

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.

A Milestone in Pet Welfare: Karen's Karing Van's Dedication

Projected to assist over 15,000 pets and their families annually, the impact of Karen's Karing Van cannot be overstated. Find out how **YOU** can help keep Karen's Karing Van on the road to success.

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Photo: Sandra Clark

A Successful Leap Forward in Pet Welfare: "Big Fix Week"

Friends of Pima Animal Care Center, in partnership with ASAVET Charities, recently marked a triumphant close to "Big Fix Week," a significant initiative focused on curbing pet homelessness in Pima County. This week-long event provided free spay/neuter clinics targeting breeds frequently observed at the shelter, encompassing large breeds like Pit Bulls, Hus-



Photo: FoP Staff

Owners waiting with their dogs for "Big Fix Week" June 15-17, 2023

kies, and German Shepherds and smaller ones like Chihuahuas. Several locations across Tucson, from iHeart Media Studios

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This poor guy has been through it. See his PAW-some comeback!

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Executive Director's Notes: ***Driving Change: Karen's Karing Van, Friends of PACC's Lifesaving Partnerships, and Best Non-Profit Award!***



What an incredible few months it has been for Friends of PACC! To start, we are humbled and immensely proud to announce that we've been recognized as the "Best Non-Profit" by the Arizona Daily Star Readers' Choice Awards for the fourth year in a row. Such accolades mirror the unwavering support and trust our community places in us. Thank you to all who nominated and voted for us.

In July, we unveiled Karen's Karing Van, the new mobile medical unit we donated to PACC. The Karing Van takes PACC lifesaving on the road, helping 1000s of pets and families before they end up at a shelter, sick and in danger of surrender. The Karing Van has the equipment for vaccines, wellness checks, spay/neuter, dental, and minor surgeries. And it was 100% funded by our wonderful donors. A tremendous thank you!

Later in July, we announced a partnership with Tucson Rescue Now (TRN) to expand the

number of PACC dogs they can showcase. TRN has done fantastic work providing special attention to the dogs who need extra help finding new families. We want to help them do more of it. Keep an eye out for exciting news about the TRN expansion in the coming months.

Both projects are examples of our commitment to community-based solutions to the challenges at PACC. Combined with investments in Keeping Families Together, Safety Net Fostering, and Community Outreach, Friends of PACC is working to address overcrowding issues proactively in the community rather than reactively when pets show up at PACC. We're also focusing on bridging new communities to better engage Pima's diverse community in ongoing animal lifesaving activities.

Towards that end, we are excited to partner with PACC on several new Lost & Found initiatives designed to get more lost pets home. A staggering 60% of

dogs coming to PACC are strays. Many already have families and don't belong in a shelter. Our ability to get these pets home can reduce shelter census by 1000s of animals each year. We'll share details in the coming months, and I hope we can count on you to help us help more pets.

All these efforts are only possible because we have the best donors. Thank you so much for empowering Friends of PACC and PACC to save so many lives!

If you'd like to help us save more lives, please visit www.friendsofpacc.org/donate.



Torre Chisholm, Executive Director, Friends of PACC

Save Story Follow up: **Moose on the Loose (and Loving It!)**



Photo: Moose's Family

Moose looking too cool for school...and laser therapy.



Photo: Moose's Family

Moose swimming with family member.



Photo: Moose's Family

Moose on the loose with his favorite toy.



Photo: J. Hudgel

Moose with his forever family. Lucky guy.

Remember our heartwarming tale of Moose, the six-month-old puppy who went from facing an uncertain future to becoming a community sensation at our Tucson Subaru Pets of Pima Parade? Well, we have some paw-sitively delightful updates to share! Moose is not only on the move with his newfound mobility, but he's also living his best life on vacation with his loving family. And if you think that's the cutest part, wait for it... he has a piggy sister!

Yep, that's right. Moose, his canine sibling, and his porcine sister are proving that families come in all shapes and sizes. While his back condition means he can't exactly do the doggy paddle, Moose enjoys a gentle float in the pool (always under a watchful eye, of course).

His journey from the brink of despair to days filled with sunshine, splashes, and snuggles with his new family is genuinely a testament to the power of com-

munity love and support. Each wag of his tail and joyful bark echoes the kindness and generosity that made his transformation possible.

Feeling inspired by Moose's story? Want to continue making miracles happen? Every contribution can change the lives of pets just like Moose in Pima County. Play a part in their happily ever afters by donating today at www.friendsofpacc.org/donate.

Make a will—make a way! FREEWILL

Your will is more than just a legal document; it's a powerful testament to your values, your wishes, and your legacy. Beyond providing protection for your loved ones, it offers you an opportunity to ensure that the causes you deeply care about continue to thrive long after you're gone. At Friends of PACC, we recognize the profound impact such lasting commitments can have, especially as we work tirelessly to enhance the efforts

of the Pima Animal Care Center, ensuring that every pet is given a chance at a better life.

Our esteemed partners at Free-Will have crafted a **FREE** estate planning tool that's tailored for supporters like you. This tool not only simplifies the often-daunting task of estate planning but also offers an accessible and cost-free avenue for you to direct a part of your legacy towards causes you hold dear. With this tool, you can

seamlessly integrate your wishes with the broader mission of Friends of PACC, providing invaluable support for pets and their families in need. Help us make a lasting impact on countless animals by scanning the QRC below.



A Successful Leap Forward in Pet Welfare: **“Big Fix Week”** CON'T



Photo: FoP Staff

ASAVET unit outside iHeartRadio.

to Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic, were bustling with enthusiastic residents embracing this invaluable opportunity for their pets.

The concept behind “Big Fix Week” wasn’t just about offering medical services. It was a community-driven endeavor. By focusing on breeds most often found in shelters, the program aimed to make a lasting dent in the number of homeless pets in our county. Ensuring our furry friends lead healthier lives and keeping them out of shelters is a dual benefit for pets and pet owners.

Friends of PACC’s board chair, Laura O’Brien, expressed her gratitude and thoughts on



Photo: FoP Staff

Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic lobby.

the event’s outcomes. *“By spaying and neutering your pet, they benefit from numerous vital health advantages. More than that, we’re collaboratively addressing the pet homelessness crisis in Pima County,”* O’Brien remarked.

Reflecting on the numerous pets leading healthier lives, it’s clear that collective action makes a vast difference.

The journey doesn’t end with the conclusion of “Big Fix Week.” Friends of PACC remains committed to the overarching mission of promoting pet welfare and undertaking projects that ensure the well-being of animals in Pima County. Our community’s contin-



Photo: FoP Staff

Husky awaiting his turn to be “fixed.”

ued support and participation are essential as we march forward.

For those who couldn’t participate but wish to support our endeavors or for anyone moved by the impact of this event, we welcome donations. Every bit helps, and your contribution to Friends of PACC ensures we can keep organizing such events in the future. Together, we can continue weaving a tale of success and hope for our beloved pets and the community. *Show your support and help Friends of PACC continue to provide these community-based solutions and make a bigger impact by visiting www.friendsofpacc.org/donate*



Photo: PACC Staff

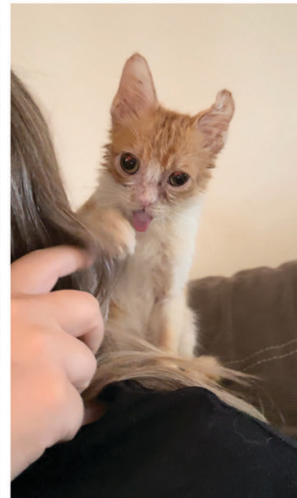
Kathy lovingly holding Bossy, a PACC alumna cat.

Friends of PACC Staff Spotlight: Kathy Vega

Amidst the hustle and bustle of PACC, Kathy Vega stands out. Transitioning from a lengthy career as a software engineer, Kathy now serves as a Cat Care Technician, dedicating her hours to nursing the vulnerable felines of PACC.

Her day starts with monitoring the adoption floor, ensuring the kittens’ well-being in the nursery, and

providing timely medication while diligently watching for signs of illness or pain. But it’s not just about medical intervention. As Kathy shared, the shelter environment can be stressful for many cats, leading to conditions like anorexia. “Seeing a cat that was initially stressed and defensive finally feel safe and show their sweet, affec-



SAVE STORY: Bugaboo

Introducing Bugaboo, an extraordinary 4-month-old kitten with not just a heart of gold, but the heart of a fighter, Bugaboo has a physical challenge that's been limiting him: temporomandibular joint disorder (TMJ). This rare condition has fused the bones in his tiny jaw, making it a challenge for him to eat properly and leaving his tongue adorably sticking out. The silver lining? There's a surgical solution, and with it, a chance for Bugaboo to lead a normal, pain-free life.

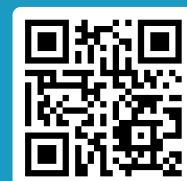
From what PACC can deduce, a possible head injury or infection

led Bugaboo to PACC's care. Over the past two months an amazing PACC Medical Foster Coordinator has been nurturing him, ensuring he receives a special diet since regular kitten food is a no-go with his condition. Bugaboo has to eat with the assistance of a tube and needs frequent baths to clean up after each meal.

Bugaboo is slated for an off-site consultation and CT scan to map out the intricacies of his upcoming surgery. He will need our help.

This is where our wonderful community steps in. Surgeries like

Bugaboo's are not only complex but can also be expensive. Our hope? To provide this brave little soul with a chance to live his nine lives to the fullest. Every contribution, regardless of its size, brings Bugaboo one step closer to a brighter tomorrow. Consider making a donation today by scanning the QRC below and be a part of his journey to recovery.





Friends of PACC Staff Spotlight: **Kathy Vega** CON'T

tionate side – that’s where the real reward lies,” she gushed.

Working at PACC since February 2022 has been more than just a job for Kathy. Having a history with the center, first as a dog walker and later volunteering with cats, she has developed a fondness for the “hissy, scared cats.” “There’s something incredibly fulfilling about helping them transform and

watching them progress,” Kathy says. Beyond her love for cats, she takes pride in her interventions, often preempting a lengthy clinical procedure. But what about Kathy, the person behind the caregiver? When not at PACC, Kathy is a grandmother of two, living miles away in Massachusetts. “I’m so grateful for FaceTime,” she says, her voice brimming with the

warmth and longing of a doting grandmother, “It allows me to see my grandkids more often than I could in person.”

Paired with a photo of Kathy lovingly holding Bossy, a PACC alumna cat, the story of Kathy Vega truly resonates – a tale of passion, transformation, and an unwavering commitment to animal care at PACC. Thank you, Kathy!

A Milestone in Pet Welfare: **Karen’s Karing Van’s Dedication** CON'T

On July 12th, 2023, Pima County’s commitment to animal welfare reached a significant milestone.



Photo: M. Klofth

Karen’s Karing Van will be pulled by a Pima County vehicle.

Friends of PACC and the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) unveiled ‘Karen’s Karing Van,’ PACC’s new mobile medical unit. This heartening event stood as a testament to the memories of Karen Bright, a dearly remembered supporter, marking the beginning of a trans-

formative chapter in animal care.

More than just a mobile medical unit, Karen’s Karing Van emerged as a beacon of hope for Pima County. Crafted with precision by Phoenix’s Magnum Specialty Vehicles, this state-of-the-art 25-foot trailer offers a comprehensive ar-



Photo: M. Klofth

A look inside the new, shiny, state-of-the-art interior.

ray of medical services. From vaccinations to minor surgeries, pets across Pima County now had ac-

cess to vital medical care. This unit wasn’t merely about treatment—it symbolized a proactive measure



Photo: M. Klofth

Attendees got a first-hand look inside the lifesaving unit.

to ensure pet health complications were addressed before leading to a pet’s surrender.

The scope of this initiative was thoughtfully designed. Services will be rendered on a ‘donate-what-you-can’ model, ensuring the highest accessibility, especially in

areas with higher pet surrender rates. Furthermore, the versatility of Karen's Karing Van meant it was equipped for disaster relief, with past projections estimating that it would assist over 15,000 pets and their families annually.

This visionary project came to fruition thanks to the dedication and support from community members, including Friends of PACC board member Clark Bright, as well as our generous donors and grant providers. Now, as we look back on its successful launch, the continuous operation of this mobile unit relies on our community's unwavering support. We invite you to be part of this journey—please

consider donating to Friends of PACC. Every contribution helps ensure that this vital service continues, reflecting our shared vision of hope and compassion for the animals of Pima County.

Join us in this mission and contribute at www.friendsofpacc.org/donate. Or scan the QRC below. Together, we've embarked on a path of hope and compassion.



A New Way to Donate: Travels with Buck! **Buck's** AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTER

Buck's Automotive presents a fun way to support PACC animals: embark on adventures with your Buck stuffed dog! Capture your moments together, and for every travel photo emailed to buck@bucksautomotive.com, a donation will be made to Friends

of PACC. Join the "Travels with Buck" initiative, create lasting memories, explore diverse destinations, and simultaneously support a great cause. Grab your Buck toy and set off on your next journey! We can't wait to see where you will take Buck next!



Photo: Buck's Automotive Staff

Buck on dinosaur, O'Hare Airport in Chicago.



Photo: Buck's Automotive Staff

Close-up of Buck on dinosaur, O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

Volunteer Spotlight



Photo: B. Geise

PACC Volunteer, Bruce Giese

From his diverse travels across the U.S., Bruce Giese brought more than just memories to Tucson. After discovering PACC during a casual bike ride, Bruce combined his love for dogs and videography prowess to launch the YouTube channel, Dog Playgroup Stories.

Capturing the lively antics of PACC dogs, Bruce's heartwarming videos reached global audiences and raised significant donations for Friends of PACC. Taking his dedication further, he introduced a second channel, Shelter Dogs for Adoption, highlighting PACC canines waiting desperately for their forever homes.

Beyond fundraising, Bruce envisions his work as a tool for studying dog behaviors and crafting personalized adoption reels. As we celebrate his contributions, we invite fellow dog enthusiasts to subscribe to Bruce's channels and champion PACC dogs alongside us.

If you would like to see Bruce's amazing videos, please visit, www.youtube.com/@DogPlaygroupStories, or scan the QRC.





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DIRECTOR'S REPORT: *Monica Dangler*

Animal shelters across the country face a critical moment as the number of animals coming into the shelter increases, and the number of pets leaving the shelter for new homes slows. At PACC, we are lucky to have the unwavering support of Friends of PACC and our community to help us determine new and innovative ways to handle this pivotal time.

In particular, we have seen length of stay, the number of days an animal waits in the shelter until they go to a foster or adoptive home, increase nationwide, especially for large dogs. Friends of PACC has stepped up in several ways to help us weather this new chal-

lenge, including by providing the staffing and equipment to hold daily "playgroups," where the dogs are allowed to play with each other. These efforts and Friends of PACC's support in different ways, including through our Pet Support Center and exciting initiatives like the newly-unveiled Karen's Karing Van, are critical to our lifesaving efforts today and in the future. We are eternally grateful for the support of Friends of PACC and donors like you, who help us help them every day.

Monica Dangler is the Director of PACC. For more information on available pets and services, visit pima.gov/animalcare.



Photo: M. Kloth