



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA (HSSA)
3450 N. Kelvin Blvd., Tucson, AZ., 85716 (520) 327-6088

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homeless Veterans Comforted by Therapy Dogs

Veteran's Pets Receive Free Spay/Neuter Surgeries

Tucson, Arizona – January 10, 2015 -- The Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSA) participated as a provider at this weekend's Homeless Veterans Stand Down 2015 at the Days Inn downtown.

Veterans received unconditional love from Therapy Dogs of HSSA's Pet VIP Therapeutic program. Five teams from this all-volunteer program provided their therapy dogs to cuddle with, lick and gaze into the eyes of veterans attending the event.

Additionally, Veterans with their own pets were offered free spay and neuter surgeries. Three dogs and one cat were transported from the event to the main campus where their surgeries were performed. These pets will stay off the streets and be housed at the clinic overnight tonight.

HSSA's Pet VIP Therapeutic program shares the unconditional love of pets with those who need it most. Volunteer teams bring their trained and certified pets to people of all ages in more than 80 facilities such as nursing homes, hospice centers, hospitals, mental health centers, children's facilities, libraries, schools and special events. Pet visitation is a wonderful and vital therapeutic mode of promoting and maintaining wellness in our community.

Our pet visitation volunteers witness the emotional and psychological benefits of this therapy with each visit. A national study shows that contact with an animal lowers blood pressure, decreases cholesterol levels, reduces anxiety, boosts the immune system, decreases aggression and increases socialization and communication.

For information on how to volunteer with the Pet VIP Therapeutic program, or to become a partnering facility, call Gina Hansen at 520-321-3704, ext. 153. For information on low cost spay/neuter and vaccines call the clinic at 520-881-0321. For general information about other services and programs call 520-327-6088 or go to hssaz.org.

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