

The Hermitage's

TABBY TABLOID

Vol. 48 Issue 4

Winter 2016



*Celebrating 50 Years
of Saving Lives!*

1965-2015



● our **50th anniversary** gala celebration

On November 7, 2015, supporters and staff of The Hermitage celebrated 50 years of feline rescue at the Westin La Paloma resort. Guest presenter for the event was morning anchor Liz Kotalik of KGUN9. Speakers for the evening included Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Council Member Steve Kozachik and Shane Burgess, Dean of The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at The University of Arizona. Musical guests were Scott Black, Max Goldschmid, Matt Mitchell & Gil Rodriguez.

With over 150 invited guests, the evening's festivities helped The Hermitage fundraise over \$63,000 for the shelter rebuild.

A huge round of thanks and whisker kisses to all those who supported, donated and helped us celebrate our Golden Anniversary.

(photos courtesy of Daniel Wilson & Rick Bracht)



l-r: Council Member Steve Kozackik; Liz Kotalik, KGUN9 Anchor; Lee Bucyk, Executive Director; Mayor Jonathan Rothschild; Shane Burgess, Dean CALS/UA



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Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of another year, there is much to be thankful and joyful for here at the Hermitage. I'm pleased and proud to tell you that we're ending our 50th year with some remarkable accomplishments. The year in review has brought us so many blessings, including:

- A \$100,000 in-kind media grant as a community partner from our friends at Journal Broadcasting/KGUN9.
- The launch of a capital campaign to rebuild The Hermitage. To date, we've raised over \$525,000 toward our \$1,500,000 goal.
- Over \$12,000 in grants awarded.
- A newly formed alliance with the University of Arizona Veterinary Medical and Surgical Program.
- The on-boarding of four new board members to help govern and support The Hermitage.
- A wonderful partnership with The Autism Society of Southern Arizona that will provide pet therapy and benefit autistic children throughout southern Arizona.
- A merger with the Tucson-based foster group We Save Kitties at Risk (wskr.org), which provided The Hermitage with much needed additional foster homes to support at-risk cats.
- We rescued over 370 felines this year, many from municipal shelters.
- We adopted out over 335 felines this year.

As the year ends on a high note, I must tell you that there is still so much to do. We are now busy working on a strategic plan and budget for 2016 and, more importantly, our plan to rebuild The Hermitage. Our plans to rebuild will of course also depend on all of you. To continue our great work, we are going to need your support in many ways, from volunteering your time, to being an ambassador for our capital campaign, to generously donating to our building fund. Please remember that every donation, regardless of the amount, helps us in so many ways. I know we ask often, but our feline friends depend on your generosity throughout the year. Remember, there are many ways to give, including holding your own fundraising events to help The Hermitage.

For now, let us all take respite knowing that we've done very good work this year. You too are a part of the rescue community, and so I thank each and every one of you for your compassion and kindness. I wish you, your family, and your friends the very best this holiday season from the staff and the felines of The Hermitage.

Blessings,

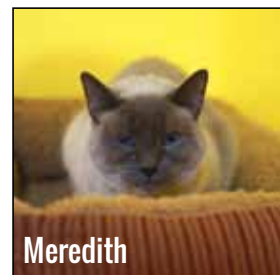
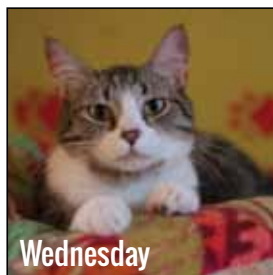


Lee Bucyk
Executive Director



● a year in **adoptions**

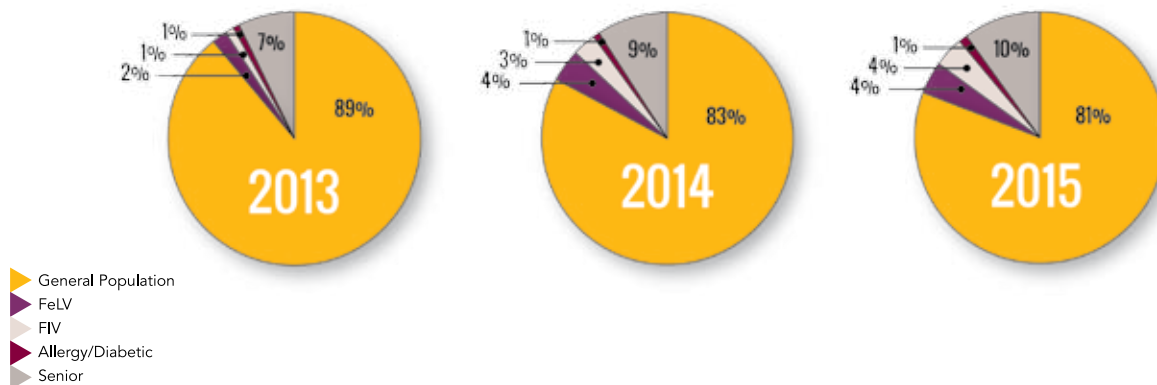
Over 335 of our cats have found their fur-ever homes this year! Below are just a few of those lucky cats (one from each month this year.) Many of these cats were long term residents of The Hermitage. It is always extra special when one of these cats finds a new family.



Our Pawsitive Impact

These charts reflect the number of cats The Hermitage adopted to loving homes from January 2013 to August 2015. Had The Hermitage not rescued these cats from other shelters and found forever homes, they would have been euthanized.

At The Hermitage, the cats found a safe haven until they were united with their new families. Any of these cats who were unable to find a forever home will remain beloved residents of The Hermitage forever.



Midnight's Story

Every year around the holidays I find myself reflecting on the past year and all the kitties who have found forever families and for the first time have a warm home in which to spend the holidays. I am reminded of all the sweet, innocent lives who were thrown away and left to die cold and alone but somehow found solace in the embrace of The Hermitage. Each feline that comes under our care arrives with their own tragic and heartbreaking stories, but The Hermitage has always been a place of second chances and silver linings. This year I would like to share a particular story, and while you are enjoying the season with your own family and furry kids, keep in your thoughts all the kitties who are waiting for their own silver lining.



As we all know, finding a home for a cat who is FeLV or FIV positive is a difficult challenge. In the spring of 2013 Midnight

was found wandering through the neighborhood, struggling to find food for herself and her three newborn babies. Emaciated and nursing, Midnight and her kittens were taken to Pima Animal Care Center, where she was found to be FIV positive. She and the little ones were immediately placed in a cold steel cage and scheduled to be euthanized unless someone was able to step in. Midnight and her kittens were brought into The Hermitage, where she was given her second chance and a warm, safe place to raise her babies. Once the kittens were old enough, they were put up for adoption, and we had very little trouble finding them forever homes. Midnight, on the other hand, had many more adoption challenges to face. Besides being FIV positive, Midnight is a quiet girl, a little shy, and solid black. She is the epitome of the term “adoption challenged.” For two and a half years she stayed at The Hermitage, being passed over and unnoticed by all except Hermitage staff and volunteers, until recently when she met the person she had been waiting for all that time. A single man with a quiet home was touring the facility looking for his perfect match, and although he was not sure who the right kitty was, Midnight absolutely knew for sure that this was her human. She immediately jumped down from her perch and laid claim to his lap, and after two and a half years, Midnight finally found her forever home.

I mention the story of Midnight because it is precisely what makes adopting from The Hermitage such a special experience. While the staff does their absolute best to match adopters with the right kitty and compatible personalities, the cats always have the final say and will choose their humans. When considering adopting a new addition to your family, The Hermitage is the place to go. A place where you are free to roam the 9,000 square feet with the kitties, a place where cages do not exist, and the love of your life is just waiting to introduce themselves to you.

While Midnight's story is special, it is not unique. So far this year over 335 felines found loving homes and warm laps. Twenty-six of those were special-needs cats like Midnight that would have been euthanized elsewhere. Unfortunately, there are thousands more kitties who desperately need our help. As the new year approaches and 2015 comes to a close, The Hermitage staff and I will be focused on the future and how we can save all the Midnights that are still out there. I hope you will join us as we go into 2016 and rebuild our facility so that we can continue to rescue and love the unloved for another 50 years.

Ryan Twigg, Adoption Manager/Development Assistant

Food For People's Pets



The transient nature of our community leads to so many people passing through Tucson. Some visit a few times a year, while others come for a visit and never leave. We are home to snowbirds, students, military, border patrol service members, and so many others. We are also home to many disadvantaged and needy families—many of whom have beloved pets.

Here at The Hermitage, we understand hardships. Some of our feline residents have come to us because of economic troubles that their human families faced. Because we work so hard to adhere to the Tenets of No-Kill, we focus a great deal on pet retention. Helping families to be able to keep their pets lowers intake rates at the shelters around town and prevents untimely euthanasia.

One way we help our community is through our Food for People's Pets pantry. This pet food program provides dog and/or cat food for needy members of our community so that these families don't have to choose between feeding themselves and feeding their pets. The Hermitage doesn't want anyone to have to make that choice.

For several years now, our pet food pantry has been available for residents of Tucson and Pima County. We are proud partners with the Community Food Bank, Wal-Mart, and Target and collect pet food donations and distribute it to our clients. Often we receive dog and kitty treats, which we add to the donation packages, along with canned food and sometimes kitty litter. Some of our supporters also donate food for the pantry. We believe that we can all help, and this is one way we can contribute to our community in a meaningful way.

The Hermitage partners with several rescues in the Tucson metro area, as well as Pima County and Southern Arizona. These amazing rescues and shelters also receive food assistance from The Hermitage when they need it. We are honored to work with Jack's Cat Shack, dedicated to providing loving care and hospice to elderly and disabled kitties; and In the Arms of Angels, caring for the cast-off dogs and cats of the infamous Dog Patch; as well as Charlotte's Way, Angels' Cat Sanctuary, and Tucson2Tails. There are so many wonderful rescues that we can't possibly name them all.

Since we streamlined and retooled our pet food pantry, we have been able to distribute just over 8.5 tons of cat and dog food! In addition to the roughly 1,000 pounds of chicken scratch, horse feed, and other small animal food, we've distributed over 17,012 pounds of dog and cat food to families and rescues in Southern Arizona through the end of October. This is our best year ever, and we hope to reach 10 tons by the end of the year. We average 74 clients each month and know that each person represents cat or dog food bowls that are full rather than empty. Each person we help can keep their pet at home, rather than turning them in to a shelter, preserving their family and preventing euthanasia due to overflowing municipal shelters.



The enrollment process is simple: a quick form, when presented with a photo ID and spay/neuter certificates, is all that is required. Clients can enroll up to five animals and receive help once per week; our pantry is open on Thursdays, from 11 am to 5 pm. Any questions about our Food for People's Pets pantry can be directed to Emma, at 520.571.7839 or by email at emma@hermitagecatshelter.org. We also welcome any volunteers who would like to help us distribute the donation. If you're interested, please contact Emma, or email our volunteer coordinator, Karina Levine, at karina@hermitagecatshelter.org.

Emma Crawford, Marketing Specialist

Healing Hands



Nancy McDonald with Daisy & Sabrina

Reiki (pronounced ray-key) is the Japanese art of energy manipulation. It is used for healing, restoration, and general “energy balancing.” Many massage therapists also practice Reiki, as part of holistic or “whole body” care. Developed in 1922, it has spread across the world as persons seek alternative forms of healing, often in conjunction with standardized medical care.

The practice of Reiki centers on the idea of “sharing” energy, through the Reiki practitioner’s palms to the recipient. It is thought to transfer “qi” or universal energy to promote healing. The mechanisms of Reiki itself aren’t completely understood, but recipients report feelings of contentment and calm following a session.

Reiki can also be performed on animals, providing them the same benefits that humans receive. Reiki is thought to offer pain relief and reduce recovery times for illness and surgery, which adds quality of life to animals with chronic arthritis or those recovering from invasive surgeries. Many Reiki practitioners also feel that it helps promote emotional health, lowering distress and helping to alleviate behavioral issues.

Tucson is home to many holistic practitioners, from many disciplines. We’re also home to Nancy McDonald, an attuned Reiki Master trained in Usui Reiki. She visits the kitties of The Hermitage every Monday to practice her craft and provide comfort to the residents. Nancy has completed extensive training in Reiki itself, as well as other holistic forms of healing, such as acupressure, massage, healing oils, and animal communication.

Nancy founded Animal Ally of Arizona, seeking to promote health, healing, and happiness for animals and their human companions in our community. The practice of animal-centric Reiki aims to complement veterinary medicine and to offer holistic medical care, something many pet parents work to implement in their own healthcare. Sharing her expertise with the feline residents of The Hermitage has been beneficial to many of our kitties.

I spoke with Nancy about her practice and asked how she felt the kitties responded to her work. “I have seen calming...the cat might be agitated walking around me a lot, making noise, maybe hissing at others, and then after some Reiki they settle down by lying on my lap or next to me.” Nancy also felt that the energies in the room would then be more relaxed and calm.

When Nancy enters a room, sometimes several kitties seek her out, letting her know they want her attention. Sometimes, only one or two ask for her work. She is careful to “spread the love” and visit each Ward of The Hermitage, taking a few moments for any kitty desiring some energy work. She chooses to take as much time with the felines as they need so as to best help them. This is something we know they appreciate.

Reiki can be especially helpful when companion animals are coming close to crossing the Rainbow Bridge. Reiki, as part of their end-of-life process, can give them a little more love as they prepare to transition out of this life and back to the Universe. Nancy told me about this when she visited as our Pubah, Lobby Cat Extraordinaire, was passing.

“He was resting on the bottom shelf of the bookcase in the lobby. I gave him a few minutes of Reiki. I then walked away and came back to give a little more since he was still there. The second time giving Reiki, he got up, came over to me for a little bit, and then went and got a drink of water. The intention of Reiki is that the energy goes to assist whatever is in the best and highest good for the animal. In this case, I think I helped him come to the real world and get comfortable (both physically [through] drinking [water], and emotionally) with whatever the next step was.”

We sincerely thank Nancy for donating her time and energy to the feline residents of The Hermitage.

If you are interested in Reiki for your own animals, you can learn more at her website, www.animalallyaz.com. You can also contact Nancy at 520.591.2950, or by email at AnimalAllyAZ@gmail.com.

Emma Crawford, Marketing Specialist

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The Golden Years

When Is A Cat Considered To Be A Senior?

Just like people, our pets are living longer than ever thanks to our ability to provide them with a safe living environment, proper nutrition, and, most importantly, regular veterinary care. While there are many ways that have been suggested to calculate a cat's age, the currently accepted age calculator suggests that a 2-year-old cat is the equivalent of a 24-year-old human and will then age 4 human years each year thereafter. A 2014 Vetstreet poll found that veterinary professionals consider a cat to be a senior at 9 years (52 human years), while cat owners did not consider their cats to be a senior until 11 years (60 human years).

Normal Aging Versus Underlying Disease

There are many disease processes that are found more frequently in aging cats, but this does not mean that there is nothing that can be done to treat these issues. Some of the common problems that cats will develop include decreased vision, decreased hearing, decreased activity, increased vocalizations, abnormal sleep patterns, and less reliable litter box usage. While some things such as decreased vision and hearing may be a natural progression in our pets, most animals adapt well to these changes and rely on routine and their remaining senses to lead a relatively normal life. As long as they are kept indoors they will rarely have any negative issues from natural hearing or vision loss. The rest of the changes that are frequently thought of as normal behaviors in older cats can be signs of serious underlying disease processes. These processes can include arthritis, hyperthyroidism, chronic kidney disease, cancer, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, and many other diseases. Many of these conditions can be easily identified by a veterinarian during a routine physical exam or with routine screening lab work, and with the advancement of medicine there are a wide variety of treatments available to manage many of the above conditions, some of which are as easy as a diet change or providing supplements on food or in the form of a treat.

How to “Senior Proof” Your House

Much like making changes around the house when bringing home a kitten, changes should be made to make the house safer and more comfortable for aging cats as well. Inside



the house (or on an enclosed catio) is the safest place for all cats, but it is even more important to keep senior cats inside and safe. They may not be able to hear or see a predator as easily, and arthritis may prevent them from being able to get away from a predator quickly. They are also more sensitive to extreme weather conditions, including heat, cold, and wet weather. More beds and perches should be provided inside the house, and it may be necessary to add perches, stairs, or chairs to shorten the distance that a senior cat has to jump to reach their favorite spots. If jumping is difficult or arthritis is identified, then providing food and water on the floor rather than on the counter or other elevated surfaces will make life easier. Making changes to the litter box is also important for many cats. This may include adding additional boxes, removing the lids from covered boxes, or improvising to provide a larger box with easier access (under-bed storage boxes can be used by cutting an entrance for geriatric cats to easily step in and out and using cardboard to create high sides to help keep the rest of the area clean).

Maintaining Good Health

The ultimate goal for most pet owners is to provide their cat with a good quality of life for as long as possible. This starts at home by providing a premium, balanced, age-appropriate diet (every cat is different, so consult your

veterinarian for recommendations). Close monitoring of food intake, water intake, and litter box use is also very important. Any changes, sudden or over time, should be reported to your veterinarian. Maintaining a healthy weight is necessary, and any sudden changes in weight should be immediately discussed with your veterinarian. A senior cat should have a physical exam by a veterinarian at least every 6–12 months and more frequently if they have a chronic disease. Most veterinarians also recommend screening lab work every 6–12 months as a cat ages (remember, cats age faster than people, so this is the equivalent of a senior citizen having their blood checked every 2–4 years). During these regular visits your veterinarian will also be able to discuss other necessary testing, the need for continued vaccination, the necessity for dental cleanings, and much more. By maintaining an open relationship between you, your pet, and your veterinarian, an indoor-only cat has an average life expectancy of 16 years, but many cats live into their late teens and early 20s.

*Dr. Jennifer Becker, DVM
Associate Veterinarian, Acacia Animal Hospital*



Dakota



daisy elliot
photography

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Shelter Wish List

- Anti-Icky Poo
(amazon.com)
- White Copy Paper
- Paper Towels
- #10 plain White Envelopes
(Office Depot Non-Security Brand)
- 9x12 Flat Mailing Envelopes
- Friskies Paté & Shreds
- Dried Catnip
- Temptation Cat Treats
- Toilet Paper
- 13 & 45 Gallon Trash Bags
- Kleenex
- Air Freshener - Glade/Febreze
- Costco-sized Dish Soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gas Cards for:
Shell/Fry's/Circle K
- Gift Cards to:
Costco, Home Depot, Party City, Office Depot
- Large Rubbermaid Storage Containers
- Small ShopVac for Medical

● volunteers

Open Homes, Open Hearts

Do you love kitties, but are unsure about the commitment? Ever thought of becoming a foster care volunteer to one of our four-legged fur babies? The emotional rewards of fostering are immeasurable, for both our shelter kitties and their human foster caregivers. When you decide to become a foster care volunteer, you help extend our shelter walls, and as a result you are helping our kitties at a new chance at healthy, happy lives in forever homes.

So what exactly is the foster care volunteer program here at The Hermitage? Basically, in a nutshell, Foster Care Volunteers allow shelter kitties to stay in their private homes until they are ready to be adopted.

There are a variety of reasons for foster requests, such as:

- Kittens that are too young/underweight for adoptions
- Cats that are suffering from illness or injury or are recovering from surgery
- Cats that are severely overweight or underweight
- Cats in need of socialization
- Overabundance of cats being taken in from the public

How does one become a foster care volunteer? All foster care volunteers must read and fully understand the foster care handbook, sign the foster care agreement, and go through the application process. Foster care volunteers must also meet with both the foster care coordinator and the medical staff before taking foster kitties into their homes. Also, individual training is held year round for our foster care volunteers, depending on the circumstances, which can include but is not limited to:

- Cat Care Class
- Bottle Baby Feeding Class
- Subcutaneous Fluids Class

Please keep in mind, as a foster care volunteer, that the kittens and cats you foster are with you on a temporary basis, and the intention is to have them either return to the shelter when they are ready or be adopted out. Fostering can be emotionally rewarding but can also be difficult when foster care volunteers become attached to their fosters, which happens all the time because kitties are adorable and easily lovable! We at The Hermitage call this Foster Failure, not because you failed as a foster, but because you've chosen to adopt your foster. We don't discourage this; however, we urge you to ask yourself some viable questions and keep these things in mind: Is this your first foster; will you continue to foster after you adopt this foster? We don't discourage our foster care volunteers from adopting, but we don't want to lose them as fosters either.

Why are foster care volunteers needed and highly important? Having foster care volunteers readily available helps in emergency situations. For example, with cats and kittens who are on the short list at other shelters for euthanasia, fostering

allows The Hermitage the needed room to rescue these cats and kittens. Fostering helps in health situations: some kitties do not do well in a shelter situation, and their health deteriorates at a rapid rate. Welcoming them into your home for a short period of time can reverse this and help them become adoptable. Fostering also helps in socialization and getting young kittens or older, grumpier cats familiar with humans and interacting with them on a regular basis.

If you'd like to become a Foster Care Volunteer or have further questions, please contact Karina Levine at karina@hermitagecatshelter.org. Your open home and heart can save the lives of many kitties.

Karina Levine, Volunteer & Foster Coordinator



**Would You Like to Advertise
in the Tabby Tabloid?
Please Contact Ryan at 520.571.7839**

**Interested in Volunteering
at The Hermitage?
Please Call Us @ 520.571.7839
or email karina@hermitagecatshelter.org**

Volunteer Wrap-Up

As we get close to wrapping up 2015, we'd like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have devoted their time to the cats throughout the past year. In the first three quarters of the year, nearly 400 volunteers completed a combined total of 9,330 volunteer hours! That is a huge commitment, and our kitties are grateful for every moment you've spent with them.

Our volunteers have helped with some amazing projects, including clearing half a ton of cactus from our Memorial Garden, promoting the cats at over 50 off-site events, visiting 17 elementary classrooms, cleaning and maintaining the shelter, and, most importantly, loving and caring for the kitties. We couldn't have possibly done all that without the help of the beautiful people who volunteer at our shelter.

Moving forward, we're excited to see what 2016 will bring. Our plans for the New Year include expanding our outreach and foster programs, a new partnership with the University of Arizona's new vet school, and of course rescuing as many kitties as our walls will hold. We are also looking forward to a complete shelter rebuild. These are big plans and will only be possible with the help of our volunteers. We are confident that we'll not only achieve but exceed our goals for 2016, because we have the best group of volunteers out there.

Heather Passananti-Garcia, Community Outreach Coordinator

New Programs & Partnerships



In an effort to better serve our community, we have been working to expand our outreach programs and partnerships this year. We were proud to introduce several new programs, including *Classroom Kitties* and *Purrs for Autism*. These new outreach programs have been specifically targeted toward children because we know that the lessons they learn now will be carried through as they grow into adulthood. We know that if we can instill in them a compassion and love for animals, they will grow up to be kind and caring animal advocates in the future and will work to better the lives of our furry companions.

Classroom Kitties is a program in which our staff and kitties visit elementary school classrooms throughout Tucson. We share stories and talk with the students about the humane care and treatment of cats. These young students are always full of questions and stories about the animals in their lives. We have a blast getting to know the kids, and they are super excited to meet some of our kitty residents. This program was first introduced in April of this year, and we have had the opportunity to visit 17 classrooms and meet many great kids.

Our newest program, *Purrs for Autism*, was designed to provide a safe, therapeutic environment for children with autism to cuddle and play with cats. Our education room will be transformed each week into a safe haven with toys, games, puzzles, and our most sociable and cuddly cats. Autistic children and their parents are invited to come and spend some quiet time bonding with our kitties. The benefits of cat therapy for autistic kids include increased self-confidence, improved communication skills, and a greater ability to focus. While this program is still in the development phase, we hope to officially open our doors to these special kids by January 2, 2016.

In addition to the above programs, we have formed several important partnerships over the past year. These partnerships help us provide opportunities for adults of various backgrounds to come in and gain work experience through volunteering. We recently met with Vanessa Zuber of Workability and made plans to provide mini internships for adults with autism. Through these internships, participants will build work skills in areas such as maintenance and administration. We also formed mutually beneficial partnerships with Mirasol and TUSD ACT, whose clients volunteer weekly. They gain valuable work experience and enjoy some cat therapy while we receive some much needed help caring for our cats. Each of these organizations provides valuable services to the community, and we are thrilled to work closely with them in the coming years.

Moving into the new year, we are looking forward to expanding our outreach even further. We hope to engage new markets, including middle and high school students, military, and more. We can't wait to show people how much cats can enrich their lives.

For more information about our outreach programs, please contact Community Outreach Coordinator, Heather Passananti-Garcia at heather@hermitagecatshelter.org.

Heather Passananti-Garcia, Community Outreach Coordinator

What Makes the Hermitage Special

We are thrilled to feature this article written by one of our dedicated volunteers. We welcome submissions from other volunteers who may have their article featured in a future issue of the Tabby Tabloid.



East Patio

The Hermitage is special because of its mission. A mission to provide shelter and a sanctuary to cats with special needs. In any other shelter, cats that need special care or attention would be euthanized. The Hermitage finds cats in need and does their best to give them medical care and find a home for them. Unlike other shelters, the Hermitage never deems a cat as a lost cause, no matter how bad of a condition the cat is in. The Hermitage takes special care to make sure their cats are happy. They have access to an outside enclosure and many things to keep them entertained. There is no shortage of food or water, and they get plenty of love from volunteers and the staff. The medical care at the Hermitage is thorough and efficient. Immediately after arriving at the shelter, the cat is evaluated and placed in the proper ward. If a cat has FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) or FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus), they are placed in the FIV or FeLV ward. If a cat has diabetes, weight issues, or behavioral issues, it is placed in the appropriate ward. One of the best things about the Hermitage is the no-cage environment. Cats are free to socialize, play, and sleep without a cage to enclose them. Keeping cats or any intelligent animal in a cage for a long period of time can lead to a decrease in health and happiness. Cats in the Hermitage are allowed to freely pass through their territory without fear of being trapped. Not only does this give freedom and exercise, but the cats become accustomed to people and socialized with other cats. The reason that the

Hermitage is unlike any other shelter is that they accept cats who are unwanted and often considered unadoptable, and they give them the care and love that they need and deserve. That is what makes the Hermitage special.

Erin Hess, 13

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy

● hermitage profile

Looks Can Be Deceiving

Don't be fooled by this big boy's tough and grizzly tomcat appearance. Han Solo is an affectionate white and silver tabby with a huge personality! He loves to greet visitors with a sweet meow and follow them around the second they walk through the door. Mr. Solo is also an ear scratchie enthusiast and will appreciate any attention given to his adorable crinkled ears.

Han can be spotted lounging on his favorite purple bench in the FIV room. Despite having FIV, Hans is a healthy and happy cat ready for adoption, as are the other FIV kitties here at The Hermitage. Because of his diagnosis, he has to be an only cat or only be with other FIV-positive sweethearts. This one-of-a-kind boy with an easy going attitude is also available for the Lease for Life Program or Sponsorship.



Trap-Neuter-Return

Kitten season is always a busy time of year for shelters and rescues. Not only do we rescue the mother cats and babies, we take in orphaned kittens and pregnant mother cats and work with the public to TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) the feral queens after their kittens are weaned. We can't do it without help, though, and for this very reason The Hermitage has acted as a trap depot for several years.

TNR is becoming more widely known, as more and more people seek to limit feral, or community cat, breeding. When Best Friends partnered with Pima Animal Care Center in Tucson, late in 2014, TNR awareness skyrocketed, and since then we've been hard-pressed to keep our own traps available for rent. Quite often they are all rented out at the same time!

In just the past ten months we've helped our community cats, and their colony managers, by renting out almost 100 traps! We have three types of traps available, including the "drop trap." Although rarely used in the past, the drop trap has seen an uptick in interest and rental this past year, as well as our other, more easily managed traps. We believe this is due to more colony managers choosing to TNR their entire colonies rather than just the kitties that wander into the more ubiquitous "bait traps."

In the two years that I've administrated the TNR program here at The Hermitage, we've expanded our trap stores, giving us a total of 34 available. This has allowed more colony managers to rent multiple traps at once, making it easier and more practical for them to TNR their entire colonies rather than trying to trap each kitty, one at a time. Rarely has a week gone by without traps going out or coming back. Most of our renters trap at least two or three kitties, meaning we've helped TNR at least 300 cats and kittens just this year alone! Some weeks we have to keep a wait-list, calling the renters as soon as traps become available.

To facilitate TNR in our community, we've created and offer several classes, either one-on-one or in small groups, training interested persons on the tips and tricks they need



photo courtesy of Lonely Miaow: Trapping Feral Cats

to best practice TNR in their neighborhoods. We take the time necessary to ensure that every renter knows how to use the trap safely and make ourselves available to answer any questions they might have.

The Hermitage is not alone in this effort; many of Tucson's shelters and rescues dedicate some of their resources to helping these community cats. We are an interlocking web of trap depots, classes, advice-giving, and help. This web of support is the best way we can all help the community cats in our city, and each other, as we work to lower the number of homeless cats and kittens in Pima County.

Trap rental is a \$40 cash-only deposit per trap; when the trap is returned, the deposit is returned to the renter. We make our Food for People's Pets pantry available for colony managers. Please contact me at emma@hermitagecatshelter.org if you're interested in registering with us as a colony manager or have questions about our traps, our TNR classes, or our program.

Emma Crawford, Marketing Specialist

Look for these displays at your favorite Hermitage Supporters locations!



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Roy & Claudia Hester

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On behalf of Carlos Valentin & Adam Hutter

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On behalf of Kurt Weirich

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Bobbie VandeGriff

Jen Bain

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Ellie Baugher

Sharon Lyle

Mark Douglas who taught me so very much about life. I am grateful I had the opportunity to know him

Martin Bedick

Blixa

Pat Clinch

JoAnn Bruce, a wonderful teacher and a wonderful friend to cats

Sumayya Granger

Buster & Titus

Thomas Delgado

In Memory Of (con't)

Camie & Colonel, wonderful dogs of Shannon's family

Hisayo Lauber

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Charlotte Decker

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Karen & Brad Kahn

Crystal

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Mark Douglas, a good man and a kind soul

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