#### FALL/WINTER 2021

# Happy Tails NEWSLETTER



Friends of PACC is the official nonprofit partner to Pima Animal Care Center, working to enhance PACC's efforts to save the lives of pets in need.

### MEET THE NEW TOP DOG

Monica Dangler served as Pima Animal Care Center's interim Director. now the facility's permanent Director.

More on Page 2.



### We are Looking **Forward & Saving More**

Friends of PACC's Development Director. Torre Chisholm. explains how Friends of PACC is doubling down on its commitment to PACC.

Friends of PACC has never been prouder to align with Pima Animal Care Center than now. We are excited about the new Director, Monica Dangler, and her vision for PACC—and animal welfare in Pima County.

PACC recently released their fiscal year annual report, and the stats were astounding:



92% live release rate on 14,676 animals served; over 5,000 families saved through Keeping Families CON'T p.4

### Inside this issue...







#### Honor Wall & Digital Shrine

PACC's Honor Wall is up and ready to honor your pet, find out how inside this edition. Page 3

#### **Mobile Medical Unit**

See why taking care of animals-before they reach PACC's clinic—is crucial in keeping the animal census manageable. Page 4

#### **Volunteer Spotlight**

PACC has some great Volunteers. See who is in this edition's spotlight!

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Monica Dangler, PACC's new Director, does her rounds around the shelter.

# Meet the new top dog

Monica Dangler, who served as Pima Animal Care Center's Interim Director of Animal Services since October 2020 and led the shelter during the worst public health crisis in a century, was named the facility's permanent Director in late June.

Dangler came to the shelter in July 2019 as one of three team members chosen for the Maddie's Fund Executive Leader Fellowship Grant. She has spent 11 years working in animal welfare.

Prior to her role at PACC, she was the Volunteer Manager at Austin Pets Alive!, and she served as a Shelter Director at PAWS Shelter of Central Texas.



As a nice big welcome, Monica Dangler and Friends of PACC were presented a check for \$25,000 from The Power Open, a fundraising event powered by APS employees.

"Pima Animal Care Center is the leading large volume municipal shelter in the country," Dangler said. "I am so pleased to be leading this life-saving team." On her vision for the future, she stated, "PACC wants to be a place for the pets that need us and be a resource to people who need some help in order to keep their pet. We are keeping pets with the people who love them."

Friends of PACC is excited to work with Monica Dangler to make this vision a reality.





Named Tucson's Best Non-profit in the 2021 Arizona Daily Star Readers' Choice Awards.

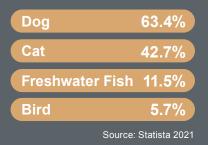
#### Dear Tucson,

Thank you for your faith in us. We're honored to receive this prestigious recognition on behalf of PACC's amazing volunteers and staff, as well as the generous donors who enable our life-saving mission. We accept the responsibility to make Pima County a wonderful community for animals and animal lovers.

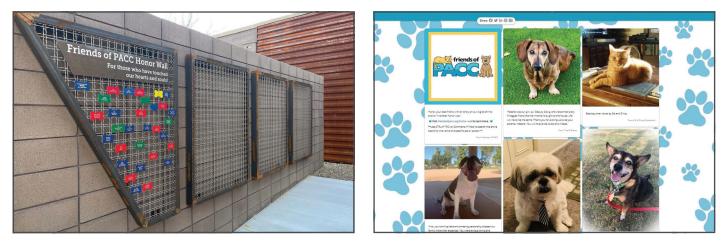
-Friends of PACC

#### **U.S. Pet Stats**

Number of pet-owning households in the United States in 2019/20, by species.



# Honor Wall + Digital Shrine



We are pleased to announce the Honor Wall is complete and ready to be filled with the memories of your pets.

Pets are family. They make a significant impact on our lives and well-being. At the beginning of this year, we mentioned our plans for honoring pets who touch our hearts and souls. These plans manifested as an Honor Wall + Digital Shrine. We are happy to announce that the Honor Wall is complete and ready to be filled with memories of pets, past and present.

The Honor Wall is a physical wall at PACC, just outside the adoption lobby. The Honor Wall will display custom, palm-sized, 4" heart or bone, weatherproof tags. You will be able to put a short message on them. The tags include three lines of text. The first line is a max of 20 characters, the second and third lines, 18 characters. There are several colors of tags to choose from.

This evolving piece of beautiful art will be a testament to the incredible bond between pets and people. Donation cost: \$120. All donations go to support PACC's life-saving mission.

The second component is the Digital Shrine. It is a website where we upload one photo and a short 60-word caption honoring your pet. You can also share a link to your Digital Shrine with friends and family via social media. The donation cost for just the Digital Shrine, \$60. You can donate \$120 and will get both Honor Wall + Digital Shrine.

The Honor Wall + Digital Shrine are for ALL pets, not just cats and dogs. Pets, past and present, can be honored. All Honor Wall + Digital Shrine donations come with the possibility of your pet being memorialized even further by their photo, and a short story shared on the "Celebration of Life" page in Tucson Dog Magazine.

Honor your pet today! Visit www.friendsofpacc.org/honorwall for more info and to create a lasting memory of your pet.

friendsofpacc.org/honorwall

# Looking forward saving more CON'T

Together; 4,500 spay/neuters over the last six months, the numbers go on and on. PACC accomplished all of this during the worst pandemic in memory. Unfortunately, this isn't a Hollywood movie where we can yell, 'Crisis Averted!' Because the challenge continues. That is why Friends of PACC is 'doubling down' on its commitment to PACC.

This fiscal year we are committing over \$700,000 to support the ongoing life-saving mission and initiatives at PACC. Not only that, but we are using the lessons learned over the last 18 months to LOOK FORWARD so that we can SAVE MORE.

Friends of PACC is launching an ambitious fundraising effort to create more life-saving opportunities, focusing on proactive, preventive programs.

These life-saving opportunities include expanded support for Keeping Families Together (KFT), helping animals stay where they belong – with the people who love them.

It also includes innovation funding—supporting and enabling PACC to continue as a national leader for creative life-saving programs such as Safety Net Fostering, lost pet networks, and regionwide collaboration projects.

The fundraising effort strives to secure a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) for the PACC Clinic, taking the life-saving work of Chief Veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Wilcox and her team on the road to better serve the animals and humans who can't access PACC. The MMU will expand the Clinic's capacity to help more animals—at PACC and in the community.

Working in concert with PACC – creating a dynamic public-private partnership – FRIENDS is poised to carry forward the transformation



Lucy (AKA, Smoothie)

of animal care into the communities that need it most. During this pandemic, PACC has become a beacon of hope for animal welfare. FRIENDS plans to amplify that beacon, taking PACC beyond its cinder block walls and transforming it into a shelter without barriers.

But it can't happen without people like you. You have the power to light the beacon and to charge that amplifier. After all, you are the Friends of PACC. And together, we will SAVE MORE.



### Mobile Medical Unit and the future for PACC

Friends of Pima Animal Care Center is raising funds for a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU). It will bring critically needed veterinary support to underserved and remote communities in Pima County. This region is home to about 1 million people, with 18% living below the poverty line and nearly 60% of households with a pet.

PACC's MMU will be essential for connecting with those who don't have easy access to the physical center yet require its assistance and services. Another benefit of the MMU will be its instrumental role in keeping the animal census manageable by addressing issues in the community before they become lifethreatening issues at PACC.

In late July and through August of this year, PACC experienced one of its worst cases of overpopulation at the shelter. Many factors contributed to the large influx, but none so profound as high rates of Parvo—a virus efficiently



# **SAVE STORY: Angus**

You may remember our friend, Angus. He came to PACC on December 4, 2020. Angus is a very loving young dog who found himself in a lot of trouble after likely being hit by a car.

Thanks to our donors and supporters who shared Angus' story, we raised enough funds for a specialized consult and surgery that PACC could not do in-house.

Due to severe breathing problems, the surgeon stated the only solution was a permanent tracheostomy—where breathing bypasses the larynx altogether.

Angus needed to heal from his first surgery before the tracheostomy. He has had one of his back legs surgically repaired, one eye has been removed, and his broken pelvis has healed.

A special thanks as well to the generous anonymous donor who matched \$3,000 to ensure his care.

Through it all, he has been a very happy boy and enjoys hang-

ing out with his friends. In mid-May 2021, he found a fabulous foster, Shalimar.

He and Shalimar have formed an excellent trusting relationship. He enjoys spending a lot of time with her while she works from home and when she plays the piano. They have fun playing dog games too!

With the help of generous donors, like you, Friends of PACC has provided financial support to Angus throughout his journey.

# New study at PACC to measure stress on animals

As one can imagine, the experience of an animal coming through a shelter can be stressful, to say the least. Now, a team of scientists, from the Canine Science Collaboratory at Arizona State University, and with funding from Maddie's Fund, have partnered with PACC to capture quantifiable data to measure and better understand that stress.

They will monitor the time prior to and following a week long stay in a foster home. Their goal? To examine the effects of foster care on the welfare and behavior of dogs in shelters. PACC was selected as one of just two animal shelters in the US participating in this study.

"PACC is such a progressive

animal shelter with one of the most robust fostering programs of any animal welfare agency



Neveah

in the country. We're excited to work together with them on this project and learn more about how fostering benefits the lives of dogs awaiting adoption in animal shelters," said Dr. Lisa Gunter, Maddie's Fund Research Fellow at Arizona State University in the Canine Science Collaboratory.

The study is measuring the cortisol and activity levels, as well as behavioral information gathered by foster caregivers and from adopters once the dogs are in their new homes. The Canine Science Collaboratory arrived in Tucson at the end of July with the study running through late August.

"The best part is that the research team learns about the stress levels of the dogs through free-caught urine so the pet isn't harmed in any way," said Monica Dangler, Director of PACC.

For more information, visit www.pima.gov/pacc.

### Mobile Medical Unit and the future for PACC CON'T



prevented with a vaccine.

Friends of PACC received the first significant gift commitment for its Mobile Medical Unit project in July. An 'anonymous volunteer' has committed \$150,000 towards this life-saving endeavor.

According to the donor(s), this gift was made in recognition of "the positive impact the Mobile Medical Unit will have on the well-being of animals in our community." Additionally, they wanted to "give credit to the people who donate their time to help the animals." PACC volunteers contributed over 58,000 hours of service during the past year—equivalent to 28 full-time staff positions.

The MMU will facilitate 150-200 off-site wellness clinics annually, serving thousands of animals and families. The MMU will also bolster PACC's efforts to expand its Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts for underserved and community cats.

The fundraising goal for the MMU is \$1,000,000. This amount not only includes the cost of the MMU, but will help cover staffing cost for at least two to three years. If you'd like to be a part of this life-saving mission, please consider donating. Your donation will help Pima Animal Care Center—the largest municipal animal shelter in Southern Arizona—save more animals' lives and provide medical care for pets who need it most.

Your gift will go directly towards veterinary services needed to treat sick or injured animals and spay/neuter surgeries—especially for owners who can't afford them.

Please make a tax-deductible donation today! Every dollar contributes towards helping animals.

For more information, visit www.friendsofpacc.org/mmu

### El Tour de Tucson and Ride with the PACC 2021



The "Ride with the PACC" team in 2019.

Last year's El Tour de Tucson was canceled due to COVID-19. However, this year, the 38th El Tour de Tucson is a go, and we are excited to attend and raise money for the animals at PACC! The event is on Saturday, November 20, 2021. PACC's cycling team, the "Ride with the PACC" team, will be gearing up for this year's event. We will be following any COVID-19 guidelines the event organizer, Perimeter Cycling has set forth.

El Tour de Tucson isn't just a bike race; El Tour is an opportunity for nonprofits to raise funds for their respective causes.

Perimeter Bicycling, the organization that runs the event, has raised more than \$100 million for local and international charitable organizations.

The "Ride with the PACC" team is passionate about cycling, pets, and our community. This year, Friends of PACC is the only nonprofit riding in El Tour that serves to save cats *and* dogs in Pima County. Ride with the PACC invites you to donate to the team, and by extension, their life-saving cause.

Here are just a few good reasons to donate to the team this year:

PACC is the ONLY shelter

in Pima County that never turns away a pet in need and helps more than 18,400 abandoned, abused, and neglected pets every year.

• Friends of PACC is the official nonprofit partner to PACC and exists solely to give shelter pets every resource and chance they deserve to thrive.

• As an independent nonprofit, Friends of PACC can respond to shelter needs as they arise,



Jerry Rosen, team creator.

ensuring pets get help when they need it most.

This will be PACC's third time riding, and we are excited to get out there and have some fun while raising money.

El Tour de Tucson is a fantastic way to get some fresh air and exercise, revel in the camaraderie, and raise money for a cause near and dear to the hearts of many in the tight-knit community of Tucson animal activists.

A big shout-out to Lisa Dobbin and team creator Jerry Rosen in supporting PACC and Friends of PACC with El Tour. Want to know more? Visit friendsofpacc.org/ridewiththepacc.

### Volunteer Spotlight 😕

Mike is one of our newer volunteers here at Pima Animal Care Center and has only been on the team

Michael Nudelman

since late May. In this short time with PACC, Mike has stepped up on every occasion to help the team in any way he can. Starting with the outreach team, Mike helps with Fill the Pantry every Wednesday, where he bags dog and cat food to prepare for various outreach events.

Once the bins of food are complete, he helps load the outreach van for distribution. One of the outreach distribution sites is Flowing Wells Assembly of God, where the outreach team gives out pet supplies, food, and information to public members. Mike attends this event and helps distribute these supplies to the community.

While he is at the shelter, Mike walks dogs and participates in anything to help staff and other volunteers. He frequently assists in some of the most demanding tasks, such as relocating items for different departments. Lastly, Mike will come into the shelter to help with any on-the-fly request when last-minute hands are needed. His devotion to the people and pets of Pima County shows through his hard work. He has a willingness to help anywhere at the shelter. Thank you for all you do, Mike!



P.O. Box 85370 Tucson, AZ 85754-5370

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Never miss a meow-ment of the life-saving work your support makes possible at Pima Animal Care Center! Sign up for e-news at www.bit.ly/meowment

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Telephone contact: E-mail contact: Address:

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## **PET TRUST- DO YOU NEED ONE?**

What will happen to your beloved dog or cat if you pass on before they do or you become too ill to care for them?



Connie Melton

(to care for your pet) and a pet trustee (to distribute money to the guardian for food, healthcare, grooming and toys) in your estate planning, you can have some peace of mind that these dependent family members have a plan as well. The Pet Trust ends when your last pet passes on and you can arrange for your beneficiaries to receive any money left in the Pet Trust.

Courts will lower the amount of money set aside for a Pet Trust if it is excessive. Arizona doesn't want to see cases like Leona Helmsley who left \$12 million to care for her Maltese in 2007. It needs to be a reasonable amount to cover Bailey or Bella's care.

Often, clients don't want to formally establish a Pet Trust but do want to provide for a family or friend to take care of their companion animals after they can no longer do so. In that case, you identify who those people are and often leave a financial gift to thank them for caring for your family member as their own. Friends of PACC has a Pet Guardian program for those in the community who don't have someone to take in their pet upon their death and who are also part of the Furever Friends program.

No matter which approach makes sense for you, please do provide for your family companions. They need a plan, too.

Contributed by Connie Melton, mom to Molly, the Airedale, & Zoe, the Husky. They rescue us daily. Dog Loving Estate Planning Attorney. Email or call, connie@themeltonlawfirm.com 520-314-1150. Opinions are my own.

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