



Friends of Pima Animal Care Center
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Happy Tails

Spring/Summer 2019

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.

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Charities, and Petco Foundation shaped our Pet Support Network and foster programs. Their gifts allowed us to hire additional staff and provide direct assistance to those who would otherwise surrender their pets.

With your gifts, Friends of PACC was able to hire an additional vet and two vet techs. Your gifts purchased life-saving medications, neonatal kitten supplies, and granted over 77 pets life-saving surgeries. Your gifts bought thousands of collars and leashes to set adopters up for success.

At the same time, Friends of PACC has worked on building a foundation for the future—negotiating agreements with Pima County, developing a strong board, crafting budgets and strategic plans, hiring staff and, most importantly, working side by side with PACC.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without Chuck Huckelberry, Jan Leshner, the Board of Supervisors, and Dr. Francisco García, who said "We can and must do way better for our community pets."

Thanks to all of you who care so deeply for PACC Pets. We are just getting started! 🐾

PACC 2018 Highlights



90% save rate for 2018!



We've saved more lives than ever before!



Your Love Saves Lives!

By Jennifer Camano

Executive Director for Friends of PACC

I am so thankful to share that PACC and Friends of PACC achieved our \$5 million campaign goal to invest in programs to save more pets! It is only because of compassionate and generous people like you who said yes to the call for help. You made financial gifts, shared stories, fostered pets, volunteered at the shelter—and so much more.

Thank you to our campaign council for leadership gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you especially to Julia Strange and Matt Smith for their guidance and support. Thank you to my predecessors who envisioned this campaign and acquired early significant support. Leadership gifts from Maddie's Fund®, PetSmart



The Tohono O'odham Nation Keeps Families Together

A generous grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation is helping to lay the groundwork for neighborhood-based support for pet owners. Outreach will be focused on people and pets living in the 85706, 85713, and 85714 zip codes. These areas in our community have families that love their pets and want to provide them the best care possible, but who are often faced with a shortage of veterinary offices, pet supply stores, and other resources.

"We're excited about this partnership with the Tohono O'odham Nation and that PACC is able to be a resource center for these communities. Together we can support pet owners and ensure that they have what they need to keep their pets happy, healthy, and in their loving homes," says Bennett Simonsen, Community Programs Manager at PACC.

Pets belong at home with their families, and as great as the new PACC shelter is, pet surrender should, ideally, be a last resort. Sometimes all it takes to keep a family together is providing owners with referrals to local, affordable trainers, or low-cost veterinary care. This funding has set up medical financial aid through the PACC Pet Support Hotline.



Last year the Friends of PACC's Keeping Families Together fund diverted nearly 300 pets from coming into the shelter due to medical needs that were cost prohibitive to their families. With the support of this grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation even more pets will have the chance to stay with their families and thrive.

Pets like Slinky are already being helped with this generous funding. Slinky's family loved him very much. He was the perfect family dog but got very sick one day. It was discovered that he had a kidney/bladder stone and needed an expensive surgery. His owners simply could not afford his care and were devastated when they called PACC to surrender him. Thanks to funding from the Tohono O'odham Nation, we were able to help Slinky's family with the cost of his surgery. Slinky recovered and stayed at home instead of ending up in the shelter.

Additionally, these funds will support outreach efforts in these areas so that Animal Protection Officers can build relationships that connect pet owners to the important resources available from PACC and its partner organizations. This investment from the Tohono O'odham Nation has given us great hope for the future of community outreach programming from PACC. Future goals of the program include expanding to door-to-door, proactive programming like on-the-ground microchip and vaccine clinics. 🐾



New Volunteer Projects Save More Lives

Friends of PACC has partnered with PACC volunteers for three ongoing projects to help meet the needs of the shelter's most vulnerable pets. From medical care to training, enrichment, and focused marketing, these volunteer-led projects are getting more pets out of the shelter and into loving homes.



Mature Mutts focuses on senior dogs that are seven years and older. Their efforts lie primarily in marketing these special pets so they can find their new homes as quickly as possible. Volunteers in this group also spend lots of quality time getting to know every mature mutt so they can better share their stories. Donations support off-site adoption events, medical care, enrichment toys and treats, and more! Senior pets are simply amazing—they are often housetrained and have good manners.



Mission PAWsible works to find homes for felines that may be overlooked in the shelter including seniors, long-timers, medical cases, and undersocialized, paired, and in-foster cats. Online and off-site marketing and events supported by the volunteers who know the cats best, help these special kitties find new homes. Donations to Mission PAWsible help cats in serious need of surgery for stomatitis. This condition is common in adult cats and is very painful. It prevents them from eating and drinking comfortably and can lead to other complications. Without this surgery, many of these cats wouldn't have the second chance at life that they deserve.



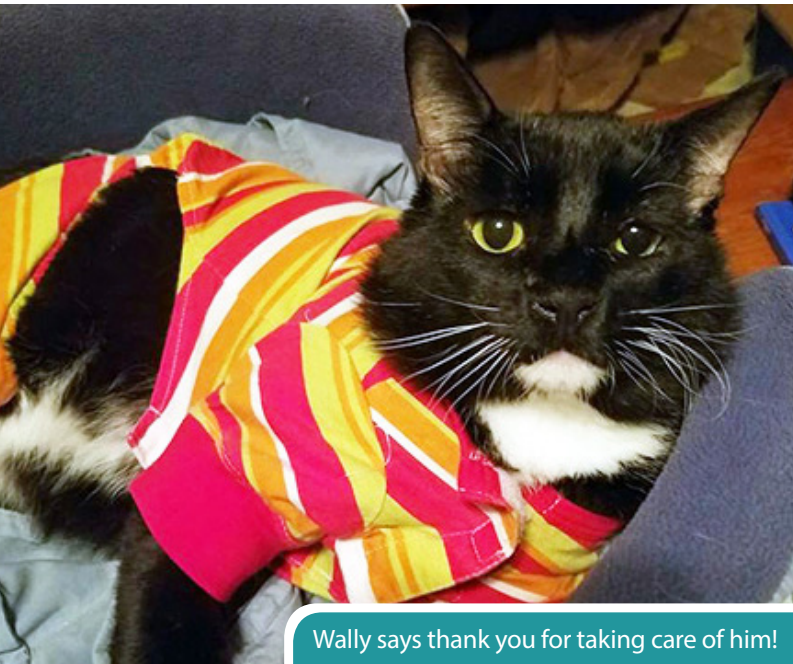
TOP Dogs' mission is to help dogs at PACC that are most at risk of not finding homes due to behavioral needs. TOP Dogs provides training, enrichment, and other care needed to help these great dogs be all they can be. Donations to TOP Dogs help to ensure that dogs suffering the most shelter stress get the care and resources they need to find good homes. TOP Dogs runs two programs, Canine Fun Camp and Canine Training Camp, that facilitate behavioral changes, build life skills, and teach agility with a professional trainer. The TOP Dog team also offers support to fosters and adopters dealing with behavioral issues.

You can learn more about these special pets and the projects that help them at www.friendsofpacc.org.

Your Gifts Give Life

Teresa, a sweet young dog, was seriously injured when she arrived at PACC. It was believed that she'd been hit by a car as she had both a fractured elbow and ankle. After the PACC vet team stabilized her it was clear that she would need specialty surgery. With support from our donors, Friends of PACC stepped in and got her the surgery she needed for a second chance at life.

We'll never know what Teresa's life was like before, but we can say that we're glad she found her way to PACC. Teresa is one of hundreds of injured pets that arrive at PACC every year, and it's through support from readers like you that those who need specialty medical care get the help they need.



Wally says thank you for taking care of him!

In 2018, thanks to generous support from our community, Friends of PACC was able to fund specialty, life-saving surgeries for over 77 pets in crisis.

That's in addition to helping 296 pets stay with their families, many medical cases, through our Keeping Families Together fund. Donations also make it possible for Friends to purchase critically needed medications like long lasting pain and allergy relieving drugs, incubators, heating pads, kitten and puppy formula, and much more.

While PACC vets often see dramatic injuries from car accidents, animal attacks, and abuse, there are other common health problems that have a tremendous, but often less visible, impact on the lives of our pets. One of the most common health issues facing adult cats is stomatitis, a severe infection and inflammation that often requires the removal of all remaining teeth.

This condition makes eating and drinking difficult and painful and can lead to additional health complications. The surgery, known as a Total Mouth Extraction, or TME, is expensive and can be very time consuming. In 2018, Friends of PACC's Mission PAWsible project helped over 27 cats get this important surgery.

"Without the Friends of PACC we simply couldn't save many of the animals we're saving. About a third of the pets that come through our doors every year have special medical or behavioral needs and without the funding and support from the Friends group we couldn't save those lives," says Kristen Auerbach, Director of Animal Services at PACC.

Your gifts are saving lives. Thank you. 🐾



Ride with the PACC

El Tour de Tucson Goes to the Pets

Our first ever El Tour de Tucson team, Ride with the PACC, took to two wheels for PACC pets in November of 2018. The team of over 31 riders raised more than \$11,700 and immeasurable awareness about our county's most vulnerable pets. We're gearing up for next year and hope you'll join the PACC pack! Email Sara@FriendsofPACC.org to learn more and receive timely updates on the 2019 El Tour de Tucson.

Pawprints: Notes from PACC's Director

By Kristen Auerbach

National organizations commonly define the threshold for a No Kill community to be 90%, meaning that 90% or greater of the pets entering shelters and rescues in a community leave the shelter alive. For the first time, Pima County is poised to become one of a handful of large U.S. cities and counties to meet this benchmark.

Animal lovers like you can celebrate the fact that Pima County is now one of the safest communities in America for homeless pets. Donors, volunteers, fosters, adopters, and countless others are all responsible for these groundbreaking changes in our community.

2018 was, by every measure, a record-breaking year for PACC. Of the 17,000 pets who entered the shelter, about 11,000 were adopted, an increase of almost 2,000 more than the previous year! PACC saved 90% of the homeless, abandoned, and neglected pets of Tucson, despite the fact that about 25% enter the shelter with emergency or urgent medical needs. We're excited that the new facility seems to be drawing even more community members to help because the need for support is still huge. You can read all of PACC's monthly statistical data reports, and our year-end report at our website.

Thanks to all of you out there who love PACC pets! 🐾



Playgroup Brings Joy to Pups

When dogs arrive at the shelter they are often overwhelmed by all the new sights, sounds, and smells. Although surrounded by gentle and caring staff and volunteers, the world as they know it has turned upside down. Some adjust and patiently wait for their new families, but many are too scared to come out from under their beds. Some have such intense anxiety that they bark and spin in their kennels. These stress-based behaviors make it difficult to get to know each dog's true personality.

Daily playgroups are changing the lives of homeless dogs by helping them open up and letting their personalities shine! It's all thanks our donors who enabled Friends of PACC to hire a Playgroup Specialist at PACC, Jeremiah Powers. With his dedicated support, PACC can now run playgroups for 50-60 dogs every day. Depending on how much an individual dog is enjoying or benefitting from playgroup interactions, time in the group ranges from 15 minutes to 2 hours.

"My favorite thing about playgroup is watching dogs come into their own through work with other dogs by learning to enjoy social interaction and build confidence that can carry out into the rest of the dog's life," said Powers.

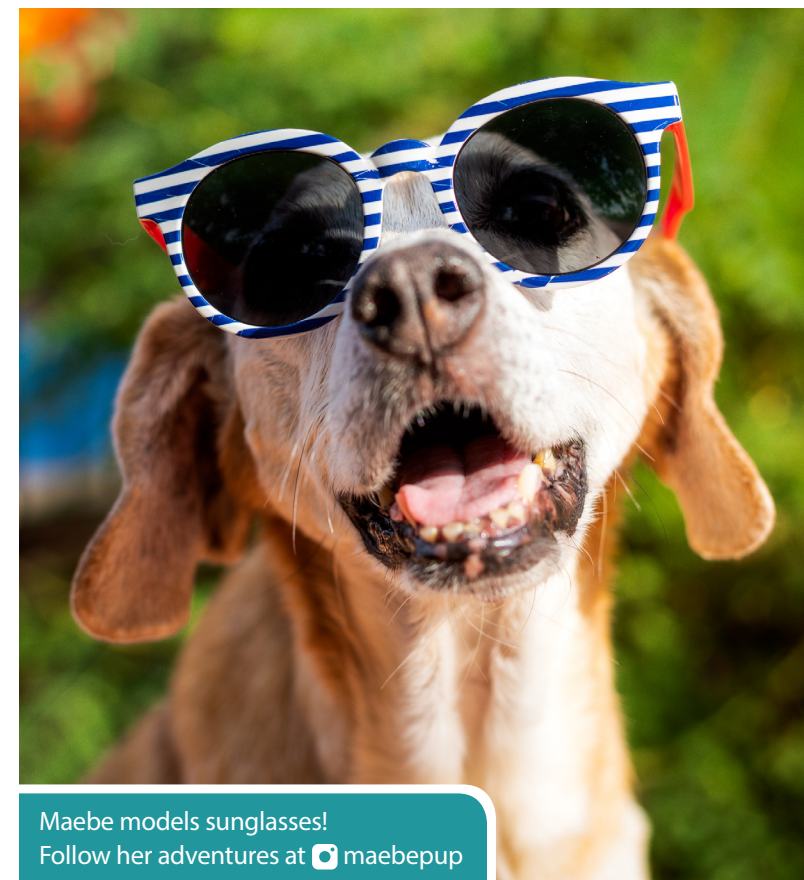


Friendship Tip: Recognizing Heat Stress in Pets

Summertime is just around the corner and we all know how hot things can get outside in our intense Southern Arizona sun. From hot cement to dry, dehydrating conditions, it's often best to keep pets inside and only venture out in the cool early morning or late evening hours.

When outside be sure to have water for your pet to drink and booties to protect their feet. Watch your pet closely for signs of heat stress like heavy panting and lethargy. Pets will often seek out shade and/or refuse to move from one spot. Severe signs include rapid heart rate, pale gums, and vomiting. If you suspect your pet is overheated bring them inside as quickly as possible, offer water for drinking, and wet their body down as well. Call an emergency veterinarian for further instructions.

The best rule of thumb is that if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your pets. 🐾



Maebe models sunglasses!
Follow her adventures at [maebepup](#)

One example of a dog finding his confidence is the story of Ramos. Shy and nervous, Ramos would often hide under the table or cower in a corner when he first started going to playgroup. The other dogs mostly left him alone, but several playgroup sessions later, Ramos connected to a particularly energetic and playful dog. Ramos gave him a play bow and the two proceeded to chase each other around the yard in joy! Ever since that day, Ramos has been more playful, energetic, and social while in playgroup. "Without playgroup I don't believe his behavior would have improved while in the shelter," said Powers.

Meeting staffing needs that go above and beyond the Pima County mandate of care is just one of the ways Friends of PACC supports the most vulnerable pets in our community. As an independent nonprofit in official partnership with PACC, we're able to quickly fund and fill lifesaving positions throughout the shelter. Positions filled by Friends include a full-time vet, several veterinary technicians, an in-person pet support counselor, adoption counselors, cat care specialists, and more!

[Learn more about Jeremiah and see the playgroup dogs in action on our website at \[www.friendsofpacc.org\]\(http://www.friendsofpacc.org\).](#)

There are many ways that you can get involved in helping shelter pets de-stress and open up their winning personalities. Fostering gives pets a chance at normalcy as they live in a home while awaiting their adoptive family. Dog walking and cat socializing gives pets in need essential one-on-one time with a caring person. Both of these opportunities give shelter staff, volunteers, and most importantly potential adopters, insight into the individual traits and needs of each pet. To learn more about fostering or volunteering at PACC, visit our website at www.friendsofpacc.org/get-involved. 🐾



A Bright Future for PACC Pets by Gail Smith

I have been on the Pima Animal Care Center Advisory Committee (PACCAC), as the Board of Health representative, since 2012. Back then, when I had my first tour of PACC, I went home and cried. The live release rate was less than half of what it is today, mostly due to lack of space. Now, thanks to a special bond voted for by the very generous people of Pima county, we have an amazing facility.

Of course, bricks and mortar are only a small part of what makes PACC great. The greatness comes from the community, staff, and volunteers, working side by side every day to give these shelter pets a second chance. The greatness comes from life-saving programs that take the care of these homeless pets that extra mile. I'm proud to be part of a care center that is at the national forefront of animal sheltering.

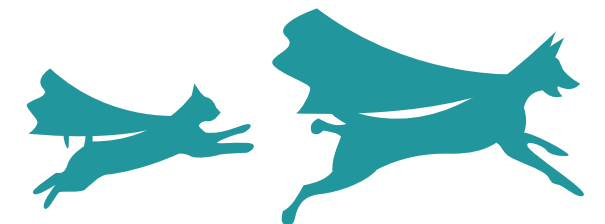


Special thanks to Michael Kloth Photography for his generous support. Visit www.michaelkloth.com!

In 2017 I joined the ranks of PACC's passionate volunteers as a dog walker. As I became more comfortable walking the dogs I got involved with the TOP Dogs project and playgroups. These help to train and give a healthy outlet to the dogs most under stress from their time in the kennels. I have seen firsthand how this type of programming not only changes, but saves, the lives of dogs in need.

There are so many programs at PACC helping the shelter animals become more adoptable and better companions—programs like Mature Mutts and Mission PAWsible, Pup in Boots Go Kits, and more. These programs are not in the PACC budget but are made possible by donations and grants through Friends of PACC. Knowing that Friends of PACC has our back helps us all work harder to save even more pets.

I am so excited to be a part of the future of PACC, as well as the present. My husband and I have PACC in our estate plan but have also pledged to the Your Love Saves Lives campaign to help sustain these lifesaving programs. We encourage everyone to help save shelter animals by volunteering and donating. 🐾



Join Our Lifesaving League

You can make an ongoing, sustainable difference in the lives of homeless pets with a monthly gift. Sign up today at www.friendsofpacc.org/lifesavingleague and receive our Live Look at Lifesaving video in your inbox every month, an exclusive benefit to monthly donors!