



For Immediate Release
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No-Kill Shelter Partners with County Animal Control

HALO Animal Rescue Moves Into Maricopa County Animal Care and Control Facility in a groundbreaking model to save and improve the lives of homeless pets

PHOENIX – The future is about to get brighter for the homeless animals of Phoenix, thanks to some out-of-the-box thinking from local no-kill shelter HALO Animal Rescue. The rescue is partnering with Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) more closely, with the goal of saving more lives than ever before and providing a consistent standard of higher care for animals in the shelter system.

Starting on January 1, 2013, HALO will move its headquarters and 40 employees into the County shelter's building at 2500 South 27th Avenue. HALO's goal is to take over all of the County's west-side adoptions (more than 8,000 a year), assist County staff in caring for sick and injured animals in need, and enrich the daily quality of life for all dogs and cats living there until new, loving owners can be found.

In the US, almost half of the animals entering the shelter system end up being euthanized. Maricopa County is no exception. About 46,000 pets in the Phoenix area were euthanized last year, thousands of which could be rehabilitated and adopted.

For the past 18 years, HALO Animal Rescue has been dedicated to saving the dogs and cats in danger of being put to sleep despite easily treatable issues -- like being too young, having a minor infection, or simply being too shy or fearful. The organization was started 1994 by a pair of animal lovers, a mother and daughter, out of their garage. In 2011, HALO became the most successful no-kill shelter of its kind in Maricopa County with more than 3,520 adoptions. It also operates on a third of the budget of similarly sized no-kill rescues – always stretching to make every dollar count.

“My main goal for HALO has always been to save the animals with treatable problems. A puppy with an ear infection, for example, should not be euthanized because of lack of resources,” said HALO President and Co-Founder Heather Allen.

Unfortunately this year, HALO faced the danger of becoming as homeless as the animals they serve. The building and land on 35th Avenue that HALO has rented for the last 4 years has been sold to Grand Canyon University, which plans to utilize the parcel for university purposes in 2013. Therefore, HALO had to find another place for its headquarters.

This summer, MCACC put out a Request For Bid to the animal rescue community, asking for a no-kill organization to step forward and partner with the County to try to save more animal lives. HALO jumped at the opportunity, submitting a proposal that outlined numerous ways in which the two agencies could help more homeless pets by working together than by remaining separate. MCACC accepted HALO's proposal. As a result, starting January 1st, 2013, HALO will base their rescue operation out of MCACC's facility. They will continue to be an autonomous non-profit no-kill shelter -- but will live under the same roof and takeover the County's adoption services.

HALO Animal Rescue has been working closely with Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) for years taking in as many animals in danger of euthanasia as possible through MCACC's “New Hope” program.

About a year ago, HALO initiated a closer working collaboration with MCACC by renting space on-site at the County shelter, so that it could more immediately save and treat at least 100 more animals at a time.

Like most county shelters, MCCAC has some vocal critics. However, Allen quickly points out “The staff and volunteers at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control are dedicated animal lovers just like we are. They’re simply understaffed and underfunded... they need our help. Instead of pointing a finger, we are extending a helping hand.” While this isn’t the first time that a private organization has partnered with a County, it is the first time a no-kill animal rescue has partnered to this extent with a County shelter.

The HALO staff and volunteers contributing to the care of the animals at MCACC’s facility will provide an expanded opportunity for the animals to receive some additional types of care that MCACC previously did not have the resources to provide, such as:

- Bedding and toys for every animal being housed at the facility
- New sanitation procedures to prevent the spread of disease
- More volunteers to play with and exercise the animals daily
- Photos and bios for better online promotion of adoptable pets
- More adoption counselors to help families find the perfect pet

“I always think of what the animals in danger of being euthanized would prefer,” said Allen. “Would they want HALO to spend millions of dollars building a new shelter, or would they want us to think outside the box, and conserve our dollars, so that money can go directly towards the HALO goal -- Helping Animals Live On? The answer is obvious,” said Allen.

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About HALO Animal Rescue: HALO Animal Rescue is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) no-kill animal rescue dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and finding new homes for homeless dogs and cats. HALO, which stands for Helping Animals Live On, finds new homes for more than 3,500 animals each year. For more information, visit www.halo-rescue.org.