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# THE Woof & purr POST

FALL ISSUE

2020

## Rubber Duck Pluck

### a quackin' success

#### Toby, professionally trained duck-plucking dog picks the winners

The event was held Saturday, July 4th and is a fundraiser to help finish building the new shelter which will be located at 1321 N 16th Street in Show Low. The building is nearly complete and will provide a state-of-the-art home for animals that are waiting to be adopted or for their owners to find them if they become lost. Pet Allies typically sees over 1200 animals a year at its shelter.

"Five thousand rubber ducks were placed in an artificial pond and Toby entered the pond 3 times to pull the lucky ducks. There were 3 winners this year, first place \$2500 to Margaret Andrews, second place \$1000 to Marilyn Ringland and third place \$500 to Joanne Feller. The attendees really enjoyed watching Toby pluck the ducks!" according to Director RJ Owens. "Toby was adopted from Pet Allies and is an example of how well shelter pets can do in a loving home."

Other ducks present at the event were Quackers, who had been in the float on the Deuce of Clubs for a week and Moby Duck, the 20 foot duck was available for selfies. Normally, these ducks would have been out and about for picture opportunities but this year was a bit different due to Covid.



*Michel Petersen and  
Lacey Jones welcomed  
event attendees*

"Local business sponsored this event despite the current difficult times and financial challenges they were experiencing. Please support those

who support your local charities. A list of Pet Allies sponsors can be found on the website [www.PetAlliesAz.org/duck](http://www.PetAlliesAz.org/duck)." Stated Board Chair Lisa Jonas.

Determined supporters purchased a lot of fun items from the mini thrift store, silent auction items were won, and many other activities were enjoyed by the attendees. Look for this event again in 2021 on July 4th. Save the date! The ducks sold out this year so plan to get your raffle ticket early. The event brought in approximately \$30,000 to help with shelter construction costs. If you would like to tour the shelter contact RJ Owens at 928-243-0695.

*See Toby the Rubber Duck Plucking Dog's Tale on page 3*

# Pistol

## Firing on most cylinders

Pistol came to Pet Allies as an adult cat, 2 years old. He had such personality we thought the name suited him! He has a great attitude despite having suffered a severe trauma of some kind that injured his right rear leg. Sadly, the leg had nerve damage that could not be repaired and so it had to be amputated.

Many shelters would not spend the funds for just another black and white cat, but your donations to Pet Allies are what make it possible for the shelter to care for Pistol, as we would hope a family would do, until he finds the good home he deserves.

At the time of this writing he is healing, had his sutures removed and is ready for his newest adventure in a new home. Since Pistol is special needs, with just 3 legs, he really needs to be an inside cat and we are sure someone will enjoy his antics and find their days more enjoyable with his companionship.

This cat is just one of the many animals you have helped through your support whether its financial, time or talent. Thank you.



# THANK YOU!

## your generosity helps animals

### PET ALLIES RECEIVES \$3,000 MATCHING GRANT *Jill Tinkel State Farm Insurance Making a Difference*

Local insurance agent Jill Tinkel State Farm offers \$3,000 matching grant to Pet Allies.

Pet Allies has been working toward building a modern and much needed new animal shelter located in Show Low, Arizona at 1321 N 16th Street. Jill Tinkel has been instrumental in helping the organization reach its funding goals in order to finish construction on a 5,000 square foot shelter building.

“Pet Allies is one of many community organizations (also called non-profits or charities) who provide services highly

valued in the community. Jill Tinkel State Farm is one of the local businesses that supports not only Pet Allies but many



*Jill Tinkel and O.D. present RJ Owens with check for \$3,000*  
charities in town and improves the lives of all those who live

here directly and indirectly.” States Director RJ Owens. “We are still short of the total funds we need to complete shelter construction and Jill Tinkel State Farm is determined to make this happen.” Jill Tinkel donated \$1500 personally and successfully applied for a matching grant from State Farm. The cost to build one of the 28 double dog kennels in the shelter is \$3,000. Anyone that donates \$3,000 will receive a plaque permanently placed on a kennel as a thank you for their tax-deductible donation.

## TNR (Trap, Neuter & Release)

### Why it Works

Pet Allies encourages everyone to think about TNR.

What is TNR? It stands for Trap, Neuter and Return. Free roaming cats are found in large numbers in our community. People are losing their homes and abandon their cats, leaving them outside (or sometimes inside) when they move. The result is that the cats breed, grow in numbers and become a nuisance for the other people living in the cat's area.

Per “Wild About Cats” TNR works. The breeding stops. Populations are gradually reduced. The annoying behaviors of breeding cats, like yowling or spraying, stop.

The cats are vaccinated against disease, and they are fed on a regular schedule. This ongoing care creates a safety net for both the cats and

the community.

The traditional approach to reducing feral cat numbers has been to round them up and remove them. But bringing feral cats to shelters is the same as a death sentence. Because they are wild and therefore unadoptable, they end up being euthanized. So do their healthy kittens, who, if trapped by 10 weeks of age, can be socialized and adopted. Recently Pet Allies was contacted by a large retailer about wild cats living around their buildings. They simply wanted to remove the cats. Again, quoting Wild About Cats “Eradication doesn't work. Trap-and-remove schemes — which must be done on an ongoing basis — are extremely costly to communities. What's more, other cats move in

to take advantage of the newly available resources and they breed prolifically, quickly forming a new colony. This “vacuum effect” is well-documented.

There is a solution that not only reduces feral cat populations, but also improves the lives of feral cats: Trap-Neuter-Return. TNR is a proven procedure in which entire colonies of stray and feral cats are humanely trapped, then evaluated, vaccinated, and neutered by veterinarians. Kittens and tame cats are adopted into good homes. Adult cats too wild to be adopted are returned to live out their lives under the watch of voluntary caregivers.”

# WELLNESS & WONDERS

## Rabbits and Hemorrhagic Fever

by Marguerite Tan

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Strain 2 (RHDV2) is a highly contagious disease caused by a calicivirus that affects both wild and domesticated rabbits. Having emerged in Europe in 2010, RHDV2 quickly spread to other countries. From first detection in Australia, the virus spread coast-to-coast in the wild and domestic rabbit population in 18 months (~3 million square miles, compared to United States' ~3.8 million square miles). In the Spring of 2020, RHDV2 was detected in both wild and domestic rabbits in the United States and Mexico and has since spread across the Southwest, including Navajo and Apache Counties. RHDV2 is a swift and sudden killer, with an incubation period of 3-5 days and a 90% death rate. Symptoms may include lethargy, high fever, seizures, and bleeding from nose and mouth. Rabbits frequently die without showing any symptoms. Rabbit owners are encouraged to practice biosecurity to protect their rabbits from the virus, including removing shoes worn outside before entering an area with a domestic rabbit. A limited number of vaccines are available within Arizona to protect rabbits against the virus. For more information and ways to help protect your rabbit visit: <https://aercmn.com/six-things-rabbit-owners-need-to-know-about-rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease-virus-rhdv/> OR [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf)

## TOBY: AN HONOR ROLL STUDENT

by Scarlett Coyle

The 7 month old pup sat apprehensively behind the man's leg, trying to be invisible. His face was a picture of foreboding- he knew exactly where he was & what was about to occur, plus he could hear the sound of a shelter full of dogs in the kennels beyond the door. He had been adopted 24 hours earlier at another location & had made the mistake of having an accident in his new home. His owners were now surrendering him to Pet Allies.

I had already decided to foster him & so he was neutered that afternoon at the Pet Allies Clinic & came home with me. That evening he was introduced to a new pack: a Great Dane, a Mastiff, a border collie/cattle dog & 2 dachshunds. His day had been a real roller coaster ride! I assured him his life was going to get better & he spent the remainder of that evening asleep on my lap, exhausted.

A few days later he met a lady that had recently lost her elderly dachshund &

a rescue greyhound. Her household was missing the sound of puppy paws & she was positive he was the perfect remedy for the situation. He had a new home & a new name...Toby! Toby sailed through puppy classes, canine good citizenship, and became a certified therapy dog doing weekly hospital visits where his new owner works. He's also



proficient at agility, rally, freestyle (dance), scent & search/rescue. In other words, Toby is a canine "honor roll" student. His favorite activities are learning new things, walks in the forest & camping. This July 4th Toby was trained by his owner to select 3 rubber ducks from a "pond" of 5000 & bring them, one at a time, to her. From pound puppy to official "duck plucker" & ambassador for shelter dogs Toby's story is a credit to PA dedication to homeless animals & his owner's love for a very special dog.



## What are key factors of being a Pet Allies board member?

### Organization

Excited about the organization and the programs that serve community. Supports our mission of stopping pet over-population through non-lethal means.

### Community Outreach

Keeps Pet Allies top of mind when networking and engaging with others in the community and promotes the best aspects of the organization.

### Fundraising

Helps identify funding opportunities and is actively involved in committees to bring revenue to the organization in support of our mission.

### Financial Oversight

Reviews annual budget and financial statements and helps guide Executive Director in major financial decisions.

### Participation

Applies your own set of skills, talents and interests to make the organization as diverse and as strong as it can be.

*To find out more information about Pet Allies please contact RJ Owens at 928-243-0695 or visit our website at [www.PetAlliesAZ.org](http://www.PetAlliesAZ.org)*

*If you are interested in becoming a Pet Allies Board Member, please email Lisa Jonas at [Lisa@PetAlliesAZ.org](mailto:Lisa@PetAlliesAZ.org)*



# Animal Shelter Construction Update

Construction on Pet Allies Show Low Animal Shelter began early this year amidst concerns about Covid-19 restrictions. Would construction be allowed? Would we continue to get support from our generous community members and local business supporters, while they themselves struggle? Every day was and continues to be an adventure.

But continue on we must! Pouring concrete, putting in the drains for the dog runs, hundreds of cement blocks arrive and are installed, and the building takes shape. Visitors who are given tours of the building in progress are amazed at the great design which take in several aspects of modern animal care. Many generous people made it possible for Pet Allies and the City of Show Low to work together toward a shelter that the town folk will be proud of for years to come.

Funding for finishing the shelter has been a challenge during this difficult time and we will persevere. The animals are counting on us!

To see pictures of the construction in progress visit the website at [www.petalliesaz.org/newshelter](http://www.petalliesaz.org/newshelter)  
Finally, if you would like a tour of the shelter contact RJ Owens, Director, at 928-243-0695.



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**Pet Allies Animal Shelter**  
1181 E Thornton Rd.  
Show Low, AZ 85901  
928-532-8009

**Pet Allies Spay/Neuter Clinic**  
4050 S White Mountain Rd.  
Show Low, AZ 85901  
928-532-1602

**[www.PetAlliesAZ.org](http://www.PetAlliesAZ.org)  
[info@PetAlliesAZ.org](mailto:info@PetAlliesAZ.org)**