



Together. For life.
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016
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Your supportive attitude
deserves our gratitude.

Dear Friends,

It's been a banner year, and it's all thanks to you! Together, we're **celebrating our 15th year** in existence and our 10th year in shelter prevention focusing on our spay and neuter services. Your generous support helped us reach our 100,000 surgeries milestone. **That means 50,000 pet lives saved!**

Looking toward the future, we'll continue our core spay/neuter service offering, which is the most cost-effective way of reducing pet overpopulation and maintaining low intake at open and limited admission shelters in the Valley. We'll also be expanding our focus and mission by taking a deeper look at the reasons people consider surrendering their pets to a shelter.

It was a record-breaking year for our *Hero Awards* event, in both attendance and money raised. The program was emotional, uplifting and exciting—there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

We're continuing to embrace who we've been over the past 10 years—a shelter prevention organization—and increasing that commitment with an exciting new look and feel and several new programs. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Your continuous support of our organization has enabled us to do much more than we ever thought possible, and we are so very grateful.

We're dedicating this year's success to you. You made it happen, and we hope you take a moment to bask in the limelight of your accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Leanna Taylor, *Executive Director*

Getting a fix on saving pets

At Friends of Animal Care and Control, our primary goal is preventing pet homelessness by keeping families with pets together. **Oftentimes, pet owners can't afford to care for their animals.** So they surrender them at shelters. The reasons are many—owners may have lost their jobs or their homes, suffered an illness, or had a divorce or death in the family. Or their pet may have gotten sick and they can't afford to help them.

Surrendering a pet to a shelter where they are frequently euthanized is a tragedy we want to avoid. We're here to support families by keeping their pets healthy and safe. **Animals bring comfort, joy, healing and health, and we believe those benefits shouldn't be restricted to a very small percentage of owners who can afford veterinary services.**

Spaying and neutering pets prevents hundreds of thousands of unwanted dogs and cats from entering our Valley shelters. Through our Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), we provided approximately **8,600 free surgeries** in 2015-2016. This service is critical because every two spay/neuter surgeries we perform in Maricopa County saves one life by directly reducing euthanasia in our shelters. It's the most cost-effective way to support families and save pets.

A SNAPSHOT OF THIS YEAR'S NUMBERS:

We **hit our 100,000 surgeries milestone**, resulting in 50,000 pet lives saved.

We've **helped reduce euthanasia by 71%** Valley-wide over the past three years.

We've **helped reduce shelter intake** from 105,000 in 2005 to 56,000 in 2015.

"I've seen firsthand what a difference the spay and neuter program is making in our community. **To witness the gratitude of a pet owner who might not otherwise be able to provide this service to their beloved cat or dog is truly heartwarming.** Lulu's Fund is proud to partner with Friends because they're saving thousands of lives by offering these much-needed, no-cost assistance programs to pets and their families."

SANDY DAY, FOUNDER OF LULU'S FUND

From surrender to shelter to support

In Maricopa County, the number of pets entering shelters has steadily declined over the past decade from 105,000 homeless pets in 2005, to about 56,000 in 2015. This decline is thanks, in part, to the availability of free spay and neuter surgeries for owned pets, especially those living in low-income households.

Despite the reduction in unwanted litters, valley shelters were still receiving more than 56,000 pets last year. In Maricopa County Animal Care and Control shelters alone, over 11,000 dogs and cats entered as a result of owner surrender, which has increased over the past several years.

IT'S A DYING SHAME

Pets surrendered to shelters by their families face euthanasia rates which are approximately 20%–25% higher than dogs and cats who are brought in through other channels, making them one of the most vulnerable group of pets.

Oftentimes, people surrender pets due to a lack of financial resources tied to a sudden change in circumstances. These circumstances may include:

pet or owner illness	divorce
costs associated with a move (pet deposit, transportation, etc.)	pet age or health
owner homelessness	behavioral challenges

In most circumstances, pet owners love their pets and surrender is a last resort, but they are unable to pay for the expense of care—most of which could be resolved for less than \$300.

BARKING UP A NEW TREE

Recently, a new assistance program was introduced in a community similar to Phoenix. When presented with financial assistance and

resources as a way to keep their pets in their homes, over 80 percent of pet owners agreed to talk to a counselor to explore their options. Of those, **88 percent decided to retain ownership of their pets, thereby reducing intake and euthanasia** in the shelters.

This year, Friends will begin offering this same assistance by implementing a shelter intervention program.

A **full-time Friends counselor** will be hired and placed at a local shelter where the demand for assistance is high. This employee will work with pet owners to provide counseling, including medical and resource referral services such as pet-friendly housing. It's estimated that this shelter intervention model **will divert about 500 dogs and cats away from the shelters** and back into their homes in the first year of implementation.



Honoring our “pet cause,” the annual

Hero Awards

In February 2016, we held our 13th Annual Hero Awards gala, presented by PetSmart Charities. With more than 400 in attendance, we honored five “animal heroes” and one “human hero.” The result? Our event **raised \$285,000—enough to save 2,300 lives** for families and their pets. Meet our 2016 Hero Award winners:

LEO // A service dog for Army Ranger SFC Cory Remsburg, who suffered a traumatic brain injury while on his 10th combat rotation in Afghanistan.

RONIN // The K9 partner of Glendale Patrol Officer Zygmunt — both were seriously wounded by gunfire in a neighborhood shootout. Ronin later succumbed to his injuries, making the ultimate sacrifice.

STORMY // This resilient German Shepherd was found filthy, emaciated and with a litter of newborn puppies stuck underneath heavy monsoon debris by a construction crew inspecting their site. Stormy was severely underweight and anemic, and had wires embedded in her fur and skin, a prolapsed uterus, advanced heartworm disease and a belly full of gravel that she'd eaten to quiet her hunger pangs. She was given a 25% chance of survival, but with treatment from Saving Paws Rescue and a grant from Lulu's Fund, Stormy fought to stay alive for her puppies. Nearly a year later, the whole family is doing well.

DIVA // A Certified Therapy Dog who has spent the past nine years bringing joy and healing to hundreds of children at Phoenix Children's Hospital, Diva helps others improve reading and writing skills in the Deer Valley School District.

CHARLIE // Once a mangy mess slated to be euthanized, this spunky pup was nursed back to good health by Medical Animals in Need (M.A.I.N.), a local rescue group. They healed his wounds and found a wonderful family for him — one with a seeing-eye dog named Kagan. Today, Charlie and Kagan are inseparable and have become a seeing-eye team.



***Our Human Hero* DR. KIT SLOCUM //**

Dr. Slocum, a local vet, was celebrated for her tireless work helping animals in low-income and underserved communities. Because many low-income pet owners don't have access to veterinary services, Dr. Kit purchased a mobile RV clinic, driving pet services to them. During a four-year period, she spayed and neutered an incredible 20,000 dogs and cats, saving an estimated 10,000 lives from euthanasia.

Our wishes **Granted**

Friends of Animal Care and Control extends a special thank-you to the grant-making organizations that supported us this year:



Lulu's Fund
PetSmart Charities
SniffAZ
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
Arizona's Pet-Friendly License Plate (AZPetPlates.org)
Arizona Community Foundation

Running with the **Big Dogs**

This coming year, Friends of Animal Care and Control is expanding its scope of services. Our commitment to the community and pets in Maricopa County is stronger than ever. We'll continue to focus on our core mission of providing spay and neuter services for dogs and cats, but we'll also take a deeper dive into pet homelessness, seeking solutions to address all of the reasons why pets enter shelters.

Watch for some big changes to come over the next six months. **We'll be introducing a new name, look and feel that's more reflective of the community, people and pets we serve.** And that includes you! We believe these changes will provide you with even more opportunities to partner with us, and effect real change.

Our generous **Sponsors**

PRESENTING SPONSOR: PetSmart Charities

TOP DOG SPONSOR: Lulu's Fund – Timothy T. Day Foundation

PACK LEADER SPONSORS: Alliance Bank of Arizona
American Nutrition
SCF Arizona CopperPoint
Simplicity Pet Care

PET PARTNERS: 21st Century Essential Pet
Accelerated Consulting
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PALS
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