COMMUNITY

help ensure safety measures and new cameras that will help with better quality photos on the website for potential adopters to view.

Since 1994, HALO (Helping Animals Live On) has helped animals by boosting adoption, sterilization and pet care education in Maricopa County. The organization has saved more than 65,000 pets since then and has seven locations around the county. HALO is a "no-kill" animal rescue organization that provides temporary shelter to abandoned cats and dogs until they can be adopted into permanent homes.

Petco Foundation since 1999 has invested more than $250 million in life-saving animal welfare work. It has more than 4,000 welfare animal partners and encourages communities to invest in adoption, medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research and service and therapy animals.

To learn more about HALO, visit www.halorescue.org. For more details about Petco Foundation, visit www.petcofoundation.org.

Initiative helps get older dogs adopted

Two Pups Wellness Fund is helping to get older dogs at the Maricopa County Care and Control (MCACC) shelters adopted.

"Grown Pups for Grown Ups" features dogs 5 years and older and addresses in advance the roadblocks and concerns that might keep people from adopting them.

Under the program, Two Pups Wellness Fund is covering the adoption fees as well as providing:

• Money for wellness blood tests to rule out significant disease prior to adoption

• Funding treatments for diseases that are discovered and treatable

• Financial support of promotional events and materials to showcase older animals and increase the community's awareness of these grown pups in need of homes

"People are sometimes hesitant to adopt an older dog because they're afraid something may be medically wrong," said Mary Martin, director of MCACC. "The reality is, these dogs can and do make great companions and still have a lot of life left in them."

MCCAC houses the Grown Pups in refurbished rooms that make it easier for potential adopters to see and interact with these older dogs. "Grown Pups for Grown Ups" aims to show people that adopting an older dog might suit someone's lifestyle better than a puppy that needs housetraining and lots of activity.

You can donate directly through the Two Pups Wellness fund at https://twopups.org.

Experienced vet takes reins of Altered Tails

An experienced veterinarian with a passion for animal welfare work is now heading Altered Tails, the biggest nonprofit spay/neuter organization in the state.

Dr. Nellie Goetz,who has joined Altered Tails as executive director, manage operations at the organization's North Central Phoenix and Mesa clinics. The clinics perform about 18,000 low-cost or free-of-charge spay and neuter surgeries every year. Goetz also will help expand the depth, breadth and reach of Altered Tails' services and represent the non-profit in the community.

Goetz came to Altered Tails after serving as a clinical assistant professor of Shelter Medicine at Midwestern University where she taught courses, managed relationships with 12 clinical service partners and created the operations manual for a Midwestern University mobile clinic.

Prior to that, she served as a high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter veterinarian at many organizations in New Mexico and worked as the lead surgical veterinarian for the American Veterinary Medical Association Reaching UP project in that state. Goetz had also worked as medical director of the National Spay/Neuter Response Team at Humane Alliance, now called ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance, where she trained teams in high-volume, high-quality spay and neuter "best practices."

Altered Tails' North Central Phoenix clinic is located at 950 W. Hatcher Road. Visit www.alteredtails.org.

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