

The Hermitage's

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## Our No-Kill Philosophy

“No-kill shelter” is a phrase thrown around by many municipalities as a reason to work with their local county shelters. It sounds amazing, forward-thinking, humane, and compassionate, but what does it mean? Why is it important, and why does The Hermitage have it in its name?

In 1965, our founder Sister Theresa Seraphim incorporated what is now known as The Hermitage as the Arizona Animal Anti-Cruelty League, based on the concept of no-kill. She taught, by word and deed, that all lives are precious, and that the cats in our community have as much right to live their own lives free from the threat of euthanasia as any human. Not only did she begin our mission with this principle in mind, she wove it seamlessly into her everyday life, working to create a sanctuary for the unwanted cats in our city.

We continue that mission to this day, and our entire philosophy embraces that idea.

For almost 50 years we have worked hard to keep the promise that no animal will ever be destroyed to make room for another. This sounds simple enough—and in many ways it can be. It also means that we have had to work tirelessly to educate our neighbors and fellow residents of Tucson on the importance of caring for the animals we share our lives with, rather than discarding them because they are inconvenient, feral, pregnant, mean, cage-aggressive, or unhappy around humans. Even today, far too many people casually discard their companion animals: they pack their belongings to move to a new house, and after locking the door, they abandon their pets to the outside world to fend for themselves. This is unacceptable to us at The Hermitage, and we still fight against that tide.

As the animal welfare field has grown and matured we have learned about better practices and more humane ways to care

for the animals who enter our shelter. We know that no-kill is an absolutely attainable goal for our nation, and in order to accomplish this, we have to start at home, in our counties, cities, and states. To this end, many have embraced the tenets of no-kill practices, first codified by the No-Kill Advocacy Center in Oakland, CA. At The Hermitage, we embrace them all. Ranging from Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) advocacy, adoption and pet retention strategies, and instituting best medical practices, to collaboration and engaged volunteerism, the tenets of no-kill are simple and easily stated—in our shelter we work hard to keep our promise to the kitties, and we know that with your support, we can expand the no-kill mission.



## Hermitage Cat Shelter Staff

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**Executive Director**

Marcella Severson  
**Executive Assistant**

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**Adoptions Manager/  
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**Volunteer & Outreach  
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Evan Dobb  
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Joshua Desmaris  
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Jean Getek  
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Ryan Inama  
Marcella Severson

Dear Friends:

I'm now in my eighth month of leadership as Executive Director at The Hermitage. The days and months have flown by so fast, and yet, I can't think of another position I'd rather hold.

Today, I'd like to give you a brief synopsis of 2014 and share with you my hopes and dreams for 2015.

As many of you know, this year was wrought with financial struggle, and climbing out of the hole has been an arduous task. Like any other business, we've had to trim our expenses and make some difficult business decisions, such as closing the Thrift Store. Hopefully the hard choices and sacrifices we've made will result in a better cash flow and bottom line.

Simultaneously, we've ramped up our fundraising efforts and worked hard to submit over 30 grants. Of those 30 submissions, we've been fortunate to receive funding from several, including Iams Bowls of Love, which provided over 40,000 pounds of food for our babies!

Over these last months, I've sent out a couple of heartfelt direct mail appeals. So many of you responded, and I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your extreme generosity and kindness. While we aren't out of the woods by any means, we were fortunate to receive funds to help pay down some expenses.

High on my list of goals this past year was to give visibility to our Mission and work so that our local officials and community partners are aware of the services we provide to the feline and human populations throughout Southern Arizona. To that end, I met with key personnel at Pima Animal Care and several of our local government officials, including Mayor Rothschild, Councilman Kozachik, and Vice Mayor Cunningham. There will be more meetings to hold as we venture into the New Year.

To recap, we have had much to be thankful for these last twelve months. So far we've:

- Rescued almost 150 felines from Pima Animal Care (PACC).
- Found forever homes for over 400 felines.
- Found forever homes for over 25 special-needs felines.
- Generated over \$50,000 from our most recent direct mail appeal efforts.
- Toured Mayor Rothschild through the shelter and met with city council members to provide insight and education on the role we play in the Southern Arizona rescue community.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form a strategic partnership with the new University of Arizona Veterinary School.

As we enter 2015, we will embark on a Capital Campaign to fund a newly updated Shelter. This very important work needs to be done if we are to house our babies safely and securely for another 50 years. I hope each of you will help us in our endeavor.

Finally, my hope is to rebuild The Hermitage into a strong, sustainable nonprofit that can withstand these hard financial times and remain a model no-kill organization for the homeless and abandoned felines within our community. The journey begins with one step—please put your hand in mine.



Lee Bucyk  
Executive Director



## ● announcements

### Grants Update

We've been writing grants and seeking new friends, allies, and supporters for the kitties of The Hermitage.

The National Anti-Vivisection Society's (NAVS) Sanctuary Fund recently awarded us an emergency grant to help us with repairs to our roof and foundation. The hurricanes that visited us from Baja and the Pacific earlier this year flooded us, and NAVS generously donated so that our kitties (and admin staff) won't get rained on any more! They are in support of us and our mission (as well as shelters and sanctuaries like us around the nation), and we cannot thank them enough for their good work!

Iams Bowls of Love is a program created to provide high-quality food for the shelter animals. We were thrilled to learn that we qualified for this amazing program, and imagine our shock when the tractor trailer pulled up with tons of food! This donation will help us feed our kitties for quite some time and was coordinated by our Development Assistant, Ryan Inama.

Part of grant writing is sending letters out to charities who donate to causes that mirror your own organization. I have been researching local charities, and one foundation I contacted was the Mona Private Foundation. When we sent our letter, we didn't know a very important, and key, fact about the Mona Private Foundation—but we learned it when they telephoned us to let us know they were awarding us a grant. The eponymous Mona was a kitty! This amazing foundation is dedicated to HIV research and LGBT outreach and is named for a lovely sphinx kitty.

Please join us in thanking NAVS, the Iams Bowls of Love program, and the adorable Mona (and her Foundation) for their generosity to us and to every other animal they have helped with all their work. Watch for more grant information in our monthly newsletter, The CatNip, and future issues of The Tabby Tabloid.

*Emma Crawford, Marketing Specialist*

**Look for these displays at your favorite Hermitage Supporters locations!**



### Shelter Wish List

Construction-Grade Staple Gun  
Backpack Blower  
Long-Handled Scrub Brushes  
Bleach  
White Copy Paper  
#10 Plain Envelopes  
Two Cross-Cut Paper Shredders  
Banker Boxes  
File Folders  
Friskies Pâté & Shreds  
Dried Catnip  
Cat Grass  
Temptation Cat Treats  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper  
13 & 45 Gallon Trash Bags  
Hand Sanitizer  
Cat Treadmill ([www.catwheel.com](http://www.catwheel.com))

Gift Cards to:

*Home Depot, Office Depot,  
Walmart, Party City, Petco*

### Thank You to Our Top 10 Collection Box Locations

Mesquite Valley Growers  
Wild West Kettle Korn  
Ace Hardware, 22nd  
Ace Hardware, 9th  
Valley Animal Hospital  
Ace Hardware, Pima  
Frankie's South Philly Cheesesteaks  
Skate Country  
Pet Club Grant & Alvernon  
St. Mary's Animal Hospital

**Would** you love to have a new kitty in your life but your current situation just won't allow it? Your own cat doesn't get along well with others or you have a dog that sees kitties as furry chew toys? Whatever your situation, we have a solution for you! You can become a Sponsor for a special Hermitage cat. For just \$25 a month, which is less than 82 cents a day (some of us spend more on our morning coffee!), you can be a sponsor for a cat who needs to know that someone cares. You'll receive regular letters and photos from your sponsored kitty to let you know what's going on at the shelter. Check out a few of our wonderful kitties on this page who need sponsors. Contact Marcella at 520.571.7839 for more information.

**Goldie:**

This beautiful tortie girl is almost 12 years old. She lives in our diabetic ward with her friend, Arlo, and the weight management kitties. Although she needs insulin, she's a very healthy, happy girl who loves to talk and is so affectionate. In fact, one of her favorite things in the whole world is playing in the sink! If you turn on the water for her, she'll bite it, play in it, let it run down her head, and drink right out of the faucet! She is available for sponsorship or our Lease for Life program. You should meet this lovely girl!



**Midnight:**

This cute girl is in our FIV ward. She came with her kittens, who have been adopted, but we're still looking for her forever home. She can often be found in the company of Garfield and Megan. She has the cutest round face, which her daughters all inherited from her! She is a little shy, but warms up very quickly. Because she has FIV, she should be an only kitty, or homed with other FIV kitties. She's available for sponsorship or our Lease for Life program.



**Twizzler:**

Some of the kitties who call The Hermitage home will be with us for the remainder of their lives. Sometimes it's because the kitty is very elderly, or very ill. Sometimes it's because the kitty is unable to adjust to life away from this one-of-a-kind shelter. Twizzler is one of the kitties who will live here at the Shelter until he passes away—much like Moses. Twiz is a very sweet, affectionate ginger boy, who just turned 8. He's also very attached to the cubbies, walkways, and volunteers here. We have been privileged to provide this beautiful gent a home; and we love him fiercely! You should come by and meet him, he gets all excited and "kneads" his bed when he's getting loved on.



**Sweet Pea:**

This beautiful girl is about six months old, and is a Manx cat. Manx breeds are sometimes born with Manx Syndrome, a congenital deformity of the spine. The nerves in the spinal column don't close all the way, and these kitties are incontinent. Sweet Pea is affectionate, sweet, and loving, and has a purr-box that doesn't quit! If you find yourself in need of some love, affection, and purrs, stop by The Hermitage; we would be more than happy to introduce you to this beautiful girl, and her friends in the GI Ward. We'll lend you a towel for your lap, and she'll provide the love.



## Leaving a Legacy of Caring

**T**here are many ways to support The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter and Sanctuary, from volunteering at the shelter, to sponsoring one of our long-term special-needs residents, to making a contribution to our ongoing operating funds.

Another way to support the shelter is with a planned gift as part of your estate plan.

Planned giving offers many benefits for both you and the shelter. It provides you an opportunity to make a more significant gift than might be possible as a lifetime donation. It offers tax benefits to your estate. It allows the shelter to plan realistically for our future, helping to assure that there will be adequate resources to continue to fulfill our mission for future generations.

Perhaps most significantly, it allows you to leave a legacy of providing shelter, protection, and care to the homeless and unwanted cats in our community.

Planned gifts can take many forms, including simple gifts in wills or trust agreements, appreciated stocks or other assets, life insurance proceeds, IRA or other retirement plan funds, or charitable trusts established to benefit both your family and the charity of your choosing.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, you can ask your attorney or financial planner about the available options given your individual situation. You may also contact The Hermitage directly at 520.571.7839 and we can provide you with more information, including sample language for a bequest in a will or trust.

As The Hermitage approaches its 50th birthday next year, we thank you all for your love of the cats and for your ongoing support.



Photo courtesy of iStock

**We are forever grateful for the following gifts we have received in memoriam:**

*Estate of Joseph Augustine • Estate of Lorraine Kesson • Estate of Edna M. Martin • Estate of Rudolph Dinkel  
Estate of William Brandt • Estate of Jane Pennell Haley*

## Looking Ahead to 2015

As the Hermitage enters its 50th year of operation, both the organization and the building that houses our cats and staff are showing their age.

The organization shows the maturity and forethought that comes with growing up in times both good and bad. While the shelter has suffered financially over the last year, and is still suffering, we've had a terrific staff and Executive Director that has taken us through some of the most difficult times.

The wonderful people at the shelter, from administration through the adoption team, front desk personnel, the medical and maintenance staff, have all pulled together to keep the doors open, the cats lovingly and well cared for, and the public apprised of shelter activities. From myself and the Board of Directors, a heartfelt **THANK YOU** for all of your hard work and dedication.

The building that houses our beloved cats and staff is also showing its age, but not in a kind way. The house that Sister Seraphim moved into with her cats was built in 1952, and it shows every bit of its age. Sixty-three years of wear and tear, wood rot, foundation problems (when the shelter floods, the water comes up from the foundation), termites, structural problems, plumbing/electrical issues, and a bad roof (when it rains, the water comes in not only from the foundation but also from the ceilings). The staff has valiantly dealt with these issues, and no cats have suffered because of these problems, but there have been a few wet paws and general crankiness by being misplaced from their regular hangouts.

However, while the organization might still be going strong, the building is literally "falling down around our ears." There's only so much patch work that one can do to a rotting structure.

While we cannot level the existing building due to the fact we have a non-conforming zoning status (operating a commercial enterprise in a residential neighborhood), we can do extensive repairs and replacements as well as rebuild the interior space. Not a remodel, a rebuild with interior spaces that are more user-friendly and that make more efficient use of the space we have. Most important in all our minds is that the structure remains a house for the cats.

Because of the condition of the building, the Board of Directors' focus in the first quarter of 2015 will be to formulate a plan to take care of the necessary repairs and improvements needed for the shelter in the short term. This will be a huge undertaking and will require not only

dedication and hard work from the Board, but it will "take a village." We hope you will join us in saving the shelter and help us continue our mission for the next 50 years.

2015 is going to be The Hermitage's best year yet. I look forward to working with all of you to raise money to rebuild the shelter.

Jean Getek  
*President of the Board*



### Hermitage Cat Shelter Board of Directors

Jean Getek - President  
David Bishop, PhD - Vice President/Secretary  
Susan Parker-Hotchkiss - Treasurer  
Minta Keyes, DVM - Director  
Rachel Broderick - Director

## A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers

**Working** as the Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator has been a truly eye-opening experience for me this year. Being in this position has allowed me to witness the kindness and devotion our volunteers bring to the table. Every day I see volunteers down on their hands and knees scooping litter boxes and scrubbing floors and shelves. I see volunteers building new fencing and pulling weeds out in the hot summer sun. I see volunteers cuddling and loving our precious kitties, kitties who had been abandoned and left to fend for themselves. Kitties that would not receive the love and care they deserve if not for the big hearts of those involved with The Hermitage Cat Shelter.

Running a 9,000-square-foot facility with anywhere from 150 to 300 cats is a big job. Simply cleaning the shelter from one end to another can take several hours each day. Keeping The Hermitage going requires cleaning, providing medical care, processing paperwork, making calls, and so much more. Even with a full-time staff, we could not possibly do it all. This is why we are so grateful to our amazing group of volunteers.

This year, over 400 volunteers and groups came in and spent their valuable time here with the cats. To date, volunteer hours have more than doubled this year over last. This means that our kitties have received twice as much love, care, and attention. For all this, from the bottoms of our hearts, we thank you. You have made a bigger difference than you will ever know.

*Heather Passananti-Garcia, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator*



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photography

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### Join Us at These Hermitage Events

1/10 @ 9AM-2PM  
Veterans Stand Down  
Days Inn Tucson Convention Center, 222 S Freeway/I10

1/14 @ 3PM-5:30PM  
Papa Murphy's, 7245 E Tanque Verde Rd  
(a percentage of daily sales will be donated to The Hermitage)

1/15 @ 6PM  
Broadway Proper Senior Living, 400 S Broadway Pl

1/17 @ 1PM-3PM  
Del Webb, 1405 N Del Web Blvd

1/20 @ 3PM-5PM  
Atria Campana Del Rio Senior Living, 1550 E River Rd

3/7 @ 9AM-4PM  
CenturyLink Craft Fair, 333 E Wetmore Rd

Interested in Volunteering  
at The Hermitage?  
Please Call Us @ 520.571.7839  
or email [heather@hermitagecatshelter.org](mailto:heather@hermitagecatshelter.org)

## Trap-Neuter-Return

**Trap-Neuter-Return** (TNR) has been in the news lately with the launch of the new Community Cat Program in Pima County.

So what exactly is TNR and how does it benefit our community? TNR is the act of trapping a feral or community cat, having them spayed/neutered, and then returning them to the location from which they were originally trapped. When the cats are taken to be sterilized, they receive a rabies vaccination and can be vaccinated for other diseases at the request of colony managers. Their ears are “tipped,” and this is the universal signifier that the cat has been altered and prevents them from being trapped again.

TNR benefits the community in a number of ways. Sterilizing the cats prevents them from producing more litters and permanently reduces the number of cats in an area. Reducing cat reproduction lowers the number of unwanted cats brought to shelters, thereby shrinking euthanasia rates. Cats that have been sterilized and released back out will guard their territory, discouraging unaltered cats from moving in and reproducing in the area. Once sterilized, male cats in a colony tend to stop fighting for territory. This lessens the nuisance behaviors associated with the fighting, such as spraying, yowling, and digging.

Although the practice has been known since the 1980s, it has only recently become common across the nation. The Hermitage, however, has recognized and advocated for TNR efforts for roughly ten years. We have provided resources for colony managers in our community, allowing them to save thousands of cats from being euthanized in shelters. As a no-kill sanctuary that rescues hundreds of cats each year, we recognize that euthanasia is not the solution to the community cat overpopulation problems we see in our area.

The Hermitage provides a trap rental service for a fully refundable fee of \$40. We also train on how to use the traps, and provide general information for effective trapping. For \$10 our trained staff offers a TNR course periodically to anyone interested in helping with feral colony management. This course takes an in-depth look at the benefits of TNR, offers trapping tips and strategies, and provides hands-on training.

TNR efforts provide many benefits to the community, the most important of which is saving the lives of innocent cats. It is important that our community, as well as others, continues to support efforts that will improve the quality of life for the cats of Southern Arizona.

*Emma Crawford, Marketing Specialist*



*Three of our feral residents: Clooney & Ebony (top) & Puzzle (bottom)*

## Feline Leukemia vs Feline Immunodeficiency Virus



Kate

**H**ere at The Hermitage we house many cats who have conditions that would make them undesirable and sometimes at risk for euthanasia in other shelter environments. Among these diseases are Feline Leukemia Virus (**FeLV**) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (**FIV**). There are several misconceptions about these two diseases, and we hope to provide a few facts about each of them here.

**FeLV:** Feline Leukemia Virus is a viral form of cancer that attacks a type of white blood cell called a Lymphocyte. This causes the cat's immune system to have more difficulty fighting off other diseases and infections, and can sometimes be fatal. It is spread mainly through mucous and saliva, but does not live very long outside of the host, so direct contact is usually necessary to transmit the virus. It is also possible for a mother to transmit the disease to her nursing infants. Luckily, exposure at a young age can often be overcome, and we have had several kittens who have tested positive for FeLV but ended up completely clearing the virus by the age of six months.

However, an FeLV-positive cat will not necessarily be constantly sick. Often times FeLV-positive kitties live long, full lives without developing any adverse symptoms. We have several geriatric FeLV kitties here at the shelter who can attest to that, such as Clover, a sweet yet stubborn little tortie who has reached the lofty age of 16 years old, as well as her son, Regal, who is an admirable 14 years of age.

Alternatively, sometimes an FeLV-positive cat will come down with an infection or illness, but will overcome it regardless. "More difficult" does not mean "impossible," after all. A prime example of this would be three-year-old Kate, who earlier this year came down with a horrible infection that would have left any cat with a grim prognosis. Kate, however, bounced back and now has the spunk and attitude of a true survivor.

There is a vaccine available for FeLV, and it will often be recommended by a vet after a cat tests negative for this disease.

**FIV:** Comparable to HIV in humans, though with less of a likelihood of fatality, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus is another type of virus that affects a cat's immune system. Like FeLV, FIV can make it more difficult for cats to fight off other diseases and infections. However, FIV is much more difficult

to spread, as it is transmitted through blood, not mucous. It is even possible (though not recommended) for FIV-positive kitties to co-habitate with those that do not have the virus, assuming they aren't prone to fighting.

Here at the Shelter we have rarely seen FIV lead to death. We have several happy, healthy kitties (as well as some shy ones) taking up residence here in our FIV ward, such as Tac, a sweet gentleman who can usually be found on the patio, watching the pigeons, and enjoying the breeze.

There is also a vaccine available for FIV; however, it is not widely used and sometimes is believed to be ineffective.

If you have any interest in adopting Clover, Regal, Kate, or Tac, or any of our other special-needs kitties, please feel free to inquire about our Lease for Life program, in which we cover the costs of any possible complications of these diseases. Many of these amazing cats are often overlooked due to their "undesirable" condition, and we want to encourage a brighter, more realistic outlook on adopting a special-needs cat.

*Jennifer Middleton, Lead Veterinary Technician*



Clover



Tac

## You CAN Make a Difference Internship Opportunities at The Hermitage

**Despite** the pressures many students are under to receive good grades, very few employers actually look at transcripts. What they look for is real experience. They want to know that you can take what you've learned and use your knowledge to further the success of their business.

Internships are beneficial because they provide hands-on experience to students and allow them to "test drive" different careers and organizations. Students can demonstrate to a potential employer that they've not only absorbed information in a classroom setting, but they've then been able to apply that knowledge in a real-life situation. Internships also offer students the opportunity to network and establish those connections that are so important in any career.

In the past, The Hermitage has offered internships to vet tech students looking for that hands-on experience to supplement their classroom learning. These students have had the opportunity to work with our medical staff in every part of their day: giving medications, drawing blood, bathing cats, and more. Currently we work with the Pima Medical Institute and Pima Community College vet tech students to continue to provide them with hands-on medical experience.

Recently we have opened our doors to interns interested in learning all aspects of shelter operations. Under this internship, students have the opportunity to learn everything from administrative duties to fundraising to medical care and everything in between.

An Internship at The Hermitage offers a unique learning experience that you won't necessarily get someplace else. Running a nonprofit organization presents many challenges that a for-profit business doesn't really face. The cats in our care depend on us for everything: food, shelter, and medical care. We can't just forgo these things when there is no funding available. Interns here learn various strategies to find donations of money and supplies so that we can continue to operate.

Another unique experience interns find at our shelter is the level of emotional involvement. The environment we work in can be emotional and ever changing. Interns are exposed to situations where they must think on their feet to make logical decisions based on gut instinct. Our interns learn to handle themselves during these highly stressful and emotional situations. Most internships don't provide that experience.

The unique benefits of our internship program are innumerable. Spending time with our cats, getting to know their personalities, and witnessing all the progress we make with them are hugely rewarding. And where else can you cheer up with kitty cuddles in the middle of a work day?

*Heather Passananti-Garcia, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator*

### Special Thanks to Our Media Sponsors

A special thank you to all our loyal media partners for providing exposure for our sweet, adoptable kitties with repeat media exposure:

**On Air:**

KGUN 9 News & "Morning Blend"

Tuesdays @ 11AM

KVOA-TV 4 & "Kitty Korner"

Tuesdays @ Noon

**In Print:**

Arizona Daily Star: Caliente Section

Coffee News

The Observer Weekly



### Look for Us on



## Extra Special Adoptions in 2014

**O**ne of the most rewarding aspects of being involved with animal rescue is that moment when a kitty here at The Hermitage finally meets a loving family who is willing to open their hearts and homes to a new fuzzy family member!

As of today The Hermitage has found loving homes for nearly 400 kitties in 2014 alone. While every adoption is special, there are always a few that stand out for the staff here. These are the heartwarming stories of kitties who were considered unadoptable by others and minutes away from being euthanized before finding solace with The Hermitage. These are the kitties who are long-time residents at our shelter and whom we thought may never learn to love or trust again. But with time, attention, and love from a devoted staff who treat them as their own children, we get to experience the joy and privilege of watching the kitties learn to love again. This sometimes takes years, but it is always worth it in the end, and we would like to take a moment to highlight some of our favorite success stories for this issue of the “Tabby Tabloid.”

Meet Tigger and Brody. These two guys came to The Hermitage in 2010 and tested FIV+. Unfortunately, FIV is a death sentence at many shelters; cats will be euthanized almost immediately even though FIV is merely a suppressed immune system and rarely affects their health. It did not take long for us to realize that Brody was not the friendliest of guys, especially to other cats. Until he met Tigger. From day one they were inseparable, and in time, both became the sweetest love-bugs. As time passed we were convinced that they would become permanent residents due to their FIV and having to go to a home together. We all thought it was hopeless until August 17th when they met their perfect parent! It was a beautiful yet bittersweet day to finally watch them go home. The entire staff cried tears of joy as they left—together—for their new home!

FelV+ cats share the same horrible fate as FIV+ cats, unless they find themselves at The Hermitage. In February of this year Athena, Demeter, and Ares were fortunate to find shelter with us here as they were close to being euthanized at another shelter only because they are FelV+. These siblings came to us frightened and alone after having been abandoned and transported from one location to another. When they finally reached The Hermitage they were so scared and untrusting that they could barely be approached. With time and socialization they started to become extremely affectionate, so much so that it became impossible to sit down without the three of them jumping into your lap. They quickly earned the moniker “the triplets!” In September, a family walked through our doors in search of a new family member. Immediately they fell in love with one of the triplets, but did not have the heart to separate them. After a quiet family meeting with the triplets they strolled into the front lobby and said, “Well, of course, we HAVE to take all three home!” Athena, Demeter, and Ares are now in a wonderful home with a loving family and will be able to spend the rest of their lives together.

Some beautiful kitties are often deemed unadoptable simply because of their age or the fact that they are timid. We here at The Hermitage completely disagree and know that with enough love and care they can learn to trust again and find homes. Paprika is a perfect example of this. She came to us in 2011 as a six-year-old girl. For quite a while we were not sure if she was even in the house as we never saw much of her. Eventually she began to trust us—to give her treats at least. Slowly but surely she warmed up to us and in January she began to seek affection. Finally, after years of trying, we were successful: Paprika had learned to love again. And in November, Paprika found a new family and a home all to herself.

These are just a few stories about the hundreds of wonderful, beautiful kitties that pass through our doors each year. All of them have their own individual stories and personalities. What many people do not realize is that many of our kitties are rescued from Pima Animal Care Center and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, as well as numerous other kill shelters in Arizona when they are scheduled to be euthanized. Last year alone we rescued roughly 500 cats from Pima Animal Care Center that were going to be destroyed. Unfortunately, it is becoming much more difficult for us to continue rescuing these cats, as we do not receive any funding from these large organizations from whom we rescue the most in need. With an average cost of \$600 per cat we rescue, we rely completely on the generosity of animal lovers and local businesses to support our shelter and its no-kill philosophy. Please find it in your heart to make a donation or pass the word to your friends! Let us all save The Hermitage so that we can save more lives and create success stories like Tigger and Brody, the Triplets, or sweet little Paprika. Donating is even easier now: you can text “KITTY” to 80888 or just go to [www.savethehermitage.org](http://www.savethehermitage.org).

*Ryan Inama, Adoption Manager*

● from the **adoptions department**



Tigger



Athena



Brody



Paprika



Ares



Demeter

● tributes & donations

## In Honor Of

**Terence De Carolis**

*Janice Shelton-Crebbs*

**Andy Hernandez for his birthday**

*John & Trudi Sofias*

**Katarina, my Hermitage cat - 12 years and going strong**

*Megan Anderson*

**Peter Molfetas**

*Ann Strunk*

**Ann Racy for her birthday**

*Michal Glines*

**Gail Roberts for her birthday**

*Miki Rodgers*

**Jan Sturges for her birthday**

*Mary Beth Harris & Don*

## In Memory Of

**Alfred, beloved husband**

*Ann Stockdale*

**Atila**

*Kitty Weekes*

**Roy DeJarlar & his little girl Mai-Li**

*Charles Jones*

**Fellini & Little Boy**

*Richard Rohrbough*

**Karen Sue Fiscel**

*Linda Sottnek*

**Deborah Heidenheim**

*Wade & Sharon Poteet*

*Sylvia Pozarnsky & Thomas Riley*

*Ed & Nancy Landes*

*David & Kay Bard Gray*

*Lonnie & Mike Ross*

**Jake**

*Kitty Weekes*

**Raymond Kunkel**

*Amanda Curry*

**Christine Mankowitz**

*Susan Enholm*

**Meatball, mastiff & lover of cats**

*Stephanie Anderson*

**Obi**

*Michael Green*

**Phoebe Jones Snyder**

*Don & LeNell Couteau*

**The Boy Named Mary**

*Virginia Casner*

**Molly Weekes**

*Kitty Weekes*

**John S. Welsh, MD**

*Virginia Unger*

## In Memory of Our Hermitage Cats Lost in 2014



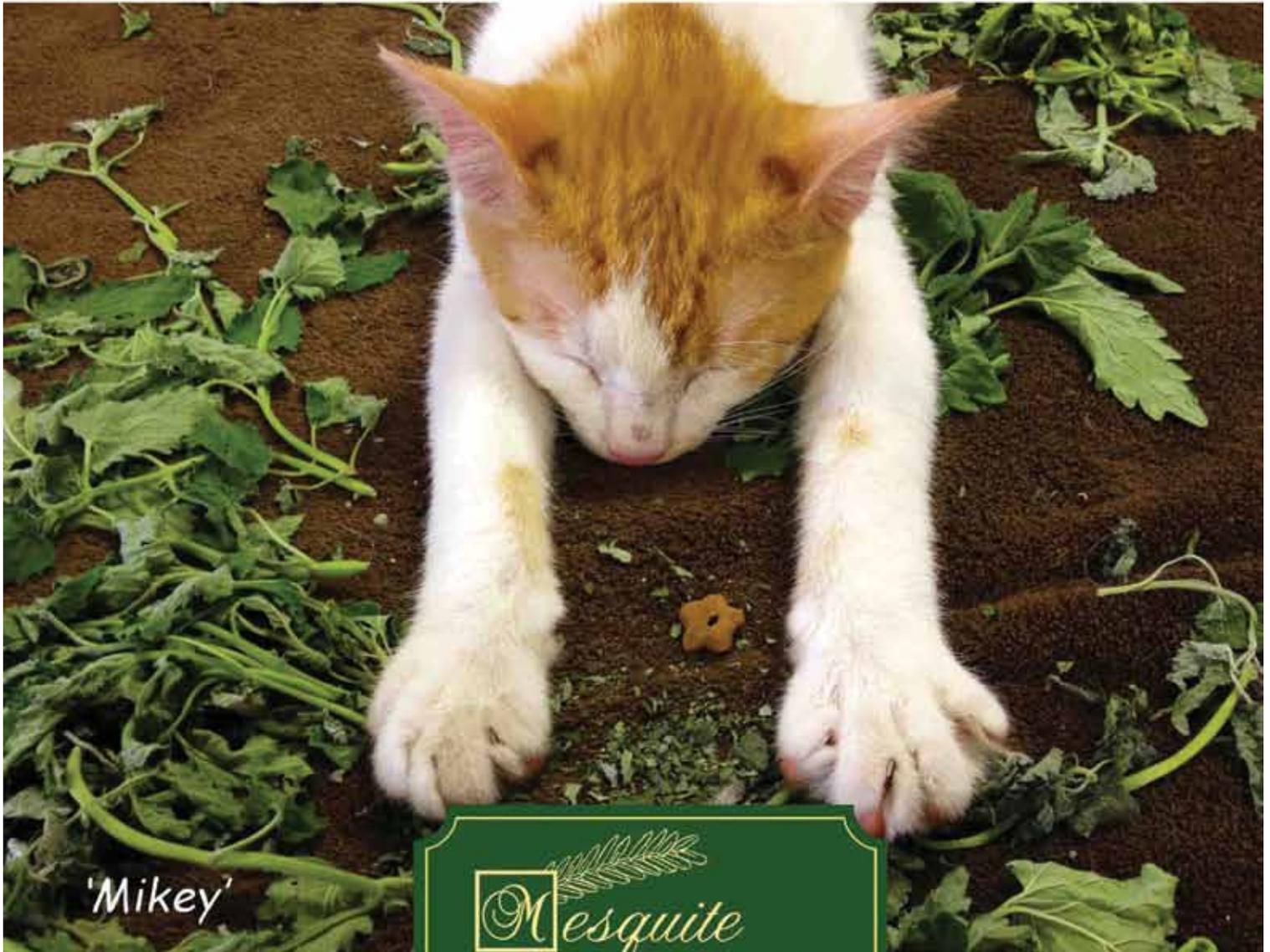
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**PAWS TO REMEMBER HERMITAGE MEMORIALS**  
You can remember and memorialize your loving person or pet through donations made to The Hermitage. Memorial donations are acknowledged by a personalized card that is mailed to the recipient. Donations of \$30.00 or more will include having your memorial printed in the memorial section of the Tabby Tabloid.

**For more information, please contact  
Heather Passananti-Garcia at 520.571.7839  
or email [heather@hermitagecatshelter.org](mailto:heather@hermitagecatshelter.org)**

*(tributes and gifts reflect donations received from 06/01/14 thru 12/10/14.)*

We work hard every day at *Mesquite Valley Growers Nursery*, but knowing that one more kitty found a forever home is worth it all. Mikey here, would like to invite you to come visit his many rescued and adoptable mates! Call Cathy at (520) 721-8600 for an appointment for a private visit to our Sanctuary at 1230 N. Pantano just north of Speedway Blvd.



*'Mikey'*



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### **New Hours for The Hermitage:**

Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 am–5:00 pm  
Closed Sundays & Mondays

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