

# Paw Prints

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER | HALORESCUE.ORG



1994 - Earliest Logo



2004 - 2010



2011 - Current

## HALO is Celebrating 30 Years of Saving Lives

In 1994 Michel Herstam and her daughter, Heather Allen, created HALO Animal Rescue and embarked on a journey to help save the lives of dogs and cats in Phoenix. Michel worked full-time and dedicated every weekend to taking animals to and from the local PetSmart store for adoption. Heather worked while attending ASU full-time. She ensured the pets got the medical care they needed and that HALO's business side was sustainable. In the early days HALO operated out of Michel and Heather's homes and out of their own pocketbooks.

As the years went by, the organization grew from saving a few hundred animals each year as an all-volunteer operation, to saving thousands

of animals per year with a team of 40 employees and hundreds of volunteers. Michel retired from her job in 2006 and, as a volunteer, runs HALO's successful thrift store to raise funds for the shelter's rescue work. Heather oversees shelter operations and fundraising.

This year HALO is celebrating 30 years of life-saving efforts and we have all of you — our supporters — to thank for it! This year will bring exciting changes at our shelter including remodeling and the addition of a veterinary clinic. We know you share our joy in celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with us because you made our efforts possible. **Thank you and cheers to 30 more years!**

Learn More About a Few of Our Amazing Rescues Inside!



Flower



Sookie



Diamond



# Oodles of Happy Tails



## Maverick

Maverick joined our AZ family in 2009. He immediately bonded with our 12-year-old son, Austin (now 26), and he just celebrated his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday! Maverick and Austin adventured and grew up together as brothers. Maverick is a one-of-a-kind, multi-breed-mix who has brought us infinite joy with his frequent vocal speeches, including being our local dog park "sheriff/referee" to the delight of our community. To this day, he's still the play ringleader with his two younger furkid siblings, a pup and a kitty. We're grateful to HALO for fostering Maverick's first 6 weeks of life, so that he and his unconditional love could become a forever beloved part of our family. 



## Tamale

Tamale is the best! We are so happy with him. He's so sweet, so cuddly, purrs so much and is so playful! He's getting along with my other cats and they are warming up to him. We are so in love with him. Thank you! 



## Cali

Cali is doing so well! We renamed her Tilly and actually went back to HALO and got her a kitten friend, Dory, adopted as Lily. 



## Nala (aka Pearl)

Nala (aka Pearl) has been such an amazing addition to our little family! Just like a Husky, she sings us the song of her people and we encourage it because it's the cutest thing! Nala loves going on hikes and walks — she could walk for hours and hours if we let her. She's the sweetest girl to other doggos, especially her big brother, Meeko. We've taught her many tricks and she picks them up so fast. Thank you, HALO, for bringing us to Nala! 



## Rico

Rico was adopted at PetSmart in Scottsdale 20 years ago. Rico passed away 4 years ago. I appreciate HALO and will always donate. Rico was a happy loving dog! Thank you for saving him to be with us. 



### Cabo

Cabo has adjusted to our very active lifestyle! He loves to run around, play fetch and recognizes his puppy friends in our complex! Couldn't have asked for a better pup!



### Risa

We adopted Risa, formerly Cheylea, from y'all one year ago this month. It still comes up weekly how lucky we were to find her and have her added to our family. She's still a little shy around adult

strangers, but loves kiddos and is doing worlds better when new people come over. She loves going on hikes at the river and up north, playing fetch, and sleeping with her belly exposed, which is her favorite thing. The three of us just wanted to thank all of you for what you do and let you know that Risa has been the best addition we could have possibly asked for!

### Rudy

Sawyer's new name is Rudy. He's a cuddler & does so good in the car. He's the most perfect pup & a great addition to our family!



## A Frightened Flower Blooms

When Flower (formerly Lucy) arrived at HALO with five newborn puppies, she was extremely defensive. She had been lost on the Phoenix streets while pregnant, and by the time she arrived at HALO, she had already been to another shelter, given birth, and landed herself in bite quarantine. Her fear level was so high that she lashed out at anyone and everyone. Fortunately, we saw through that, and after three weeks in foster care, she decided she was safe and gave a tail wag. Her foster mom cried with happiness as she knew that was the turning point. Her fear had left and her gorgeous personality began to show through. She is now adopted with a mom and dad who adore her and incorporate her into every aspect of their lives. Her parents said, "She fits right in with my husband and me. She still dances when we come home or she's excited." Flower's story was made possible because of your support.

# ♡ Our 2023 Impact ♡

Numbers below are from January through December

Intake: 2,794

Dogs: 1,604 Cats: 1,190



Adoptions: 2,652

Dogs: 1,556 Cats: 1,096

Pets in Foster Care: 789

Dogs: 284 Cats: 505

Vaccines Given: 12,667

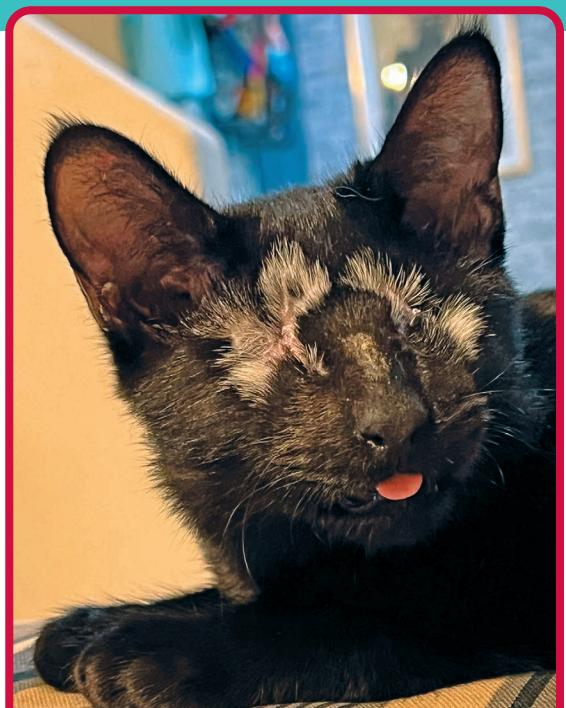
Surgeries Performed: 2,055

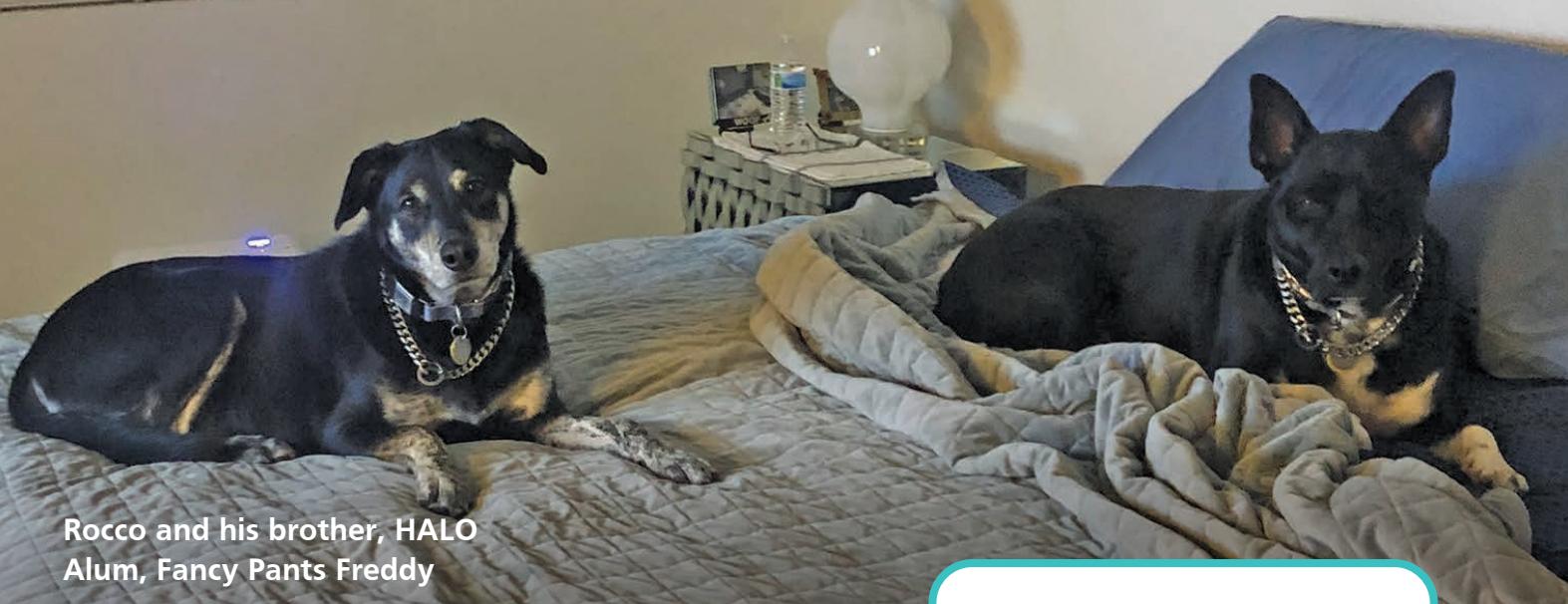


## Sookie Girl

Suffice it to say, you would have a hard time looking at Sookie's "before" photo. She came to us with such severely infected eyes they were not able to be saved. Before surgery she was all black, but the hair on her eyes has grown back white, giving her quite a unique look. This gorgeous girl navigates her new home with surprising ease and loves her dog and cat siblings.

Thanks to your support, we were able to provide Sookie with the surgery she desperately needed.





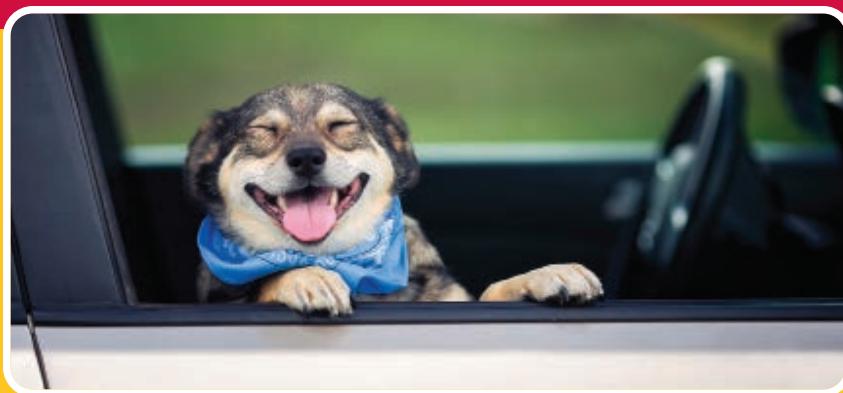
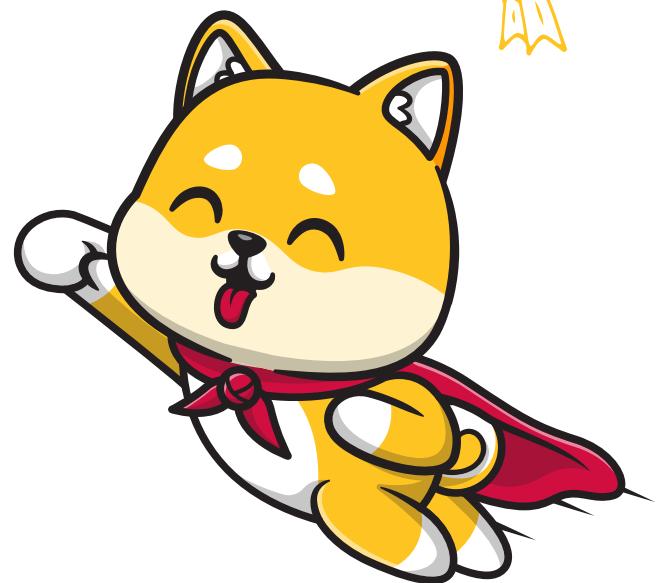
Rocco and his brother, HALO  
Alum, Fancy Pants Freddy

## Rocco Saves Family That Saves Him

In January 2020, Rocco was one of 35 dogs brought to HALO's care from Barb's Dog Rescue in Mexico. Little did we realize we had a future hero in our midst. You see, Rocco's family home recently burst into flames while they were sleeping. We received this information from them shortly after the fire: "He has always been amazing. Last night he saved us from a house fire by alerting us. Thank you for saving his life so he could save ours."

**We are so proud of Rocco for ensuring his family stayed safe in what could have been a serious tragedy.**

Thanks to your support,  
we were able to save  
Rocco's life so he could  
save others.



## Vehicle Donation

If you would like to donate your old vehicle, please give us a call at 602-971-9222 ext. 105, visit our website's "Donate" tab, or email [halosupporter@halorescue.org](mailto:halosupporter@halorescue.org).

# Petco Love Saves HALO Alum from Cancer

Shortly after adoption, Misty started having symptoms of TVT, a type of treatable cancer. Unfortunately, the cost of treatment was out of reach for Misty's retired mom. Thank goodness Petco Love has a Shelter Pet Cancer Treatment Fund grant, available for pets either currently in a shelter receiving cancer treatment, or pets who are diagnosed within a few months of adoption. We were able to receive grant funds to cover Misty's treatment, and she made a full recovery! Thank you Petco Love for this unique life-saving grant opportunity.



## Diamond Overcomes Life's Challenges

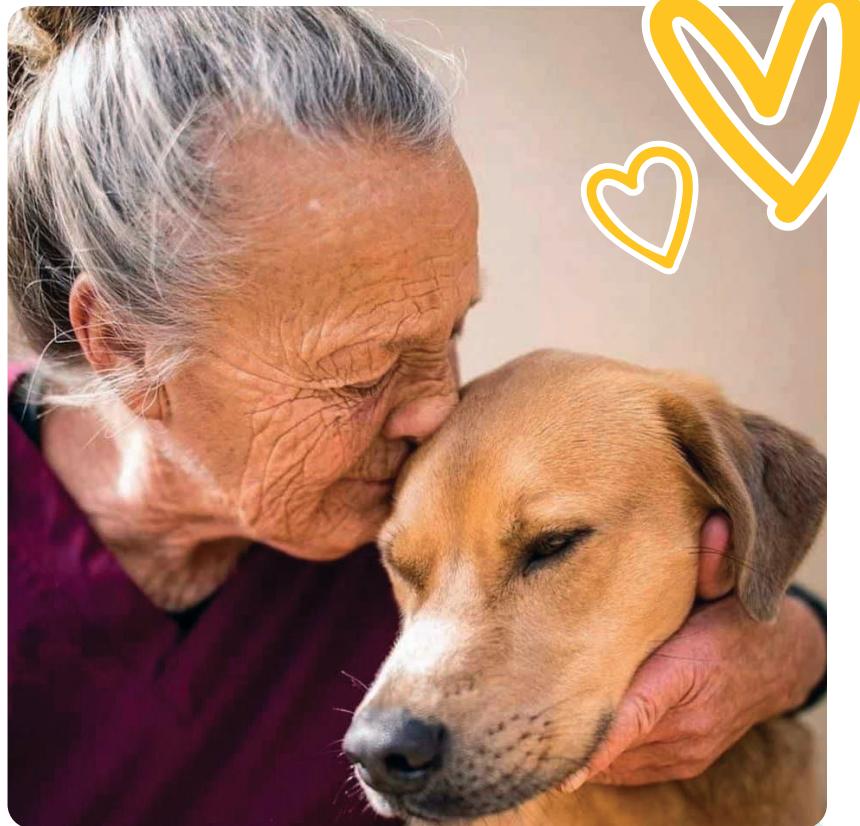


This gorgeous girl was found in a home with two other dogs after her owner had passed away a few days prior. We received a plea from the police department to help her. We do not know what she may have witnessed, but we do know that she has been able to overcome it and thrive. When she arrived, we noticed her front leg was badly injured and infected. The doctors felt it needed to be amputated. Even through her rough transition, she was all smiles and cuddles. Dogs teach us resilience in the face of life's challenges. Thank you for supporting our work so we could say yes to Diamond when she had no one else in her corner.

# Remembering Barb

It takes someone with serious grit, determination and passion to do what Barb Mumaugh did. While talking with HALO's co-founder, Heather Allen, Barb described her journey on why she started Barb's Dog Rescue in Puerto Peñasco, México more than 20 years ago. Barb described how she visited as a tourist and was devastated to see all the homeless dogs. She had lost her daughter in a tragic accident and felt the calling to uproot her life and move to México, where she could not speak the language, to try to make a dent in the suffering she witnessed. For the next two decades she spent every day caring for sick dogs and helping local families provide proper care for their pets. She worked tirelessly, giving up so much of herself to ensure the dogs had what they needed. We began partnering with Barb in 2018 to help them save more lives by getting the dogs to the Phoenix area for adoption. Together, we have saved more than 4,200 dogs. Our partnership helps create much-needed space so Barb's team can continue to help more dogs.

Sadly, in June 2023, Barb passed away. Her loss was felt throughout Puerto Peñasco and beyond, as she has a large group of supporters from México and the United States. We are devastated at Barb's passing. We are grateful for our continued partnership with the amazing team that is carrying on Barb's legacy of rescuing dogs from the streets. Godspeed, Barb. We will miss you.



## Shop, Save, Donate! ~ Great Deals on Great Stuff!



**HALO**  
Animal Rescue

**HALO THRIFT BOUTIQUE**

11649 N Cave Creek Road | 602.274.3444

Monday & Tuesday – Closed

Wednesday through Saturday – 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Sunday – 10:00AM – 4:00PM

**\$5.00 OFF**

Any purchase of  
\$25.00 or more

One coupon per customer.  
Not valid if duplicated.  
Expires 06/30/24

# Letter from the President

Happy 30th birthday to my first baby! Before I felt like I was a grown adult myself and years before I became a mother to human children, my mother and I started HALO. For three decades we have nurtured it and watched it grow from our spare bedrooms to a well-oiled machine that saves thousands of lives each year. Not only that, but it is also a gathering place in our community where fellow animal lovers can come pitch in by volunteering and adopting, thereby filling their hearts with happiness and a good deed well done. I am humbled beyond measure that our little dream of helping homeless animals has turned into such a force for good. There are so many people that have HALO pets in their homes, enriching their lives and cherished as beloved family members. This year will be a year of growth for us at the shelter with some important renovations to better serve the animals and the people who need us. We cannot thank you enough for seeing the important work we do and supporting us so generously.



**Heather Allen, CEO,  
and her dog, Gulliver**

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



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

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

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

