



**Friends of Pima Animal Care Center**  
P.O. Box 85370, Tucson, AZ 85754-5370

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TUCSON, AZ  
PERMIT NO. 720



# Happy Tails

## Spring/Summer 2021

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.



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](http://www.bit.ly/meowment)

## Your Love Saved Lives: 3 Year Report



It has been three years since the shelter's renovation following the historic voter approval of proposition 415 and the Your Love Saves Lives campaign that launched and set up initial funding for innovative programming, equipment, and outreach.

Thanks to the ongoing support of individual donors, organizations, and foundations, Friends of PACC is proud to share that life-saving is going strong at Pima Animal Care Center.

Read all about the last three years in our new PACC Renovation & Campaign Report that covers shelter innovations and pet stories from December 2017 – December 2020. A special section also envisions the future of Friends of PACC as we work to save even more pets and help more people who love them.

Visit [friendsofpacc.org/impact-reports](http://friendsofpacc.org/impact-reports) to see the whole report.

**Thank You!**



## Table of Contents

- 1 Safety Net Fostering: Helping Pets and People Impacted by Domestic Violence
- 2 Friends of PACC Named Best Non-Profit
- 2 Keeping Families Together: Mittens the Dream Cat
- 3 Paw Prints: Notes from Friends of PACC
- 3 More Than a Dog Pound: A Volunteer's Love for PACC Pets
- 5 New Honor Wall: For Those Who Have Touched Our Hearts and Souls
- 6 Central Pet and Friends of PACC: A Perfect Pair
- 6 Saving Smoothie
- 7 Friendship Tip: Lost & Found
- 7 Furever Friends: Leave a Legacy of Compassion
- 8 Your Love Saved Lives: 3 Year Report

## Safety Net Fostering: Helping Pets and People Impacted by Domestic Violence

Since March 2020, PACC and Friends of PACC have worked to shelter owned pets for families impacted by the pandemic. Safety Net Fostering is the fostering of owned pets whose loved ones are experiencing a temporary inability to provide care. This may be related to domestic violence, financial instability, or hospitalization.

Thanks to grants from Maddie's Fund® and GreaterGood.org, Friends of PACC is expanding its Keeping Families Together programming to provide a safe option for the pets of domestic abuse survivors seeking shelter. Once a pet is accepted into the Safety Net Foster program it comes to the shelter and is then placed in a PACC approved home until it can return to its owners. As part of the grant from GreaterGood.org, PACC is also creating a toolkit to help other shelters expand their outreach.

No one should have to choose between one's own safety or a pet's. Pets are family and when they are part of a domestic violence situation, fear for a pet's well-being can make people feel even more trapped. "Up to 40% of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave," according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.\*

1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience domestic violence and/or stalking during their lifetime in the U.S. and with only 12% of support programs able to house pets, the need is great\*. It's only with the help of individual donors and fosters that this kind of outreach is possible. 🐾

**Will you donate to keep families together?** Use the attached remit envelope or visit [friendsofpacc.org](http://friendsofpacc.org).

If you need help, please reach out:

**Emerge!** 24/7 Multilingual Hotline: 520-795-4266 or 1-888-428-0101.

**Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741

**PACC Pet Support:** 520-724-7222 or [pima.gov/petsupport](http://pima.gov/petsupport)

\*Pets and Domestic Violence National Coalition Against Domestic Violence [www.sheriffs.org/publications/NCADV-Pets-DV.pdf](http://www.sheriffs.org/publications/NCADV-Pets-DV.pdf)







Thank you Pima County for making Friends of Pima Animal Care Center the best!



## Friends of PACC Named Best Non-Profit

We are so grateful to our amazing community for voting for Friends of PACC as the Best Non-Profit in the Arizona Daily Star's Readers' Choice Awards!

This is the third year in a row that Friends of PACC was nominated for Best Non-Profit, and after taking home a spot as a Favorite for the last two of those years, your votes helped us take home the win for PACC pets.

### And that's what this award is all about, the pets and the people in our community who love them.

Friends of PACC exists solely to support the life-saving work of Pima Animal Care Center. Without donors, volunteers, fosters, and cheerleaders like you none of the life-saving surgeries, medications, trainings, supplies, staffing, and community outreach efforts would be possible.

Thanks to you, PACC is saving more than 92% of the 12,630+ pets that need sheltering and services every year.

Thank you. 🐾

Never miss a story! Follow us!



## Keeping Families Together: Mittens the Dream Cat

Just before Christmas, Mittens became very sick and his family rushed him to the vet. Mittens had a blocked urethra that required expensive, life-saving surgery. Three-year-old Mittens has been with his family since he was a kitten. "Mittens means so much to us. He loves everyone but is attached to our four-year-old son," shared Felicia, his owner.

His family could not afford the surgery and didn't know what to do until they reached out to PACC's Pet Support Hotline. This hotline answers over 1,000 calls per month and, thanks entirely to donor funding from Friends of PACC, offers hundreds of pets and their owners aid toward vet care, critical supplies, and more.

Thanks to our donors, Friends of PACC paid for part of Mitten's surgery and he returned healthy and happy to his loved ones. "I thought we were going to lose him, and right before Christmas. I wasn't sure how I would tell my kids," said Felicia. "With Friends of PACC's help, it really saved us. Mittens is a dream cat, he's my son's best friend. Thank you." 🐾



## Friendship Tip: Lost & Found

In a study conducted by Austin Animal Services in Texas, 86% of lost pets were found in the same neighborhood where they lived.\* And PACC is finding the same to be true for most pets lost in Pima County. Pets will rarely stray far from their neighborhood and removing the pet from the area can greatly decrease the chance of it returning home.

This is one of the main reasons PACC encourages finders to hang onto stray pets and post fliers where the pet was found. The fastest way to get it home is to keep it in its neighborhood, file reports with local shelters, and post all over social media like Nextdoor and Facebook.

Even the most careful owner can lose a pet so it's important to be prepared. These two tips will help your pet come home safe should it get lost.

- Microchip your pet, and keep the contact info up to date.
- Keep a collar on at all times (break-away only for cats) with an ID tag that has its name and your phone number(s).

Found an injured cat on your morning walk? Did a roommate leave the gate open and let your dog out by accident? If you find yourself answering yes to either of these questions visit <http://bit.ly/pacclostfound> for a comprehensive list of actions and resources.

If you find a sick or injured stray pet, please call **520-724-5900 extension 4** to receive an immediate response. 🐾

\* <https://chewonthis.maddiesfund.org/2020/06/why-its-important-to-empower-your-community-to-help-lost-pets>

## Furever Friends of PACC: A Legacy of Compassion

Pima Animal Care Center is privileged to have thousands of Friends who generously support its efforts to save lives, save families, and to make Pima County a safe place for pets. Many of these Friends want to ensure that PACC's incredible work will continue tomorrow, next year, and forever. For these individuals and families, Friends of PACC is happy to introduce Furever Friends of PACC.

Furever Friends are supporters wishing to create a legacy of support for Pima Animal Care Center through a will, estate gift, or other planned giving medium. By planning for PACC in their estates, Furever Friends facilitate the long-term success of the shelter and have the satisfaction of knowing they are part of an important legacy.

Furever Friends recognizes and honors all individuals who include Friends of PACC in their will, living trust, retirement plan, or life insurance.

### Education

Furever Friends will facilitate estate planning educational seminars for interested parties. The goal is to assist Furever Friends in having the biggest possible beneficial impact for the families and charities they support.

### Pet Guardianship

Furever Friends are eligible to participate in the Pet Guardianship program, providing care for the beloved pets who survive them. The Pet Guardianship program ensures that furry family members are appropriately looked after and given a good quality of life after the owners passing.

### Fellowship

Furever Friends are bonded by a love for animals and a shared connection to PACC. To celebrate this fellowship, Friends of PACC will organize occasional events - virtual and in-person - to explore animal welfare issues or simply for the joy of watching pets play. Friends of PACC will also publicly honor those Furever Friends who are comfortable being recognized. 🐾

For more information or to enroll your pet(s) in the Pet Guardianship program, call **520-784-3373** or visit [friendsofpacc.org/furever-friends](http://friendsofpacc.org/furever-friends).







Adopt a PACC pet by Feb 28th and get a FREE engraved name tag from the Central Pet store at PACC.

## Central Pet & Friends of PACC: A Perfect Pair!

Central Pet is a locally owned pet store, groomer, daycare, and boarding facility with three locations in Tucson, one of which is right inside PACC! In October of 2018 Central Pet joined Friends of PACC to create a unique retail space in PACC's lobby. From the very beginning and still to this day they donate 50% of proceeds from every purchase to Friends of PACC. Since then, the store has generated over \$20,000 in donations.

"At Central Pet we're more than just a pet store. We care deeply about our community and its pets. Pets are family and that's why we support PACC and Friends of PACC," says Julie Grounds, founder and owner of Central Pet.

Central Pet also contracts with Pima County to care for all the pets in the shelter by cleaning kennels and providing fresh food, water, toys, and enrichment. You can't visit the shelter without coming across a Central Pet staff member cuddling a shelter dog or giving a cat an extra toy.

Visit the store in the lobby and you'll get help from friendly Central Pet staff who know all the best toys, treats, and gear whether you're adopting for the first time or have a whole zoo at home.

For the latest guidelines on visiting the shelter in person, please visit [pima.gov/animalcare](http://pima.gov/animalcare). From there, you can make an appointment to shop and help PACC pets. 🐾

## Saving Smoothie

Smoothie is a true miracle kitty. She arrived at PACC with a terrible jaw injury that fused her joints so she couldn't close her mouth all the way. Difficulty eating and some internal issues caused a serious case of stubborn anemia. Staff and volunteers sat with her every day to offer her food and water and clean her up. Even when she wasn't feeling well she was talkative and loved exploring and cuddling her caretakers.

Eventually she had to have a feeding tube placed, went home with an experienced foster, and thanks to Friends of PACC supporters she received a critical blood transfusion. It was not easy to find an off-site vet willing to assess her jaw and the possibility of surgery. Thankfully our friends at AZ Veterinary Dental Specialists in Peoria were willing to try once Smoothie's anemia cleared up.

A CT scan gave their team the hope that surgery was possible and thanks to our donors, we scheduled the day and time. Almost immediately after the surgery Smoothie was meowing and eating solid paté. Weeks later she is healing well and has full use of her jaw!

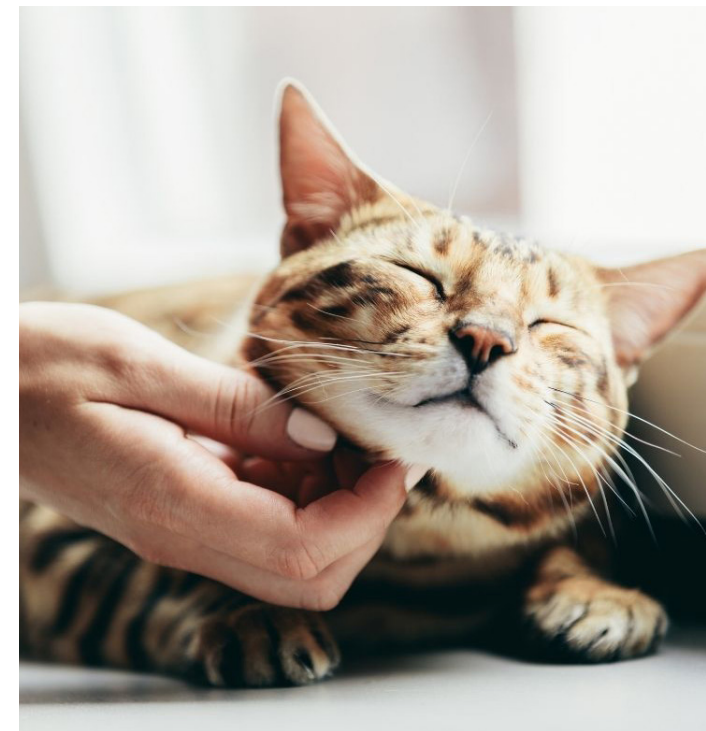
Smoothie is gaining weight, loves meal time, and even enjoys walking on a leash. Your donations made it possible for Smoothie to get the feeding tube, blood transfusion, and ultimately the surgery she needed to make a full recovery. 🐾



## Paw Prints: Notes from Friends of PACC

By Torre Chisholm, Development Director

Unconditional Love. This is one of the things I admire most about animals. They possess the ability to give unconditional love. Whether you've been gone all day or just a few minutes, they are excited to see you – yes, even cats. Whether you ignored them to do work or chores or played with them all day – they love you just the same. What an amazing capacity.



And that is one of the things I admire the most about PACC. Because PACC is where animals get unconditional love. Come in to PACC a little rough-around-the-ears, feeling sick and grouchy, maybe have some trust issues – the staff and volunteers love you all the same. They make you feel special. PACC is a place where cats and dogs get the individualized care they deserve.

Friends of PACC's goal is to help animals get what they have always given – unconditional love. We thank all of you for giving us the resources to support that goal. Let's share the love! 🐾



Sue and Paul Marycz with their three rescues Maggie, Sam, and Louie.

## More Than a Dog Pound: A Volunteer's Love for PACC Pets

Saving more than 92% of the pets in need at PACC simply would not be possible without the army of volunteers, fosters, and donors. We would like you to meet one of these special people, Sue Marycz. A typical day for Sue involves visiting the cats and dogs at Pima Animal Care Center's clinic where she offers yummy treats like chicken and comfort through massage and one-to-one time out in the play yard for pets who are well enough.

Sue has been volunteering at PACC over eight years. Even throughout the pandemic she manages to give 12-14 hours per week of her time and talents. Today she has over 4,400 hours logged!

"There continues to be so many advancements to save lives. I've personally seen the impact of the orthopedic training and equipment that support from Friends made possible," shared Sue. "The type and quality of the care all around, including behavior support, playgroups, FIT Camp, cat clicker training, etc...it's all very exciting to be a part of and know I'm helping make a difference."

*Continued...*





Louie out and about with his family.

*More than a Dog Pound continued...*

Like all our donors and volunteers, she has played a critical role in the shelter's transformation into a community resource center for pets and their people. Sue started out walking dogs and came to the clinic when Dr. Wilcox needed someone to massage clinic pets for wellness and socialization. At that time there were only six small kennels in a tiny room.

Thanks to the passing of Proposition 415 that built the new facility, and the on-going generosity of individual donors to Friends of PACC, the new state of the art clinic can house dozens of pets in ICU units and perform many life-saving procedures on site.

One pet that made a huge impact on Sue is Louie. He had been hit by a car and brought to the shelter by a kindhearted person. He could not get up on his own and was suffering from severe head trauma. Sue helped the vet team at PACC nurse him back to health, took over his fostering, and knew quickly that she wanted to adopt him. Today, Louie enjoys the kiddie pool, playing with his furry siblings, and going to doggie daycare where he is a "helper dog," making other dogs feel comfortable in the group.

One of Sue's current favorites at PACC is Angus, a clinic graduate who like Louie was likely hit by a car. Angus came in with a fractured pelvis, hip displacement, a femur fracture, and a severe injury to his eye. Unfortunately, he had to have his left

*More than a Dog Pound continued...*

eye removed, but in-house orthopedic surgery saved his leg.

"I'm so thankful to Friends of PACC for supporting Dr. Wayt's orthopedic surgery training and equipment which meant Angus could have his right leg repaired rather than amputated! To think of the challenges he faced and that he is now walking is incredible to me," said Sue.

But Angus' battle for a happy, healthy life is not over. Shortly before this article was written Angus was diagnosed with laryngeal paralysis. This causes the nerves and muscles controlling larynx movement to malfunction and makes breathing difficult. It is fatal if not treated. Angus can have a normal life only if he has surgery to modify the larynx. As we are writing this story, a plea is going out for help to save his life. A generous anonymous donor offered to match up to \$3,000 of the potentially \$6,500 procedure. It is only with support from individual donors that this life-saving care is possible. For updates on Angus be sure to follow Friends of PACC on social media.

When we asked Sue what she wanted to share with the community she said, "Everyone can do something to help. Spread the word about the good work PACC is doing, spay and neuter your own pets, volunteer, foster, or donate if you can. I want my neighbors to know that PACC is so much more than a dog pound—it's a life line." 🐾



Angus, getting some sunshine.

## New Honor Wall: For Those Who Have Touched Our Hearts and Souls

Pets are family. They can make a huge impact on our life and wellbeing. We are excited to share a new way of honoring our animal friends that will also help other pets in our community at the same time: the Friends of PACC Honor Wall and Digital Shrine.

Pets past and present can be honored on the wall at PACC and the online digital shrine when a donation is made to Friends of PACC. The digital shrine will be an ongoing collage of pet photos and stories with an individualized link you can share with friends and family via social media.

And in spring of 2021 the honor wall will be installed at the shelter just outside the adoption lobby. This evolving art piece will be a testament to the incredible bond between pets and people.



Coming to PACC in Spring 2021



There are two options to choose from when deciding how best to honor your beloved pet.

### Digital Shrine - \$60

Donation includes one photo and 300 characters of text on our digital shrine.

### Custom Tag & Digital Shrine - \$150

A donation for a custom tag includes all the benefits of the digital shrine plus a custom engraved 4" heart or bone. You will be able to choose from several different colors. Once designed the tag will be installed on the honor wall at PACC.

**All honor wall donations come with the possibility of your pet's photo and story being shared in the Celebration of Life page in the Tucson Dog Magazine. 🐾**

**Honor your pet today!**  
**Visit [friendsofpacc.org/honor-wall](https://friendsofpacc.org/honor-wall).**