

# Rescue Tales

2017  
December



Hercules

*When he was rescued...*



*Two months later...*

## Hercules

The call came in on a Sunday in early October: a dog with a terrible case of mange in Basha's parking lot. The family who found him said he looked very sick, weak and emaciated. All of our foster homes were full, and our veterinarian was closed. A little later, the family called back. Mom said that her kids had not allowed her to leave him there, so they had taken the dog home. But they had other dogs, no way to keep them separate, and they were concerned that their dogs might get sick.

The first photo that came in was a shock, the dog looked close to death. We posted to our volunteers. Jenny immediately said that we had to find a way to help him. She dropped everything else, and started to clear a spot in her front yard for him. Soon as she had cleaned and arranged an area for him, she picked him up and said he was in the worst shape she had ever seen. The kids in the family called him Timmy Basha's, and Jenny named him Hercules.

Though her veterinary clinic was closed, Dr. Holgate let us bring him in the next day for his first exam and to get him started on treatment, a relief to us all. Hercules was about 7 months old, weighed 24 pounds, had giardia, Sarcoptic mange, and anemia, his gums almost white, and he tested positive for Ehrlichia, a tick disease. Dr. Holgate said his body condition was 2 out of 9. We had no idea at that point if he would be able to recover, but everyone wanted so badly for him to have that chance. Jenny and Frank set him up in a dog house in their front yard, separate from other dogs. He was almost hairless, cold, shivering, and depleted. Jenny put him in a sweatshirt, and soon in some donated dog clothing. To see a dog so young in that shape was almost unfathomable. From first contact, Hercules showed himself to be a good hearted dog, just wanting to love and be loved. We knew it would take some time to see how he responded to treatment.

### *Hercules continued*

Over the next several weeks, Hercules became less lethargic. He ate like a champ, gained weight, and by all outward appearances, seemed to be doing well. At the beginning of November, when Dr. Holgate did a complete blood count, she was shocked by his results. He was being given iron every day, but rather than improving, his anemia had worsened and the test results revealed that he was actually close to death. We contacted an emergency clinic in Flagstaff to see about getting him a blood transfusion, but after reviewing his records and a consultation, they recommended not to bring him, and said that his prognosis was very grave. Dr. Holgate warned that he could pass at any time. We realized that he was having a very serious complication called immune mediated hemolytic anemia. His immune system was attacking his blood, and treatment required steroids, but those same steroids would put him at risk for any infection. Jenny and Frank brought him back to Dr. Holgate where he was admitted to her veterinary clinic. He previously had responded poorly to a steroid treatment, yet this was now the only avenue. We were all on pins and needles about his chances.

Day by day, for a week, as he received steroids, he outwardly seemed to do well. After another week, he was able to return to his foster home. For the next month, his body responded to treatment, slowly becoming less anemic. At the end of November, he weighed 40 pounds, and we hoped he was ready for neutering. He had already come through the Parvo incubation period, and was full of energy. He loved playing fetch. But more tests revealed that he was still not in the clear. As of this writing, Hercules is still undergoing treatment for a complex disease. We continue to be hopeful and are looking forward to a full recovery for him.



## Organic Growth

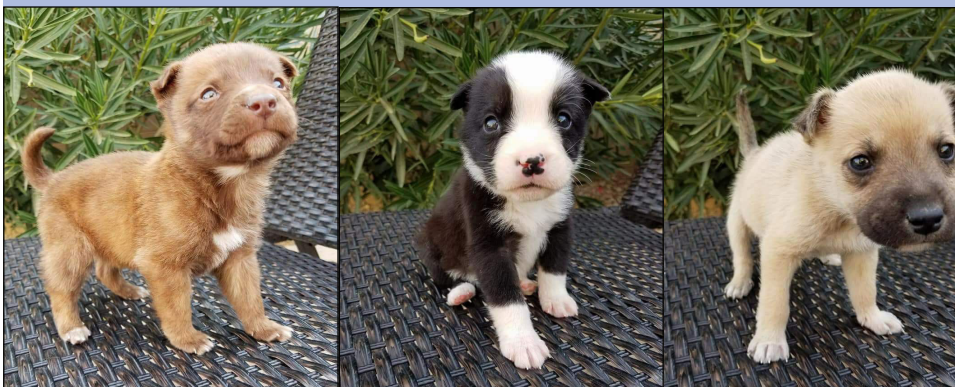
We have had an incredible year of organic growth. We have helped more than twice as many animals as in a previous "normal" year, and we care about each soul we touch. We have gradually gained a few more foster homes in both Tuba City and Flagstaff. In addition, while contributions have grown, and partnerships with other rescues that have helped us take in many more animals, we are still looking for sustainable ways forward, to be able to continue this level of response to animals in need in our area. Even though we are a very small group, we have begun to participate in adoption events in Flagstaff.

We are so grateful for the support

we have received. Some special thanks go out to Scarlet Aguilar-Martinez, of Pawtagonia, custom dog clothing, who donates part of every sale to rescue; to Meg Trott McConnell, who creates jewelry and donates the proceeds to rescue, available at beadwhoyouare.com; and to the non-profit: Running for Rescues, who has helped us several times this year with veterinary bills. In addition, Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA also provided crucial financial support for some veterinary costs earlier in the year; and Northern Arizona Paw Placement has helped with some feral cat spay/neuter costs. Thank you!

### Partnerships

Thank you to the following rescue partners that have helped us extend what we are able to do: Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA; The Ark Cat Sanctuary; Paw Promise Animal Rescue; AZ Dog Adoptions; Lulubelle Animal Rescue; Arizona Border Collie Rescue



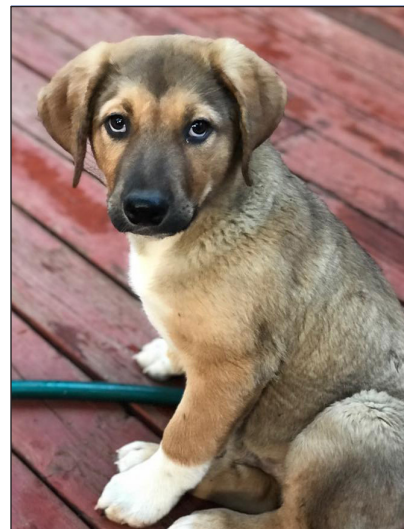
Very young puppies found dumped at the hospital in Tuba City



Momma Olive with puppies Aspen, Jeffrey, Douglas, Poppy, Birch and Willow

### Momma Olive and her puppies

Momma Olive and her puppies were rescued as strays in Kaibeto when her puppies were about 4 weeks old. We were called by a rescuer in Page asking if we had room for them. Luckily, foster Kim Murdza had a spot at her house to take them in, so this little family found a place to land and be nurtured while they grew and received veterinary care, and socialization. Most have been adopted.



Jeffrey, one of Olive's pups

### Facts and Figures

**350** Animals helped Jan-Oct 2017

**\$180** Average veterinary cost for each animal rescued

**\$62,542** veterinary expenses of rescue Jan-Oct 2017

**9** Current number of foster homes

**Interested in fostering for us?**

**Info on web site at:**

<http://www.tubacityhumaneociety.org/how-you-can-help/>

#### INFO

TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1016

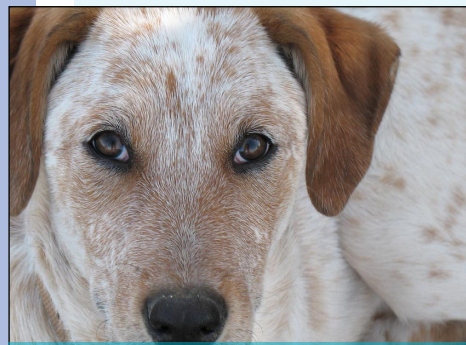
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Willow/Six portrait from adopter Judy



## Access to Low Cost Spay Neuter



This year we applied for and received three grants to fund low-cost spay neuter to the public for cats and dogs, allowing us to offer this program year round, which has long been our goal. The grants we received are from Partnership With Native Americans, the Tuba City Community Fund, and Arizona Pet Friendly License Plates. Thank you to our funders and to Dr. Holgate of Desert View Veterinary Clinic, for providing these crucial services. More resources are always needed, and access to low cost spay neuter is one of the most important tools we have to fight animal overpopulation.



Dr. Carol Holgate, examining some pups

### Recent Rescues



Fletcher, rescued as a stray



Ziggy, rescued with severe Demodex mange



Laverne, was rescued with a severe eye injury, missing teeth, and a fractured jaw, apparently from being hit by a car. She has had two surgeries, and her eye had to be removed

*We are very grateful to our amazing volunteers, our rescue partners, and to YOU for the vital support you provide that allows us to continue*



Handsome pup BK was rescued from Burger King in Cameron where he was begging for food. He was tick infested but otherwise in pretty good shape



## Helping Someone with Too Many Cats

Volunteer Julaire Scott has been trapping cats and kittens at someone's house who had too many. Fortunately, about half of the cats that were trapped were young enough to try and socialize. So after being vaccinated and fixed, Linda and her family in Flagstaff have taken in the kittens to work with them towards eventual adoption through The Ark Cat Sanctuary. We appreciate everyone's efforts!



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An all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit rescue  
and foster group helping animals in need  
on the western Navajo Nation