball fetchers and snuggle buddies galore. Our skilled matchmakers will be on hand to help you meet our most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes at this event from noon until 3 p.m.

Free adoptions all weekend!

We're offering free adoptions:
Friday from noon to 7 p.m.;
Saturday and Sunday from
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Monday from noon to 3 p.m.

Set your own adoption price by making a donation of your choice! *Standard licensing fees apply to adult dogs.*



To learn more, visit <http://www.pimaanimalcare.org>
4000 N. Silverbell Road at Sweetwater Dr. • 243-5900