

Volume 1, Issue 2

January—March  
2008



# Maricopa County Animal Care and Control



## Trailin' Tails Newsletter

### Grand Opening of New West Valley Animal Care Center



One of the many dogs that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home— he got one!

On March 13, Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) officially opened the doors of its new shelter! On hand for the exciting event were MCACC Director Rodrigo Silva, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chair Andy Kunasek, Board of Supervisors District 5 Representative Mary Rose Wilcox, and Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

unlike the previous outdated shelter built forty years ago.



programs, such as the spay/neuter no-cost voucher program, and adoption counseling. There are a number of get-acquainted rooms, where potential adopters can interact directly with the animal they are considering adopting. This is a new and important feature that the old shelter did not have. There is also more office space for processing the skyrocketing number of vouchers being redeemed for MCACC's no-cost spay/neuter voucher program.



The new facility – nearly four years in the making - offers a comfortable and inviting environment for both humans and animals. Dog runs, puppy pens and cat cubbies are designed with the animals' health and welfare in mind,

There is a large, state-of-the-art clinic for treating sick and injured animals, and quarantine areas with separate ventilation, to prevent the spread of disease. The pet-viewing areas and service lobbies are people-friendly as well, with brighter, open spaces. There are separate entrances for those looking to adopt a pet, and those needing to relinquish a pet, to make those processes easier for each.



MCACC's new west side facility is capable of supporting its innovative

Please visit us at our new home: 2500 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Phoenix.

#### Inside this issue:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Letter From the Director      | 2   |
| Profile of a Shelter Employee | 3   |
| Upcoming Events               | 4   |
| Volunteer Info                | 4/5 |
| Lost Dog Reunited with Owner  | 6   |
| Uno Por Uno A Success         | 7   |
| Child Dog Bite Prevention     | 7   |

## Go for a Run & Have Lunch with Your Dog!

**Join us for Iguana Mack's 2nd annual Roadhouse Fun Run – a morning of fun, fitness & lunch!**

**Saturday – April 26, '08 – 8AM TO 1PM**  
TO BENEFIT  
**Maricopa County Animal Care & Control**

**A dog friendly 2 mile fun run/walk followed by lunch with your favorite canine. Registration fee \$20 per person, includes event T-shirt.**

Pick up registration form at:  
Iguana Mack's lobby • 1371 N. Alma School Rd • Chandler  
or visit [www.IguanaMacks.com](http://www.IguanaMacks.com)

**Following the run/walk, \$5.95 people lunch specials on the patio and \$3 dog lunches available.**  
Reservations recommended 480-899-6735.

Your attendance will raise needed funds and support for Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC), with onsite Pet Adoptions available.  
**Fun for the whole family!**





Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control without you spending a dime!



One of the many cats that have come through MCACC's facilities needing a new home.

### Animal First Aid Kit:

First Aid Book

Gauze pads

Bandages

Cotton Tipped Applicators

Muzzle

Cold Pack

Antiseptic Wipes

Disposable Gloves

## From the Director—Where do the Pits Go?



As a young adult, I had an American Staffordshire Terrier who was given up by her previous owners because she was "too hyper." Tatanka, as I named her, gave me many happy, love-filled years. We were meant for each other; we hiked, jogged and played together. She was not only a companion, but also my best friend and confidant. Tatanka never hurt anyone or anything. She was a big dog with a puppy's attitude and a tear-jerking love for little kids. All the children in the neighborhood knew her by name and would play her favorite games, such as "throw the ball and never get it back," "chase me –you'll never catch me," "pin you down and lick your face," and many others.

When Tatanka's life was senselessly taken by a poisoned piece of meat, she took with her forever a piece of my heart. I can't understand what would have made someone take the life of such a precious, loving creature. Perhaps it was fear caused by the size and stature of that awe-inspiring animal which made that unkind heart kill that big, gentle spirit. Phantom heartaches stab my chest when I see the Pitbulls in our shelter. I know that most of them won't make it to the next day.

What have we done to these beautiful dogs? Pitbulls were once the "Nanny dog of America." There was a time when Petey the Pitbull accompanied the Little Rascals in all their adventures, warming children's hearts throughout the Nation.

Today, many Bullies love and are loved by their families. Unfortunately, many more will lose their lives at the gentle hands of a shelter worker who couldn't possibly find good homes for them all.

Did you know that almost a third of all the dogs coming through the animal shelter system in the Valley are Pitbulls? Yes, you read it right; approximately 20,000 Pitbulls will find themselves in a shelter every year. Most of them are good dogs in need of a loving home.

Pitbulls are intelligent, precocious, and athletic dogs that will do nearly anything asked of them. They are hard-wired to be animal aggressive and people must be mindful of this heritage, especially around children and small animals. Although wonderful companions, Pitbulls are not for beginners; these are dogs that need an experienced and well-informed owner who is ready to make a commitment. They need a kind but firm caretaker that can funnel their gleeful zest for life through exercise, training and service. These dogs will return your care and attention ten-fold; they will always be loving and devoted to their families.

Most of the ones we see in our shelters are there because their owners did not know what they were getting into when they acquired a Bully. Sadly, there are not enough good homes for them. These beautiful animals have a greater risk of being euthanized than any other breed. In fact, a 50% higher risk.

Rescue groups don't want them as they are harder to place than any other dog. Many people don't understand the breed and are unreasonably afraid of them. Of all the Bullies in the shelter, less than 1% will go to a rescue group, 12% will be claimed by their owners, and 10% will be adopted. Over 73% will be euthanized.

Together we need to stop the irrational breeding of Pitbulls. What can you do to save these beautiful animals? If you own a Pitbull, sterilize him, train him, and socialize him. Encourage friends and family to sterilize their dogs. If you are looking for a pet, do not buy from a store, the newspaper, or the backyard breeder. Adopt your new dog from the animal shelter. Volunteer to support your favorite animal shelter.

The shelters alone cannot solve the problem. It is up to us as a community to end this tragedy.



## Profile of MCACC's Shelter Manager

"It's not enough to love animals. You have to love people too." That's Linda Soto's advice to those thinking of going into a career in the animal welfare world. It's important to recognize that you are providing customer service to both [groups], she says.



Linda Soto, Shelter Division Manager for Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC), knows of what she speaks. Her job is to oversee the day-to-day operations of all three MCACC shelters, which involves everything from reuniting people with their lost pets and managing staff, to promoting pet adoptions and making life-and-death decisions about [sick and injured] animals who come through the door. Although it is a stressful job, to be sure, Linda tries to focus on the positives – like the fact that MCACC has not euthanized a healthy animal in over two years.

But the bigger picture is even more heartening. In just 15 years of working in the animal welfare field, Linda has witnessed a sea change in attitude. The public's expectations for animal care have evolved in a very positive way. The animal-care community itself has come a long way as well. When Linda first started, you were perceived as either "a murderer or a bunny-hugger." If a shelter put an animal down, even for humane reasons, it was essentially blacklisted.

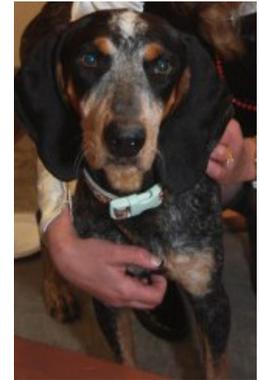
But if it was a "no-Kill" shelter (to use the term of the times), it could do no wrong.

But the distinction is not that black-and-white, and in recent years, animal groups have realized that they can better achieve the goal of saving lives if they work together.

It was that kind of progressive thinking that drew Linda to MCACC in early 2006. Under the guidance of Director Rodrigo Silva, MCACC has formed a coalition of New Hope partners that share the burden of taking care of so many needy animals, started a foster program, launched a no-cost spay/ neuter voucher program, and begun building a modern new shelter, to better serve the needs of both pets and people. So Linda applied for and got the job of Shelter Division Manager.

For the twelve years prior to that, she had worked in various positions at Pima County (Tucson) Animal Care/Control. At Pima, she started out on the animal care staff, cleaning kennels, feeding and adopting out animals. Then she became a field officer, moving up to serve as a cruelty investigator. Though it was a tough job, she liked making a direct difference, to educate people about treating animals humanely.

In Linda Soto, animals and people alike have a dedicated advocate.



Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of MCACC's shelters.

### Puppy and Kitten Season is Here — Spay and Neuter Your Pets

Every Spring our shelter fills up with puppies and kittens. Help solve the problem and get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC gets in over 50,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets! MCACC's the Big Fix No-Cost Spay/ Neuter Voucher Program offers a free spay or neuter surgery for your cat or dog. Please visit us on the web at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov) to print out a form or call us at (602) 506-PETS.

## Friends of Animal Care and Control Thrift Store



The FACCs thrift shop sells a wide variety of gently used items. Proceeds from the sales fund MCACC's valuable programs.

**FACCs Thrift Shop**  
**12625 N. Cave Creek Road (North of Thunderbird)**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85022**  
**602-923-6914**

**Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10am—4pm**      **Donation Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 am — 3 pm**      **Sunday 11 am - 2 pm**

Do you love animals? Do you have some items that you'd like to donate to charity? Please donate them to the FACCs thrift shop! The store is currently accepting the following gently used items:

- Clothing, purses, jewelry and shoes
- Dishes, glassware, utensils
- Furniture - indoor and outdoor
- Children's clothing and toys (no furniture or car seats please)
- Books
- Tools
- Household items (lamps, linens, bedspreads)
- Kitchen and office appliances
- Computers, printers, software
- Artwork
- Cell phones, PDA's



For a large item (or large amount), call us to arrange a free pick up at (602) 997-7399.

**FACC's mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising**



MCACC took in over 40,000 dogs last year. Please give one a good home!

## Upcoming Events

|             |   |                           |
|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| April 13—19 | Animal Control Appreciation Week        |                           |
| April 25—27 | Maricopa County Home and Landscape Show | Arizona State Fairgrounds |
|             | Friday & Saturday 10 am—7 pm            | Sunday 10 am—6 pm         |
| April 26th  | Iguana Mack's Roadhouse Run             | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm         |
|             | 1371 N Alma School Road Chandler, AZ    |                           |
| May 4—10    | National Be Kind to Animals Week        |                           |
| May 18—24   | National Dog Bite Prevention Week       |                           |
| June        | National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month      |                           |

### Rabies Clinic

**Specials: \$20**

#### Cat Adoption Center —

Wed—Fri 11:00—5:00

Sat & Sun Noon—4:00

#### West and East Shelters

Sundays Noon—4:00

Mondays 9:00—11:00

Tuesdays 9:00—11:00



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please give one a good home!

### Are You a Volunteer Trainer?

Volunteer Trainers assume roles of leadership and serve as a mentor to new or less experienced MCACC Volunteers. Volunteer Trainers act as the “go to” person in the shelter and at MCACC events. To be a trainer, you must have a minimum of 20 hours experience in the shelter.

Our volunteer program could not succeed or grow without our trainers.



Becoming a trainer is easy! Let our volunteer manager know if you are interested. Call 602-506-8133

### Volunteer Updates!



**Adoption Cards:** To be given to every adopter once you approve them (be sure to use only grease pens on them). Don't forget to use the questions on the back to counsel and educate the adopters.

**Schedules:** It is extremely important that you write the times when you will be in on the large calendar in the volunteer room. Preferred shifts are:

- M-F: 10:45-2:30pm / 12-3:30pm / 2:30-5:45pm
- Sa: 10:30am-2:00pm / 12-3:30pm / 2:00-5:45pm
- Su: 11:45-4pm

**Mylars and Completed Adoptions:** Be sure to mylar all adopted animals and flip their kennel card.

**Greeting:** Make it your goal to greet every customer and provide the best customer service so they will tell their friends/family to adopt from us!

**West Volunteers:** We need your help here now MORE THAN EVER. So many folks are coming in to adopt. We need you here when we are open for adoptions. Be sure to check keys out from the adoption lobby before beginning your shift.

### Recognize our Outstanding Volunteers!



December 07—Joseph Gonzales

January 08—Mary Beth Paden

February 08—Sean Ardaiz

March 08—Christine Maxwell

April 08—Mare Czinar

May 08—Could this be you???

PetsMart recently awarded one of our Volunteers, Sean Ardaiz, for their National Lifesaving Volunteer Award. Sean's award donates \$500 to our shelter and he will be recognized in PetsMart's next newsletter!

**Our volunteers of the month are nominated by MCACC staff and recognized for the excellent service they provide.**

### Donation Drive

Any time is a good time to hold a donation drive for the animals in our shelter. We are always in need of blankets, towels, canned food, leashes and toys.

### NEW! Adoption Class

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST ATTEND

All volunteers are required to attend an adoptions class. These are held twice a month from 2-6pm. On the first Sunday of the month they are held at our East shelter and on the third Sunday at our West shelter.

In these classes volunteers learn all about breeds, animal body language, shelter disease and cleaning and most importantly matchmaking skills for successful adoptions!



**Our adoption numbers have dramatically RISEN since more volunteers began helping in adoptions!**

### Become a Volunteer

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control(MCACC) is in need of volunteers to spend valuable time helping homeless and misplaced animals n our community. MCACC receives up 200 homeless animals each and every day! There is a rewarding and dynamic volunteer experience waiting for you. Whether you are interested in walking dogs, petting kittens, or assisting with adoptions there is a way you can help!

Call our Volunteer Coordinator at (602) 506-8133 or email her at: erinmaupin@mail.maricopa.gov

To reduce costs and save money for other programs, like spay/neuter, we offer this newsletter electronically. To sign up, please visit us at : [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)

MCACC wants thank our Uno por Uno partners:





Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of our shelters.

## Lost Dog Reunited with Family Two Years Later

Proof of how important it is to not only have a license for your dog, but to get him microchipped as well:

A Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) Field Officer found a white pit bull running in the street. The Officer was able to easily get the dog safely off the street and into his field truck. Officers always check stray dogs for licenses and microchips. This dog had no license on him, but when scanned for a microchip, one came up.



Piggy back with his family

Back at the shelter, when the chip information was entered into a computer a Texas phone number popped up. A MCACC employee called the phone number and received quite a surprise when the person who answered the phone started to cry. "You must be mistaken. That dog was stolen from our back yeyears ago!" But when a picture of

into his mom's chest and seemed very content.

The family loaded themselves into their car for the long, happy drive back home. "The trip was worth it, to have Piggy back with us."

the dog was sent to her, she called right back and cried, "I can't believe it. That's our Piggy!" The surprised owner jumped in her car after work and drove the 10 hours to come get her long, lost dog.

Tired from their journey, the family walked into the shelter doors, excited to see the dog they thought was lost forever. When Piggy made his entrance, there were tears and smiles all around. "That's him. He's a little beat up, but that's our boy!" After only a few minutes, Piggy seemed to remember his long lost family. He backed up

## Pet Tips— Housebreaking Your Dog

Once you have your new puppy home, one of the most important tasks is to teach him when and where it is appropriate to go to the bathroom. Housebreaking requires a strategy based on three components:

**Consistency:** a consistent walking schedule catered to the dog's developmental stage and individual preference

**Confinement:** a method that helps build bladder and bowel control

**Cleaning:** a good enzymatic odor neutralizer to clean up accidents

What is a suitable schedule? A puppy usually needs to eliminate after waking, eating and exercising. Charting his output will help you predict his needs accurately. Puppies can control themselves roughly one hour for each month of age, up to nine or ten hours. At three and a half to four months, they can usually stay clean for six to seven hours overnight, but soil more frequently during the day. Three walks a day is fine for most dogs eight months or older.

Confinement, preferably in a training crate of the proper size, builds control by associating the puppy's distaste for soiling in his own space with soiling inside the house in general. Remember the above guidelines however; it is unfair to crate a puppy for longer than he is physically able to control himself. If you have to be gone for longer than that, confine him instead to a small space such as a bathroom, with papers at one end and a bed and toys at the other.

When you are home, the puppy should wear a leash and collar and remain under your control, whether you're training him to use papers or a yard. If you don't acclimate him to your presence while he's relieving himself, you may create a dog who won't soil in front of you, but waits until he's back in the house and can disappear behind the sofa or under a table.



Help us control the pet overpopulation problem. Get you pet spayed or neutered!

## Teach Your Children Dog Bite Prevention

A dog can quickly become a child's best friend. It is a wonderful relationship, but it can also turn dangerous. A majority of children under the age of 13 get bit by a dog, a lot of times in the face. There are some things kids can do to keep safe around their family dog and other dogs.

### DON'T:

- ◇ Put your face close to a dog
- ◇ Pull his ears or tail
- ◇ Try to take his toy or food
- ◇ Wake him from sleep
- ◇ Play chase or tug of war
- ◇ Run from him
- ◇ Play in his crate
- ◇ Lean over or step over him

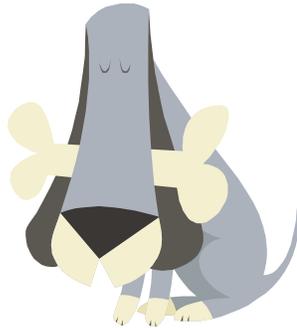
### DO:

- ◇ Scratch him on his sides
- ◇ Rub his chest and belly
- ◇ Play fetch and hide 'n seek
- ◇ Wait for dog to come to you
- ◇ Walk around sleeping dog
- ◇ Be calm around dogs
- ◇ Ask adult to let dog out of crate
- ◇ Walk dog on leash

Sometimes dogs can get too rough in their play or you can encounter a dog who is acting aggressive. What do you do?

- ◇ Stand straight with hands at sides
- ◇ Do not make eye contact — look at the ground
- ◇ Wait for dog to lose interest and slowly back away
- ◇ Never, ever run away or scream
- ◇ If on ground, curl up with hands over ears

Be a good dog owner. Learn training tips with your parents. Exercise your dog, feed and water him, give him a warm place to sleep and lots of love. Follow the above tips and everyone will be happy and safe!



## Uno Por Uno A Success

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) strives to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect all pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness. The best way to do that is to educate pet owners about responsible pet ownership, spaying and neutering, the leash law, vaccinations, and pet licensing.



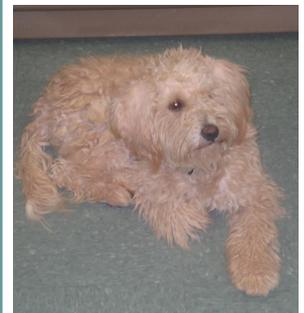
The goal's are to have licensing compliance increase and dog bites and impoundments go down. Aptly named, 'Uno por Uno,' this project was designed to reach neighborhoods one by one, serve families one by one and to save animals one by one.

During this year's Uno por Uno campaign almost 1100 Rabies vaccinations were administered, over 800 spay/neuter surgeries were performed, and more than 300 licenses were issued. In addition, bilingual educational materials were distributed regarding responsible pet ownership.

MCACC devised a plan to "saturate" high-risk areas 'one by one' with increased outreach, spay/neuter, vaccination, enforcement and education efforts.

### Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!

- Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 8:30 a.m.
- Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.
- Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5 FM



One of the lucky dogs to find a new home through MCACC this year.



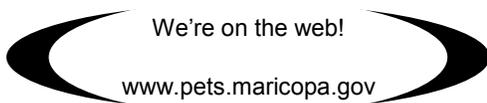
Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center 2500 S. 27th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009  
East Valley Care Center 2630 W. 8th St. Mesa, AZ 85201

Cat Adoption Center 5231 N. 35th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85017

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov



MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets.

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care/stray dog pick up
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers

## Ways to Help the Animals

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services. However, as a County department, MCACC is unable to solicit donations.

By becoming a donor of your dollars, your time, or by holding a donation drive, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible for MCACC to reach its goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.



### Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739  
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org)

Please send me information about the following

- ◇ How to Volunteer
- ◇ How to Donate
- ◇ Information on: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MCACC Community Relations  
2500 S. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009