

# Paw Prints

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER | HALORESCUE.ORG



## Benji Is Home

In October 2020, a plea was sent out by Maricopa County Animal Care and Control for a senior Chihuahua who arrived as an injured stray. Little Benji would scream in pain any time he was lifted up. Not only did this boy have an infected wound in his back leg and a puncture in his chest, he had a heart murmur and dental disease. Lucky for Benji, we were ready and able to take on his case. Benji had many vet visits over the two months in foster care with HALO to get him all straightened out. It turns out his foster mom fell in love with him so Benji's temporary home became his forever home! Foster Failures rule!



Thanks to your support,  
**Benji found his  
forever home!**

Learn More About a Few of Our Amazing Rescues Inside!





# The Bright Side

## Meet Durango

Have you ever met someone who seems to always look on the bright side, even in the face of personal adversity and pain? Durango is that kind of dog. This boy may have a permanent pouty bottom lip from previous tooth decay, but that's the only thing about him that looks remotely sad! He came from the streets of Mexico to our partner, Barb's Dog Rescue, and spent two months beginning his journey to recovery. When he was healthy enough to travel he came to HALO in September 2020 and spent three months being treated for mange, tick fever, teeth broken down to the nerves, a skin infection, and eyelids that were rolling in causing hair to rub on his eyes with every blink. According to x-rays, Durango was injured likely from being hit by a car so his hips weren't the greatest either. But don't try to tell Durango to feel sorry for himself. He has no time for that. Durango greets each day by wagging his tail and gently giving a head bump, letting us know how happy he is to be pain-free and loved.



**Thank you to  
our partners!**

Rescue made possible  
with the help of:

**Barb's Dog Rescue**



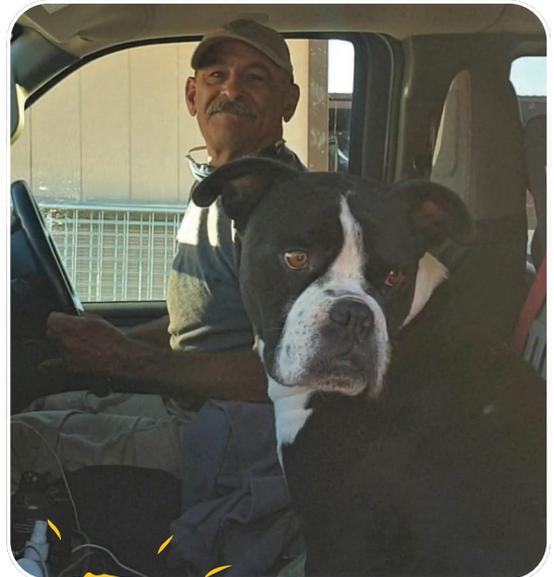
Since 2009, HALO has been a proud Purina Shelter Champions partner. This partnership donates 100% of the pet food and cat litter HALO needs to serve quality nutrition to our pets from the moment they arrive. They even give a bag of food to each of our adopters so the pets can continue to eat the same high-quality food they were fed at the shelter in their new homes. Serving your pets Purina foods not only provides just the right diet for their needs, it supports homeless animals across the country and ensures Purina has the resources necessary to pay it forward to shelters who need it most. We can't thank them enough for their love and support!

# Dogbreath Express

Never underestimate the power of people coming together to save lives. In early 2015, Buddy Gurnari found a lost dog and took it to the Otero County shelter in New Mexico. After the dog was not claimed by its owner, Buddy adopted the dog and began volunteering at the shelter. As a retired Air Force SARE Specialist, Buddy was free to devote his time to the dogs. He quickly realized that “too many dogs were going in the shelter and not a lot were going out.” Buddy found the best way to help the dogs at the shelter was to partner with other organizations that had the capacity to give their shelter’s dogs a place to go. He formed a 501c3 called Dogbreath Express, and was able to send a handful of dogs at a time in his minivan to partner shelters.

In late 2019, Lisa Yeager, a Registered Nurse from Germany, arrived in town with her Air Force husband, who was stationed at the military base nearby. Lisa volunteered at the shelter, and she and Buddy became fast friends, working together to save lives. In June of 2020, Lisa contacted HALO to ask if we would partner with them, allowing them to bring Otero County Shelter’s dogs to us. We agreed, and since that time, HALO has helped 273 of their dogs and cats find new homes in the Valley. Thanks to their partnership with HALO, the Otero County Shelter increased the number of pets transported in 2020 by 67% over the number in 2019. Three-quarters of the pets that left the shelter on a transport in 2020 came to HALO! This helped Otero County reduce its euthanasia rate by 8%. We are hopeful that after a full year of partnership in 2021, we can see this shelter’s live release rate climb even higher!

True change in a community begins when the residents identify opportunities for saving lives and embrace them. Every little effort adds up to a big change when we all work together. We are honored to partner with Buddy, Lisa, and the folks at the Otero County Shelter to help make euthanasia a thing of the past for adoptable, homeless pets. Your support allows us to extend a helping hand, or should we say, paw?



Thanks to  
your support,  
we can extend a  
helping hand to  
shelters in need!



Cheebee was one of the first cats from CWOB to come to HALO!

## Compassion Has No Borders

HALO has worked to help animals in Phoenix for over two decades. Our community has gone from a place that animals needed to be shipped out to save their lives to a place where animals can be brought in to save their lives. What an amazing change, and not a small feat! It took years of concerted effort by animal welfare organizations to create partnerships and get funding to make it happen. Starting in 2017, we began working with partners around the state and surrounding regions to help save more of the adoptable pets that were at risk of dying if they stayed

in their hometowns, and who were quickly adopted by coming to us. We started with dogs and in December 2020 we brought in our first few cats from a new partner, Compassion Without Borders (CWOB). While based in California, CWOB spends much of their time in Mexico, helping sick and injured animals and operating a high-volume spay/neuter clinic. Cats have never had the chance to be included in a transport program until now. The cats are all very friendly and arrive ready to find new homes in the United States. While we will continue to help cats from our community first, we have the ability to offer some of the cats from CWOB a cozy place to call home. We believe that compassion truly has no borders.





## Mutternity Ward: Bottle Babies and Oodles of Kittens

Foster families are a critical component to HALO's life-saving work. From fostering mothers and their babies, to orphaned babies that need a bottle, to underage kittens that need some time to grow before adoption, these families nurture our most fragile residents. Ladybug, a little Chihuahua girl who came to us from Mexico very pregnant, gave birth in a quiet foster home where she could raise her babies in peace. The adorable black kittens pictured below arrived a little too young to go to new families, so a few weeks in foster care gave them the socialization and love they needed to be great pets for their new families. Fostering is so very rewarding! The hardest part is not keeping all of them. If you do adopt, you'll join the "Foster Failure Club" that almost every foster parent joins at some point. But don't fret, we welcome this type of "failure." After all the hard work and snuggles, seeing a wonderful family pick out TWO of their foster babies to be raised together like these two babies to the left, makes the heart swell to maximum size! If you'd like more information on becoming a foster parent, email us at [foster@halorescue.org](mailto:foster@halorescue.org).



Hope: 1-Day Old Chihuahua



# Our 2020 Impact

Total Served:  
**3,738**

Cats Adopted:  
**1,184**

Dogs Adopted:  
**2,389**

Partner Shelters:  
**15**

Pets in Foster Care:  
**821**



# HALO Animal Rescue Thrift Boutique: Helping To Further the Mission Year After Year

HALO's benefactor store, HALO Animal Rescue Thrift Boutique is a key partner in HALO's success. Our current location was opened by Co-Founder Michel Herstam 11 years ago, and thanks to the support of our donors, we continue to thrive each year.

The quality and range of the Thrift Boutique's merchandise are like none other; proving when people care about a cause, they are happy to donate exquisite pieces. Our regular customers continue to shop with us for unique gifts for their homes, loved ones, and special occasions. Our store offers new items daily, from household essentials to fantastic furnishings. With new sales and items coming in weekly, it helps keep the store's offerings fresh and customers coming back.

What sets our boutique apart from others is the huge amount of heart and effort that is put into it daily! We have the rare privilege of the same team of loyal and hardworking volunteers year after year and it shows in the quality of the store, as well as the customer service. Because of the help of so many volunteers and employees, the Rescue and the Boutique thrives.



**With the help and support of the community, HALO Animal Rescue Thrift Boutique has been able to provide quality products and will continue**

**to for years to come.** It truly is a team effort, but thanks to the kindness of so many, we are able to give back to the community, while simultaneously Helping Animals Live On.

**SHOP, SAVE, DONATE**

**Great deals on great stuff!**

Donated items  
Help  
Animals  
Live  
On



**HALO Thrift Boutique**  
11649 N. Cave Creek Rd.  
Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4, Closed Mon  
602-274-3444

One coupon per customer. Not valid if duplicated. Expires 12/31/21

**\$5 OFF**

Purchase of  
\$25  
or more

# Letter From the President



Heather Allen, CEO,  
and her dog, Gulliver

Raise your hand if you're thrilled that 2020 is gone. I have my hand up right along with you! While some of 2020 has carried over into 2021, with the continuation of the global pandemic, we can all begin to breathe a sigh of relief that vaccinations are making their rounds, creating

a safer community for all of us. Hopefully by summertime we will all be spending a lot more time with loved ones outside our homes. Last year tested our will unlike any I can remember in our history. But HALO's team rose to the

occasion just like we have with every other challenge. In the face of adversity our team builds character and strength. We are truly like family here, from the staff to the volunteers, and we think of you, our supporters, as family too! It takes all of us in all our collective roles to fulfill our mission. We are here to support the families in our community who are forced to make the agonizing decision to surrender their pet due to hardships in their lives. We're here to provide a safe place for the homeless animals of our community and those from surrounding communities that need a safe haven. Our match-making team has the privilege of seeing these pets embraced by new families. Thanks to your support, we are at the ready, excited to be Helping Animals Live On in 2021 and beyond. Thank you!

We'd like to offer a heartfelt thanks to the wonderful organizations that help support HALO's animals!



OUR LIFESAVING WORK IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Building a Legacy of Community Grantmaking since 1998



To learn more about our life-saving programs, visit our website at [halorescue.org](http://halorescue.org).

## Main Shelter

3227 East Bell Road  
Suite D151  
Phoenix, AZ 85032  
(602) 971-9222

## Thrift Boutique

11649 North Cave Creek Road  
Suite F  
Phoenix, AZ 85020  
(602) 274-3444

## PetSmart Charities Everyday

Adoption Center  
Deer Valley  
2901 West Agua Fria Freeway  
Phoenix, AZ 85027  
(623) 492-9045 Option 9

