

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Pet Friends

A PUBLICATION OF THE
Green Valley News **2022**

She's home!

*Piper's
new pack*

Green Valley
Canine Club

*To the
dogs!*



*More
inside!*

Pet Friends

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ABOUT THE COVER: Denise Berger holds up Muskrat at the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in Montana. He was adopted from a shelter in Mission Viejo, California nine years ago, and after moving to Green Valley seven years ago, the two have been inseparable. Muskrat has been at Denise's side through two years of chemotherapy and countless travels across the U.S. He is my devoted companion, Denise says.



PET PARTNERS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA **LOVELY**, an English Setter and registered therapy dog with Pet Partners, enjoys some attention from students outside a University of Arizona library. **SEE STORY, PAGE 8**



Green Valley News

SOUTHERN ARIZONA **Pet Friends** is produced by the staff of the Green Valley News & Sahuarita Sun

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Your pets! <i>We love these photos! Nearly all of them were submitted through NABUR, our online community town square built and operated by Wick Communications/Green Valley News. Come on over to NABUR and join the conversation! Find it at www.gvnews.com/nabur.</i>	
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THEY'RE IN THE FAMILY

More!

See pages 12-15 for more of your fury family photos and view them all www.gvnews.com/gallery



LISA K. got these two lovable furballs, Loki and Vinnie, six years ago from The Animal League of Green Valley.



SOPHIE is the love of my life, Heidy Bell says.



RAY HARRISON napping with his black and tan Chihuahua, Meeko.



JUNIOR, a 14-year-old Sulcata tortoise, finishes his healthy vegetarian meal.



BONNIE OLSEN left a frozen pizza in her car overnight and her chickens benefited. Bonnie cooked it up in the morning and everybirdy got to pick at it. (No chickens were harmed in documenting this pizza pecking party.)

Piper's new pack

It took a village to find her and one person to give her a home

By Kevin Murphy

Remember Piper, the little dog who ran around Green Valley and Sahuarita for about two months after escaping from her owner?

Thanks to the work of an animal-loving team dubbed Piper's Army and concerned community members, she's safe and sound now at her new home with Lorna George and her Welsh Terrier, Jackpot, in a setting that George hadn't initially envisioned.

"It goes along with my philosophy, be careful what you put out into the universe because sometimes you might get it," George said. "I was never thinking that I would get her; I just kept thinking, 'I hope she's found.'"

THE SEARCH

Soon after Piper escaped from her newly adopted family in early March, Piper's Army was on the case.

The animal-loving team of four or five locals stayed busy monitoring sightings on social media, receiving phone calls and texts daily.

Green Valley residents Laura Berfield and Vickie Jackson played crucial roles on the team. They advised people not to chase Piper, mapped out the sightings and found she was traveling in a large circle from as far north as Anamax Park in Sahuarita to Esperanza Estates in central Green Valley.

"I just saw her this morning," Berfield said in April. "She's a traveling girl. I don't know how she is still alive, but she is."

When the original adopters of Piper no longer wanted any part of the search or the dog, it was up to Piper's



KEVIN MURPHY PHOTO

PIPER, left, and Jackpot at home on the couch.

Army to finish the job.

"What we have found out is the dog was found in South Tucson, and a person found her. Instead of taking her somewhere like a rescue, the dog was given to a 60-year-old lady who gave her to her 80-year-old mother here," Jackson said.

Piper bolted two or three days later.

As the weeks went by, George and other dog owners in the Esperanza Estates neighborhood saw Piper so often on their daily walks that they began bringing treats and carrying leashes.

Soon, Piper's Army bought a trap with money raised on a Gofundme page.

Weeks turned into a month, the leads never stopped coming in, and about two months after Piper went missing, the search efforts paid off.

"Once I found out that she was trapped, I thought, 'Oh, good,' and on Nextdoor I kept saying, 'I hope whoever has her will vet people really well be-

cause who knows what her issues are,'" George said.

Little did George know the person doing the vetting would be her.

PIPER FOUND LORNA

Piper had multiple suitors but they didn't pan out.

That's when George received a phone call and was asked if she wanted to take Piper in.

George was interested, but she had to be sure that Jackpot got along with Piper, so she set up a meeting.

"I walked down to the bench that's on the corner of Portillo and Esperanza, and they were sitting there. He (Jackpot) jumped up on the bench, they sniffed each other and it was like, 'OK, fine,' so I was like, 'This is going well. Let's walk back to my house.'"

On the way back, George noticed Piper seemed familiar with her surroundings. That's when Jackson revealed they had captured Piper in the trap

they had set up behind her house without her knowing.

"When we got here, they came in the house, and she (Piper) immediately found his (Jackpot's) dog bed, rolled around in it. He's not jealous; he didn't care," George said. "Then she found his water bowl and had a drink, and then we went out to the back and they started running around together and barking."

After seeing Jackpot and Piper romping together and hearing that it was the first time Jackson heard Piper bark in the 10 days she had been fostering her, George was confident it would work out.

After a dog trainer told Lorna that the two dogs were a perfect pair, Lorna officially welcomed Piper into the family.

GETTING TO KNOW PIPER

It turns out Piper is spayed, and the vet says she's between one and two years old.

Piper has become somewhat of a lo-

"She's got a great personality. She's very affectionate."

cal celebrity in the neighborhood, too.

"People say, 'That dog looks like Piper,' and I say, 'Well, it is Piper,'" George said.

Fitting in well with her new pack came easy, and Piper is bonding with her new buddy.

"They've gotten to where they'll sleep next to each other in the same dog bed and they've been playing a little bit, so she's getting more comfortable."

George raves about how sweet Piper is.

"She's got a great personality. She's very affectionate."

As George loses contact with neighbors and friends and shakes her head at what is happening in the world, a new friend has entered her life at the perfect time.

"People are leaving. Good friends of mine who are neighbors are mov-



LORNA GEORGE PHOTO

PIPER FINDS LOTS OF TIME to rest after her two-month journey running loose around town.

ing to Florida," she said. "There's a lot of that, and then you can hardly watch the news, so having Piper has been this joyous thing that just sort of happened because she's just really a special dog. Like I said, I just kind of thought about her all the time, and now she's here."

THINKING OF BUYING A NEW PET?



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GREEN VALLEY CANINE CLUB PHOTO
A CANINE CLUB SUMMER GATHERING at Desert Meadows Park included guidance on “loose-leash” walking, followed by a “pack walk.”

To the DOGS!

Canine club is gathering in Green Valley

By Karen Walenga

An up-and-coming Green Valley group is going to the dogs in a big way!

The new Green Valley Canine Club is coming into its own, quickly growing from 47 members when the club first turned in its Green Valley Recreation application to more than 80 in summer 2022, says club secretary Barbara Wray. The club’s GVR application is pending approval before the new group can begin to set up its website, committees, by-laws and officers.

“While we were first interested in developing an off-leash area for dogs in Green Valley, we realized early on that promoting smart dog owners and great canine citizens would complement a desire for an off-leash area,” Wray says, point-

GREEN VALLEY CANINE CLUB PHOTO
THREE LOCAL DOG OWNERS and their pets enjoy some outdoor camaraderie at Desert Meadows Park.



ing out that GVR Foundation leaders approached several dog owners about the possibility of forming a canine club. “Many owners meet their neighbors while walking their dogs. But until now, there’s been no formal group or set of resources that dog owners can turn to for socializing together or finding help for any number of dog needs,” Wray

“Just like with humans, we have a wide range of dog sizes, breeds and personalities. Each of them is a unique individual.”

points out. “In addition, many GVR members have lovingly adopted rescue dogs. These owners have expressed a need for ongoing owner education on how best to socialize and train their dogs to assimilate successfully into their new homes.”

Classroom sessions at the GVR Canoa Ranch Social Center included help for fearful, anxious and shy dogs; the best harnesses for dogs; and teaching canine good manners.

LEARNING & GROWING

“We’re coming into our own and filling a need,” says Patricia Tinney, the club’s vice president. Club members don’t have to go it alone when it comes to pet behavior issues.

“The club welcomes all makes and models of dogs and their owners,” Wray notes. And since animals are not allowed on GVR property, the Green Valley Canine Club is working with GVR to find ways to hold events outside of GVR properties.

“We’re in a learning phase,” Wray explains, noting that the “unofficial” club members met at Desert Meadows Park for short walks and guidance on “loose-leash” walking. As a way to give back to the community, they also donated dog food to The Animal League of Green Valley.

The group’s goal is for GVR members or guests and tenants who follow GVR’s rules to become Canine Club members and do not need to own a dog to participate. It’s a great way to learn more about dogs and decide if owning a dog is right for you.

Club member Leslie Berry rescued her young Dachshund-Chihuahua mix, Little Bell, and she loved the session on canine behavior. “It’s an opportunity to create a little harmony,” Berry says, adding that Little Bell helped rescue her as well.

Animal ownership certainly increased during the COVID pandemic, offering area seniors companionship that boosts their health and wellness. “We know people walk and socialize more often when they own a dog. The give-and-take of love and support from human to dog and vice versa can make a big difference in the lives of our community members,” Wray points out. “Now more than ever we want to support both humans and their animals to ensure they both have a positive experience together.”

COMING TOGETHER

A Canine Club summer gathering at Desert Meadows Park included a “pack walk,” with dogs greeting each other by approaching from the side, noses busy smelling up and down.



KAREN WALENGA PHOTO

GETTING TOGETHER at the Green Valley Village are Green Valley Canine Club members Dick Ehrich with Rocket, his black Scottie; Lexie Bauer with her Golden Retriever Shiloh; and Leslie Berry with Little Bell, her Dachshund-Chihuahua mix.

“Almost immediately, all fell in line, glancing from side to side and taking in signals that we were starting to walk. We watched as the energy of the dogs picked up. You could almost hear them saying, ‘Yes, this is what we do best...walking together!’” Wray recalls. “Just like with humans, we have a wide range of dog sizes, breeds and personalities. Each of them is a unique individual.”

Shiloh, a Golden Retriever, has a relaxed demeanor that is often a calming influence on the rest of the dogs, says owner Lexie Bauer, a Green Valley Canine Club member. When it’s time to go, Shiloh picks up his leash in his mouth and walks to the car.

Patricia Tinney doesn’t own a dog right now, so she borrows her neighbor’s dog, Rocket, a Scottish Terrier, when she needs some “dog time.” It’s the perfect solution, and one that’s needed in Green Valley, Wray points out.

“One of the challenges of dog ownership is finding the right pet sitters, so that owners can travel or take care of important medical appointments,” she explains. Rocket recently spent time with Tinney while Rocket’s dad travels to visit family.

Rocket, by the way, loves to stay at Tinney’s house because he gets a golf cart ride every evening!

Therapy animals bring co



MARY GLEN HATCHER PHOTO

A RESIDENT OF SILVER SPRINGS care home in Green Valley pets Nellie, a miniature therapy horse with Harmony Hospice as Brianna Henderson, CEO and owner of Harmony Hospice, looks on.

By Mary Glen Hatcher

Though she's small, the smiles Nellie brought to people's faces at Silver Springs Senior Living Community in Green Valley are extra large.

Nellie, a miniature pony with endless personality and energy, is the newest addition to the events team at Harmony Hospice.

Owner and CEO Brianna Henderson said bringing Nellie onboard felt like a natural next step in their mission to spread joy at community gatherings, and her mere presence at the care homes she visits never fails to bring a smile to people's faces.

"One of the main, driving themes for everything we do at Harmony Hospice is quality of life, and how we can improve that for the people we serve," Henderson said.

"And we just thought, what makes people happier than spending time with some really sweet animals?"

When it comes to health care, studies have shown that visiting a doctor who walks on all fours can be a good thing for those on either end of the leash.

Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) or animal-assisted activities (AAA) have been shown to have a number of cascading physical and emotional health benefits, like reducing blood pressure in healthy and hypertensive patients, and reducing anxiety in hospitalized patients.

Several studies, including one conducted at the University of Arizona, have also shown that the mere presence of animals can improve an individual's mood – decreasing feelings of loneliness and isolation and increasing feelings of relaxation and enjoyment.

But it's also not a one-way street. One 2017 study out of

omfort, build community

the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences has shown that therapy dogs also profit from their work, and experience a higher rate of endorphins and oxytocin than average family pets.

These benefits and more are championed locally by volunteers with Pet Partners of Southern Arizona (PPSAZ), an all-volunteer, community branch of the national nonprofit Pet Partners, which focuses on improving human health and well-being through visits with animals of all shapes and sizes.

UNLOCKING THE 'MAGIC'

For Diane Alexander, one of the lead organizers of PPSAZ, the experience of working as a therapy team has had the added benefit of bringing her closer to her own poodle, Ella, who just retired from therapy work after 11 years of service in Southern Arizona.

"For years, she was just so intuitive to anything I asked her to do. It was almost like she could anticipate what we needed to be doing, and that's part of the magic of it all... how you can be so in-sync with an animal and have that kind of relationship with them," she said.

Through their work with Pet Partners, the two have com-

DIANE ALEXANDER PHOTO
ELLA, a standard poodle, with handler Diane Alexander, one of the lead organizers of the local Pet Partners of Southern Arizona, in March 2022. After 11 years of service, Alexander retired Ella from therapy work later in the year.



ported patients at local hospitals and rehabilitation centers, visited with veterans at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, read to children in Pima County libraries, and eased the exam week stressors on University of Arizona students.

But of all the visits, Alexander said one encounter with an inmate in the Arizona State Prison, just south of Tucson, stands out.

"There was one gentleman who was obviously somewhat withdrawn...and as I'm walking over to this gentleman with

An adoption flyer for The Animal League of Green Valley. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. The central text reads "Listen to your heart Adopt us" in a large, white, stylized font. Surrounding the text are several photos of animals: a brown and black dog named Stevie, an orange cat named Riley, a tan dog named Bones, a white cat named Paprika, a black and white dog named Aries, a tan dog named Cinnamon, a black and white cat named Calypso, and a black cat named Catcher. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "The Animal League of GREEN VALLEY" and contact information: "1600 W. Duval Mine Road Green Valley, AZ 85614 (520) 625-3170". A blue heart-shaped graphic contains the text "Kittens are 2 for one". At the bottom right, the website "www.talgv.org" and Facebook page "Facebook.com /talgv" are listed.

Stevie

Riley

Bones

Paprika

Aries

Cinnamon

Calypso

Catcher

The Animal League of GREEN VALLEY

1600 W. Duval Mine Road
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 625-3170

Kittens are 2 for one

Website: www.talgv.org
Facebook.com /talgv



PET PARTNERS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA PHOTO **NANOOK**, a Corgi, sits with a child at St. Michael's School during a Pet Partners event in March 2022. Nanook was joined by handler Susan Sorenson.

this big, white, fluffy, sort of exotic-looking dog, I just see his face light up," Alexander said.

"He starts petting her and looks up at me and says, 'I haven't pet a dog in 23 years.' And even saying that now, I get that same feeling again, and my heart just kind of stops a bit," she said.

Over time, Alexander said the man regularly asked to be included in visits with the dogs, adding that whatever he was going through, "he just really began to open up."

"Sometimes the experiences are incremental, so you don't always know what the impact is over time. But you kind of have to take it one visit at a time and learn to just be in the moment, which is one of the great things I think you learn working with animals, just to take every day for what it's worth," she said.

THE RIGHT FIT

If you're wondering if your own pet is cut out for therapy work, Alexander advises watching your animal around the house at first, or during their interactions at the dog park, to determine their true temperament.

"What you want is an animal that really loves being around humans, maybe even more than they want to be with



PET PARTNERS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA PHOTOS

TOP: Davis-Monthan: Reykjavik, a Rottweiler, greets members of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Team during their 5th Annual SAPR C.A.R.E.S. event. He was joined by handler Todd Leutjohann.

ABOVE: Chulo, a Havanese, and handler Barb Sinclair (not shown) sits with a child during a Pet Partners event.

other animals, and that just really craves your attention and affection," Alexander said.

Good candidates must also have good manners and obedience skills, be easily adaptable to new and unusual situations – like loud noises, novel medical equipment, sudden touching and eye contact – and should be predictable in their behaviors. Because of this, Alexander said older, more mature animals tend to do better for therapy work than ones who are young, energetic and more unpredictable.

All these factors and more come into play when both the animals and their handler are evaluated by a group, like Pet Partners, before officially becoming a registered therapy team, which can take some time and practice.

"We sometimes hear that we have the hardest test to pass, but you know, our whole idea is we want you and your animal to be the best they can be. So my thought is, why not

Find out more

If you're interested in learning more about therapy animals or getting involved with Pet Partners, visit petpartners.org or connect with Pet Partners of Southern Arizona on Facebook.

Learn more about Harmony Hospice and upcoming events featuring Nellie at harmonyhospice.org.

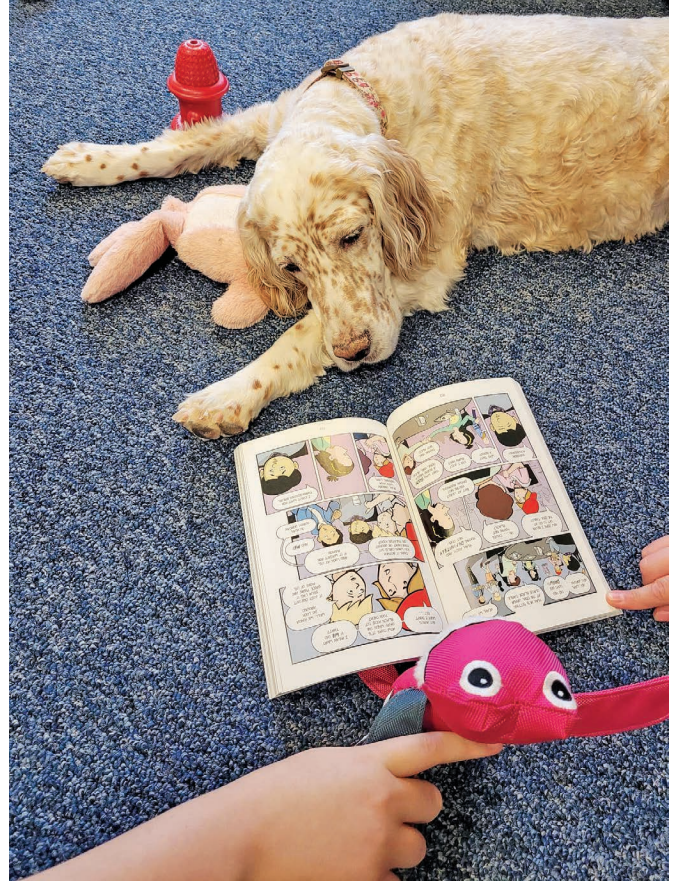
challenge yourself and give it a try," Alexander said.

Following the evaluation, Pet Partners or another therapy animal group can also help you identify the most appropriate venue for you and your animal to volunteer with, depending on your interests and your animal's abilities.

Though the field is mostly dominated by dogs, Pet Partners' animal therapy program also registers eight other animal species, including cats, horses, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, rats, mini pigs and llamas.

Whether or not it's the right path for you, Alexander said it's an experience that will undoubtedly bring a deeper understanding and relationship between you and your furry companion.

"It really is a special kind of volunteer work and you have this unique opportunity to interact with all kinds of people, across all different parts of the community, and you get to share something that you really, really love with others, so it's just very rewarding."



PET PARTNERS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA PHOTO LOVELY, an English Setter, sits with handler Kelly Thomas and students at the University of Arizona during a Pet Partners event.



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The courtyard is available for the blessing of those animals that can't go inside the church.

All pets are invited on this special day for all creatures. Your pet will receive a certificate of blessing and a St. Francis medal.

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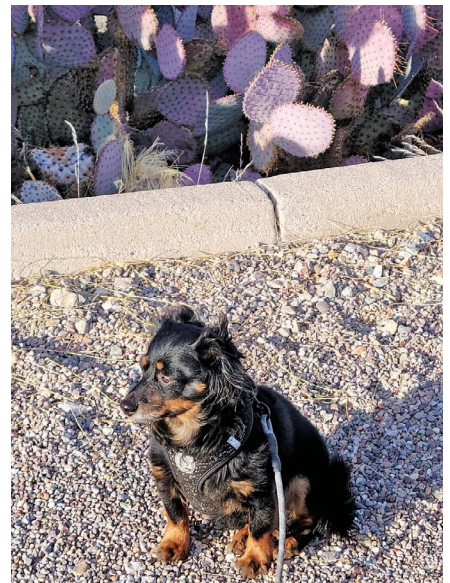
THEY'RE IN THE FAMILY



ELLIE wants to trade balls with David Hart's granddaughter.



PRETTY BOY shows why Bonnie Olsen gave him his name.



RUFUS, a longhaired Chihuahua-Dachshund mix, and his owner, Kenneth Joe Powell, moved to Green Valley in September 2021 from the mining town of Magna, Utah.



LUCY can keep a secret, Elizabeth Hayes says.



BUSTER sits under the Christmas tree. Maureen Kirk-Detberner adopted Buster from Pima Animal Care Center in 2014.



MATTIE, left, is a new addition to Jane Akob's pack, while Butler has lived with her for 11 years. "I think they like each other," Jane says.



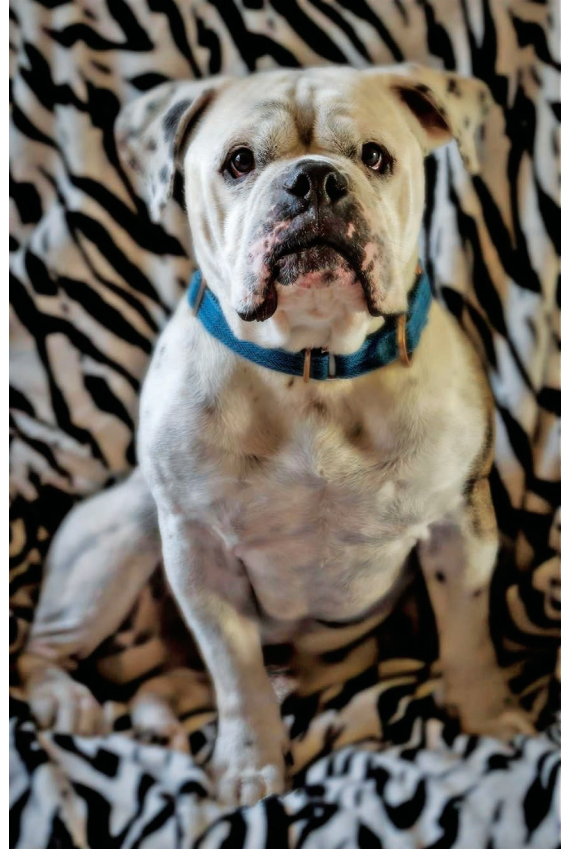
BRIZZY looks out at Eveline Eaton from the safety of his blanket.



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN the day Bonnie and Clark Kirkpatrick adopted Abby, a 13-year-old golden retriever, from RAGOM (Retrieve A Golden Of the Midwest) and brought her to Green Valley. She brightened our days with her never-ending smile, wagging tail and sunny disposition, in spite of her many medical issues, they said. Abby died just before her 14th birthday. So loved, so little time, Bonnie says.




ZONA wants to play ball with her new friend, who doesn't seem to be interested, Linda Darris says.




CLYDE, an 8-year old English bulldog, poses for a glamour shot. Maureen Kirk-Detberner adopted Clyde in 2017, from Save-a-Bull Rescue.

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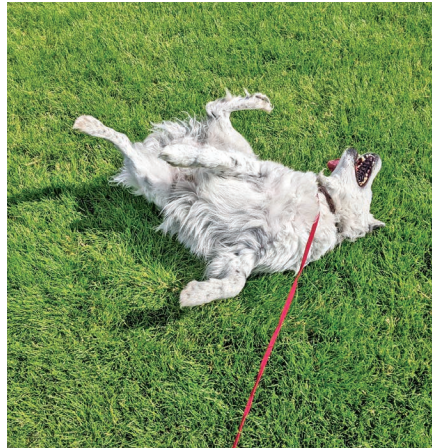
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THEY'RE IN THE FAMILY



MAGGIE, the little dog, always sticks close to Hannah, the older dog, says Carol Roskey.



THIS IS HOW DESERT DOG BIKO, a 10-year-old Border Collie, responded to finding grass in Oregon. I think he likes it, Dean Wolford says.



SUE NELSON rescued Charlie from a Chicago animal shelter. Don't you just love that face?



MIMI came home with Anne Butman from The Animal League of Green Valley five years ago. Though Mimi tested positive for feline leukemia virus back then, she's been perfectly healthy.



ZETA CATALINA fits in well at the home of housemates Becky and Paul McCreary.



MIKEN, a 17-year-old gray tabby, is an expert in getting herself into cozy positions, Marilyn Querciagrossa says.

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JOAN CALDWELL adopted Dieter, a rescue dog from The Animal League of Green Valley, as a puppy. He's now eight years old and loves playing with all his toys. He will even throw them into the air, catch them with his feet and put them in his mouth, Joan says.



AMIABLE AMIGO and his amiga, Annie, hanging out in the shade together in Tubac.



TWO FRIENDS, Shiloh and Cooper, find joy in the grass, Lexie Bauer says.



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MOST POPULAR DOG NAMES

What's the most popular dog name out there? That depends on where you are and who's doing the survey. We've asked this question over the years and here's what we've found out. We're also including a ranking of top names in the U.S.

SAHUARITA

We checked with the town in 2020, and found Bailey and Charlie tied for most popular name. (Bailey can go both ways.)

Most popular boy's name: **CHARLIE**

Most popular girl's name: **MOLLY**

There were 37 dogs with multiple names, for example: Boba Fetch, Holly Berry, Bobby J Barker and Tom-Tom Brady.

GREEN VALLEY

Pima County told us the Green Valley area's most popular names are: **MOLLY, BEAU (BO, BOGIE, BOO, BOGART), BELLA (BELLE, ISABELLA AND ANNABELLE), CHARLIE (SEVERAL SPELLINGS) AND MAX.**

On the least-likely list: **TSUNAMI, XOCHITL ("SO-CHEEL," AZTEC WORD FOR FLOWER) AND ISIS**, of which there were two.

Then there are these: Themes run the gamut from terms of endearment (**KANDY, SUGAR, CUPCAKE, MUFFIN, COOKIE, SWEETIE, SWEETIE PIE, SWEET PEA, PRECIOUS, ANGEL, DIAMOND, TEDDY**

AND MANY PAIRINGS WITH BEAR) AND AUTHORITY FIGURES (MAJOR, SARGE AND JUDGE) TO COLORS OR MARKINGS.

UNITED STATES

One recent poll came up with these top dog names for 2021:

FEMALE

1. Bella
2. Luna
3. Lucy
4. Daisy
5. Lola
6. Sadie
7. Molly
8. Bailey
9. Stella
10. Maggie

MALE

1. Max
2. Charlie
3. Milo
4. Buddy
5. Rocky
6. Bear
7. Leo
8. Duke
9. Teddy
10. Tucker

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

The Animal League of Green Valley and Paws Patrol have lots of animals coming through and many of them need names. When the groups get a batch from the same litter they'll often pick a theme — "The Andy Griffith Show," for example. Those cats were named Mayberry, Aunt Bea and Barney.

Then there was the Star Wars litter, the Harry Potter litter and the gemstone litter.



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