

# THE HERMITAGE NO-KILL CAT SHELTER & SANCTUARY

ANNUAL  
REPORT 20  
16

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Change is all around us—we see this in all aspects of our lives, every single day. Just pick up a newspaper and you'll note changes taking place as far away as the other side of our globe and as near as our own backyards here in southern Arizona. Some view change as a good thing, others find change to be frightening—something to be avoided at all costs. The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary has seen its share of change during 2016. Wonderful new programs have been initiated that allow us to better carry out our mission of providing care and shelter for the many homeless cats in Tucson and, as we expand our network of contacts, in other towns and cities throughout southern Arizona. We successfully moved all our cats and staff and the contents of our shelter to a temporary location so that the old structure could be demolished. We raised sufficient funding, through very generous donations, to begin the much-needed and long-awaited rebuild of our shelter, which should be completed by the end of

August 2017, if all goes according to plan—and the creeks don't rise during monsoon season! New employees, volunteers, board members, supporters, and donors all came on board to help in the never-ending task of rescuing, caring for, and rehoming the kitties that come through our doors. These have all been good changes. But two things have not changed, nor will they ever change: our firm belief that every cat is a precious creature and our conviction that no cat should ever be killed for the convenience of the humans around them. We still have big plans for the future, such as continuing to raise funds to finish the rebuild of the shelter and developing a long-term plan to sustain the operations of the shelter for another 52 years—and beyond! Of course, this will take a lot of hard work, and we sincerely hope, as you read through this annual report and learn of all the success we have had this past year, that you will be inspired to join us in our mission by donating your valuable time and/or resources so that we can continue to provide for the wonderful cats currently living in our facility and all the others who will find their perfect home, either with us for life or, through our services, with a loving family in a home of their own. This is why we do what we do, but we cannot continue to succeed without your involvement. I hope you will be able to help us achieve our goals for this year and many years beyond, and Stache (that's him—an ex-Hermitage cat—in the photo with me) and I look forward to welcoming you to our new shelter later this year. Please join us!

Sincerely,



David M. Bishop, PhD, President



# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1965, The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported entirely by donations. We are both an adoption facility and a long-term sanctuary for felines considered to be "adoption-challenged," including those who are FIV- or FeLV-positive, or have other types of chronic health issues.

We were accredited as a Sanctuary in 2013 by the American Sanctuary Society. All of our kitties roam free within 9,000 square feet of outdoor/indoor living space.

The Hermitage was the first no-kill, cage-free, cat shelter and sanctuary in Arizona, and this year we celebrate 52 years of sheltering and caring for at-risk felines. The Hermitage is vital to the welfare of cats in our community and provides thousands of felines with safety and security through emotional, spiritual and physical love.



*"I am proud to support the amazing work of The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary. Supporting a capital campaign for The Hermitage will have a direct impact on the community cat population and homeless pets in Arizona. There is nothing more critical than ensuring our companion animals receive the best care and can live in a safe haven while awaiting their forever homes."*

Kellye Pinkleton, Arizona State Director—The Humane Society of the United States

## OUR HISTORY

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter has been a sanctuary for the abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens in Southern Arizona since 1965. We were founded as the Arizona Animal Anti-Cruelty League by Sister Theresa Seraphim, a Russian Orthodox nun from England. Sister Seraphim moved to Tucson in 1969 and lived at this location until she passed away in 1990. During her tenure at The Hermitage, Sister rescued not only cats, but chickens and guinea hens, peacocks, a handful of dogs and a donkey.

*"If compassion is the true test of spirituality, then the work the Hermitage staff and volunteers are doing is spiritual at its core. Tucson is a better place for the selfless love and dedication to the needy animals that's on display daily through their work."*

Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6

## OUR NO-KILL PHILOSOPHY

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary has long been an advocate for the no-kill philosophy. We were founded on the ideal that every cat is precious, and should never be euthanized for the convenience of the humans around them. We have worked hard to codify our own stance and are working to implement the 11 Tenets of No-Kill, as defined by the No-Kill Advocacy Center in Oakland, California, in our shelter.

The Hermitage is dedicated to the implementation of the No-Kill Advocacy Center's Tenets, and we will not rest until all Pima County shelters and rescues are no-kill havens for homeless and unwanted animals. The Hermitage will continue to spread the ideals of the no-kill philosophy throughout Arizona and the US.

# DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING: A New Place to Call Home

After more than 50 years, the structural integrity of the Hermitage shelter began to wane. In April, 2015, after having completed a very comprehensive pre-campaign planning study, the board voted to launch a capital campaign to raise \$1,500,000. Through 2016, we've successfully raised almost \$1.2 million and will continue our efforts throughout 2017.

The new Hermitage shelter will provide for a more suitable and enriching environment for our feline residents. Our updated sanctuary will:

- Improve the lives of the resident cats
- Create a more positive experience for those walking through the facility in search of their forever cat
- Increase adoption rates
- Increase rescues
- Allow for a state-of-the-art intake and medical/ surgical suite to evaluate and treat hundreds of felines
- Create more cost-effective solutions to surgical needs
- Serve volunteers more effectively
- Provide an enriched and collaborative environment for University of Arizona veterinary medicine students

## WE BROKE GROUND ON FEBRUARY 25, 2017

On February 25, 2017, we were proud to stand alongside dignitaries from the city, The University of Arizona, our donors and volunteers as we broke ground on our new shelter and began the process of building a new forever home for the feline residents of The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary.

## \$300,000 TO GOAL!

Thanks to the kindness, compassion and continued generosity of our donors, we were able to generate almost \$1,200,000 toward our \$1,500,000 goal. With only \$300,000 left to fundraise, we ask for your generous support so that we may continue our mission of rescuing and re-homing at-risk felines throughout Southern Arizona.



# OUR PAWSITIVE IMPACT: Feline Intake & Outcomes

In 2016, The Hermitage rescued 431 felines and adopted 419 felines into forever homes.

This total intake number includes 157 felines who came from municipal shelters or other rescue organizations such as Pima Animal Care Center, Pinal County Animal Control, Maricopa County Animal Care and Control and Save-A-Gato in Puerto Rico. With happy hearts, The Hermitage staff was able to find permanent placement for approximately 74% of these felines from municipal shelters.

Since we are an accredited Sanctuary, any of these cats who are unable to find a forever home will remain beloved residents of The Hermitage until they draw their final breath.

The Hermitage collects and reports data based on the Asilomar Accords.

## Length of Stay

Our average length of stay in 2016 was 100 days. This number does not include our 25 "sanctuary" cats who have been at the shelter for over two years.

## Live Release Rate

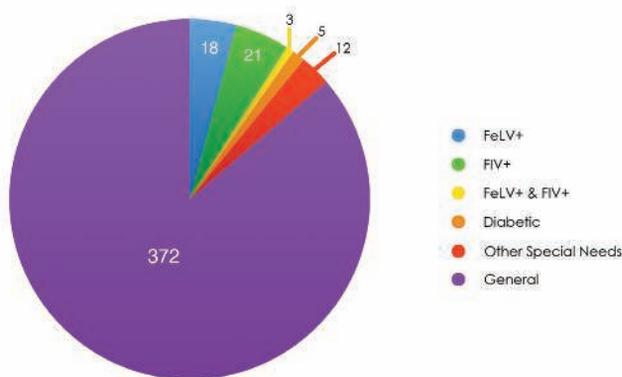
Adoptions/Intake = 98.8% LRR

This includes cats who died unexpectedly not related to a known disease process or expected failure to thrive in the case of neonatal kittens.

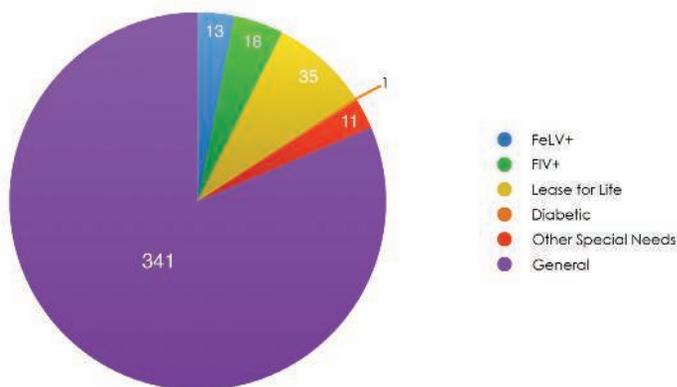
Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is a retrovirus that infects cats. FeLV can be transmitted from infected cats when the transfer of saliva or nasal secretions is involved. If not defeated by the animal's immune system, the virus can cause diseases that can be lethal. One disease caused by this virus is a form of cancer of the blood cells called lymphoma.

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) is also a retrovirus. It is in the same family as FeLV and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV, the virus that causes AIDS). It attacks the immune system, and as a result, the cat is unable to fight off various infections and cancers. Approximately 2.5% of cats in the United States are infected with FIV.

## Feline Intake by General Population vs Special Needs



## Adoptions: General Population vs Special Needs



\*Lease for Life cats at the Hermitage are special needs cats that may have certain condition-related medical costs covered by The Hermitage.

Euthanasia Stats for 2016  
27 Compassionately Euthanized  
27 Passed In Care  
54 Total

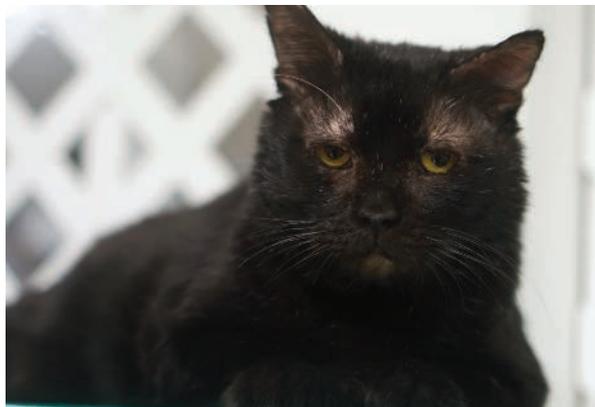
# ADOPTIONS

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter strives to find loving forever homes for each feline that passes through our doors. Unlike other shelters, our cats play freely about the shelter where their personalities can shine to the delight of our guests.



**Serafina**

Blind kitten adopted into a fur-ever home.



**Biggie**

Tough-looking, but sweet FIV+ boy in a loving new home.



**Baby Kitty**

Long-time resident with Cerebellar Hypoplasia finally in a fur-ever home.



**Chase**

High-energy FeLV+ kitty who found his happy home.

Since we receive no government funding, your donations are critical to the rescue and rehabilitation of these beautiful babies.

# OUTREACH AND SERVICES: Celebrating the Human-Animal Bond

## Purrs For Autism



Purrs for Autism is a collaborative program of The Hermitage Cat Shelter, The Autism Society of Southern Arizona, and Workability, a program of United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona. Hermitage Shelter cats who are social and curious spend one-on-one time with autistic children 6 to 12 years of age.

The program serves Pima County, and includes peer mentorship between older kids (ages 13 to 18) who face disabilities and are in job readiness training at WorkAbility, and younger autistic participants. A variety of games, puzzles, and reading materials are supplied to provide interest for participants as they interact with shelter cats. This program is based on recent studies of the positive effect relationships with animals have on the social abilities of kids with autism.



*"We are thrilled to be partnering up with an amazing organization such as The Hermitage Cat Shelter. Purrs for Autism is an opportunity for parents and their children to spend quality time together and learn about animal therapy and how this environment can provide a calm yet educational experience for people affected by autism."*

Vanessa Zuber, Vice President  
Autism Society of Southern Arizona



## Cat Camp

The Hermitage offers a children's Cat Camp throughout the year. The program is designed for children ages 6–13 and teaches them to properly care for their feline friends. They learn important rules and instruction on feeding, first aid and maintenance of their pet. All topics covered in camp are researched and presented in an age-appropriate fashion.



## Classroom Kitties

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter highly values education, and we have increased our efforts to provide the community with programs to help educate our youth.

Our feline ambassadors regularly visit local elementary schools to help children learn about pet overpopulation and the importance of spay/neuter and to teach children good pet parenting skills.

504  
Child Participants

221  
Hours of Humane Education/  
Presentation

### Participating Schools

Marshall Elementary  
Mission View Elementary  
Tucson Hebrew Academy  
Ascension Lutheran  
Summit View Elementary  
Congregation Anshei Israel



## Trap-Neuter-Return: A Humane Approach to Saving Community Cats



TNR, or trap-neuter-return, is a humane, simple and effective approach to managing feral and stray cat populations. Eventually this leads to a decrease in feral and unwanted cats in an area and keeps them from entering a shelter system where they are likely to be euthanized. Sterilization also helps keep the cats calmer and healthier and leads to fewer aggressive and unwanted behaviors like fighting and spraying.

The Hermitage has recognized and advocated for TNR efforts for nearly ten years. We provide resources for colony managers within 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 we see in our county.

To support TNR efforts within our community, The Hermitage offers free instruction on trapping community cats. In 2016, The Hermitage provided almost 50 traps and over 2,000 pounds of free food to individuals who participate in TNR.

# Food For Peoples Pets

At times, life's hardships and disadvantages affect our beloved pets. Many times, our feline residents have come to us because of difficulties their human families faced. Because we adhere to the 11 Tenets of No-Kill, we focus a great deal on pet retention, helping to lower intake rates at local shelters and reduce unnecessary euthanasia.

As part of our Mission, we believe that no person should ever suffer the devastating effects of having to choose between feeding themselves or their pet. For almost 10 years now, The Hermitage has assisted the community through a pet pantry program that freely distributes both dog and cat food, as well as litter and other supplies, to disadvantaged individuals and other rescue organizations throughout Arizona. In 2016, The Hermitage distributed over 41 tons of dog and cat food to the public.



*"The work of the Hermitage is unique and important for the welfare of our stray cats and the community. This new facility will allow for the work to continue for years to come and will allow the Hermitage to expand its reach, creating homes and health for our cat community."*

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild

29,000 lbs

Dog food distributed

53,345 lbs

Cat food distributed

1,745 lbs

Other food (chicken, rabbit,  
bird, small mammal)

## Other Organizations Served

PAWSitively Cats

Tucson2Tails

Echo Canyon Equine Foundation, Phoenix

Animal Loving Friends, Inc., Tempe

San Carlos Apache Reservation

Valley Humane Society, Casa Grande

Animal Welfare Alliance of

Southern Arizona

# Meows for Military

The Hermitage's participation in pet therapy follows a growing body of research that demonstrates how the Human-Animal bond helps people recover and cope with various physical and mental health issues.

The Hermitage's Meows for Military is a program for military veterans at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System in the Community Living Center. Each week our outreach coordinator and a feline ambassador visit our proud veterans and provide supportive therapy to help heal their wounds and lift their spirits.

207

Veteran Participants

38

Program Hours

22

Visits

7

Feline Ambassadors



# Snuggles for Seniors

For seniors, interacting with a pet can be life altering. Feelings of loneliness or isolation can melt away with a simple stroke and a purring response. The physical and mental health benefits of interacting with a furry companion can be many—from reduced blood pressure to elevated serotonin levels.

The Hermitage's Snuggle for Seniors program has played a "pawsitive" role in the lives of many individuals at senior living communities throughout Pima County.



30  
Program Hours

139  
Seniors Visited

## Participating Independent/Assisted Living Facilities

Academy Villas  
Atria Campana del Rio  
Broadway Proper  
Brookdale  
Desert Harmony Hospice  
Fairmount  
The Forum  
Infinity Home  
Sherwood Village  
Sierra Del Sol

## A Sanctuary of Love

The Hermitage is home to over two dozen cats who will likely spend the rest of their lives with us. As an accredited sanctuary, The Hermitage provides a loving environment for these kitties where they will receive the care, love and safety they so richly deserve.



### **Salamander—Age 5 Years Hermitage Resident for 4.5 Years—GI Room**

Salamander is a sweet, friendly kitty who was born with a condition called Manx Syndrome; she never developed a tail or the appropriate nerves and muscles that control bladder and bowel functions. Unfortunately, this means that she is completely incontinent. She is at increased risk of developing bladder infections and would obviously be rather messy in a home. Our dedicated staff and volunteers bathe her regularly and clean up all the messes outside the litter box all day, every day. She lives with several friends who all suffer from the same issue, but fortunately it doesn't bother them.

As a Hermitage kitty, Salamander will have the opportunity to enjoy a loving environment with friends, constant visitors, all necessary vet care and enrichment to allow her to live a long, normal life.

# Volunteers

Whether working directly with the cats in our care, helping with events or advocating in the community as ambassadors of The Hermitage, the shelter's compassionate volunteers shine a bright light on our mission.

On average, our volunteers log approximately 1,000 hours each month, which is the equivalent of eight full-time employees. Our shelter could not function without the selfless dedication of our volunteers.



## Our Top Ten Volunteers

Sharon Wolshire: 1,370 total hours  
Mark Chaney: 561 total hours  
Riley Mackaben: 453 total hours  
Ben Lofgren & Aura Lipinski: 385 total hours  
David Teller: 352 total hours  
Beth & Bob Griffin: 326 total hours  
Shari Collins: 302 total hours  
Russ & Carol McClure: 301 total hours  
Carrie & Lawrence Andrews: 271 total hours  
Rebecca Hatchett: 250 total hours

440  
Volunteer Orientations  
11,210  
Volunteer Hours

## Our Volunteer Groups

TUSD ACT  
National Charity League  
Wildcats CARE



## Saving More Lives: Comprehensive Medical Care



In addition to overseeing the health and welfare of our felines, our shelter veterinarian and veterinary assistants also perform basic medical procedures and rehabilitative services and help to facilitate the adoption process.

Upon intake, each feline that we receive into the shelter is given a complete medical exam, tested for FIV/FelV, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, microchipped and provided with de-flea/de-worming medication, if necessary.

Medical and Direct Cat Care expenses quickly add up. Because The Hermitage relies solely on private donations, public support is critical to saving more feline lives.

Our staff also plays an important role in educating local students from Pima Community College and Pima Medical Institute. The Hermitage is also a partner with The University of Arizona Marley Foundation Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program.

The University and The Hermitage will jointly develop a clinic and training program for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Professional Program students enrolled in the new veterinary degree program. Program goals include enabling students to learn medicine and surgical procedures, handling, ethology, chronic care, and animal welfare practices in a working clinic setting.

*"Shelter environments like The Hermitage are unique and challenging settings for veterinary medicine. We want to provide our students with as large and diverse a caseload as possible during their clinical rotations so they are practice-ready when they graduate. This also provides students an understanding of how the non-profit can complement for the for-profit sector in companion animal medicine and surgery."*

Shane Burgess, VP for Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension  
Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Arizona

\$200/month  
(\$2,400/year)

Sponsors the annual cost  
spent on rabies vaccines  
for the cats in  
our care.

\$300/month  
(\$3,600/year)

Sponsors the annual cost  
of checking routine blood  
work on all of our  
geriatric cats.

\$450/month  
(\$5,400/year)

Sponsors the cost spent of  
testing all new kitties for  
FeLV and FIV.



\$750/month  
(\$9,000/year)

Sponsors the cost of cat  
litter for use by all the cats  
in the shelter for  
one year.

\$1,000/month  
(\$12,000/year)

Sponsors the cost spent on  
food for our senior cats, mothers  
and kittens, allergy cats, and  
other special needs groups that  
are on Hill's Prescription  
Diet food.

To sponsor a Hermitage Cat, please visit [www.hermitagecatshelter.org/sponsor/](http://www.hermitagecatshelter.org/sponsor/)

# The Financial Picture

## Income

## Expenses





## **Board of Directors**

David Bishop, PhD, President  
Susan Parker-Hotchkiss, Vice President  
Ingrid Novodvorsky, PhD, Treasurer  
Maggie Gilmer, Secretary  
Jennifer Becker, DVM, Director  
Robert Murray, Director  
Tina Wolf, Director

## **Administration**

Jennifer Becker, DVM, Medical Director  
Tina Wolf, Build/Financial Director  
Lee Bucyk, Development Director  
Cameron Adams, Maintenance Assistant  
Dallas Boies, Veterinary Assistant/Foster Program Coordinator  
Rachel Broderick, Multi-Media Communications Specialist  
Emma Crawford, Marketing Assistant  
Ashley Davis, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Joshua Desmarais, Maintenance Assistant  
Desteny Flores, Veterinary Assistant  
Felicia Hulse, Veterinary Assistant  
Karina Levine, Volunteer & Event Coordinator  
Alexis Martinez, Adoptions Coordinator  
Jennifer Middleton, Lead Veterinary Assistant/Intake Coordinator  
Sabrina Paris, Veterinary Assistant  
Ryan Twigg, Rebuild & Maintenance Coordinator

# SHELTER • ADOPT • ADVOCATE



**Mailing Address**

PO Box 13508  
Tucson, AZ 85732

**Temporary Physical Address**

4501 E 22nd St  
Tucson, AZ 85711

**Website**

[www.hermitagecatshelter.org](http://www.hermitagecatshelter.org)

**Follow Us**



**Phone Number**

520.571.7839

**Hours of Operation**

Tuesday-Saturday  
10AM to 5PM