



Dedicated to finding loving, forever homes for any pet rat in need

Jan/Feb 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the new  
Any Rat Rescue Newsletter!

Every two months, you will receive a newsletter  
containing photos, personal articles, care tips,  
and other information about our rattie friends  
and our organization.

We invite you to share photos and stories with  
us for future newsletters!

Please email YOUR photos and stories to  
[anyratnews@gmail.com](mailto:anyratnews@gmail.com) to be included in future  
newsletters!

## In this Edition

*Jupiter, Gouda, Cheddar, Parmesan, and Muenster*



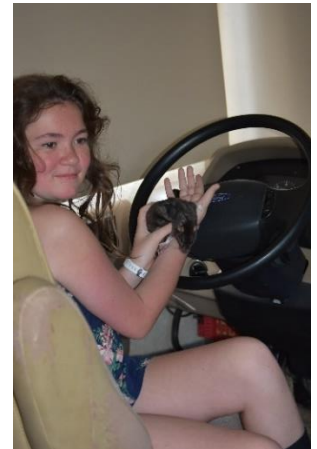
Photo courtesy of Brandi Saxton

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# JUPITER'S ORBIT

When planning an extended trip, there is the usual packing and making arrangements for home, plants, and pets. This year for our annual summer trip, we decided to take our little Jupiter with us! She had just lost her cage-mate, and our house sitter was 'less than thrilled' at the idea of snuggling with her daily. So, we bought a small traveling cage, (which she was rarely in anyway!), and set out across 6 states in our motorhome.

In between states, these two girls kept each other company on the bunk beds, up and down the aisle, and occasionally taking over the front seats!



As we crossed from Arizona into Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California, photos were taken of Jamie and Jupiter at every border!

It was such a family bonding experience, being in such an enclosed space for three weeks, that daddy even bonded with his 'daughters pet rat' 😊



Send us your favorite travel story/photos!  
[anyratnews@gmail.com](mailto:anyratnews@gmail.com)





## Volunteer Spotlight

Any Rat Rescue is a small, dedicated, all-volunteer organization. Any Rat Rescue is not a shelter, but rather a network of caring foster homes extending from Metro Phoenix to Tucson. We have found homes for approximately 200 rats each year since our inception in 2004. We are a no-kill rescue that accepts any domestic rat, regardless of health, age, or temperament. We could not do any of this without our wonderful network of Volunteers, Foster Homes, Adopters, and Veterinarians.

In the next two issues, we want to introduce you to two very special volunteers. They were two of the original founders of Any Rat Rescue. They have been with the rescue since its inception in 2004 and are working as hard as ever today for ARR.

This month's featured Volunteer: **Janet Cooper**

Janet Cooper was first introduced to rats when her middle son asked to have some in the late 1990s. She was impressed with their intelligence, loving nature, and how interactive and fun they were. She connected online with a group of Phoenix area rat enthusiasts in the early 2000s. Her new "rat friend" Therese Hitesman called one day and announced "I've had an epiphany!" And she truly had! Therese and Janet reserved the online domain name [www.anyratrescue.org](http://www.anyratrescue.org) and ARR was born!

The founders served as foster homes communicating through group emails and meetings. Janet built the first website, responded to emails, and coordinated media relations; pretty much what she does today, although the volume of communications is much larger. She is ARR's primary email respondent for those interested in

adopting, surrendering, volunteering, reporting emergencies, or just asking questions. Janet's favorite part of the job is seeing positive news features about ARR. She takes great pleasure in spreading the word about incredible pet rats.

Her most memorable rats were first rats Hershey and Chowder as well as dumbos Leroy and Seymour. Mr. Peachley holds a special place in her heart, as he had been neglected in his former home and had to learn how "to be a Rattie". Today Janet has a 19-year-old cat named Cynder, although through the years her home often looked like a zoo with a variety of animals.

Janet has continued to serve as ARR Communications Coordinator despite moving to Ohio. She works full-time for Dublin Arts Council, a local arts agency. She says she "feels strongly about the role that creativity plays in our individual and community health and well-being." She is also the board chair of Pet FBI - Found by Internet, a national free lost and found pet database.

When asked what future she would like to see for ARR, she said there is always new technology available to adopt to grow and streamline the way we work. But she concluded with "I am so touched by all the people who volunteer their time and their resources so generously to this organization." She's happy that she played a role "in developing a long-lasting resource that has done so much for these amazing, often overlooked and under-rated companion animals." And ARR was fortunate to have a founding member who made it happen!



Nominate your favorite volunteer / foster home:  
[anyratnews@gmail.com](mailto:anyratnews@gmail.com)

## Michael's Very Ratty Holiday

Any Rat Rescue had holiday greetings from a recent adopter and his crew of four boys. Last summer first time adopter Michael Nuccio contacted ARR and adopted 4 boys from a litter destined for snake food. Of the four boys Michael chose, three of the cuties were dumbos. The only thing their new pet parent didn't like about them was their "old man names"- Cecil, Roy, Carl, and Harold -so you will see he named them something that suits both their and his personality a lot better.

Although Michael lives alone, he usually shares Christmas with his parents. Unfortunately, working in a retail position, and with his parents covid sensitive, he thought this Christmas was going to be pretty lonely. But, as you can see, Michael ended up having "a very Ratty Christmas" which he shared with us! Michael dotes on his boys, and his descriptions are the best way to share these beautiful boys with everyone.

*This is Gouda, formerly Cecil! He is my most playful (with the rats) boy, frequently rolling over in front of them and throwing up his paws as if to say "WRESTLE ME". He's also probably the most food driven, and is sort of the would-be alpha... which is to say, he tries, but isn't.*



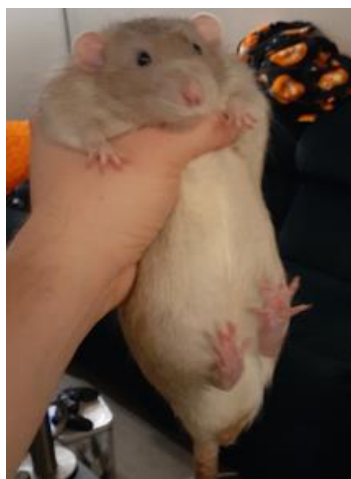
*This is Cheddar, formerly Roy, and he is MY BABY. He is my sweetest boy, he is my kissiest boy, he is my gentlest boy, and oh my, he is my "softest" boy. Both Muenster and Cheddar like being picked up, but Cheddar is more the shoulder-rider.*



*This is Muenster, my only non-Dumbo boy, formerly Harold. He is my ATTENTION HOUND, man oh man -- the second he was fully comfortable with me is the second he decided he wanted to be under foot and seeing what I'm doing every five minutes of the day. He loves to be picked up, even more than Cheddar, though both will belly-flop into my hand if I present it.*



*This is Sean, short for Parmesan, formerly Carl. He's my BIG BOY, and that ain't fat - well, some of it is, but most of it is muscle. He is my heftiest, my most exploratory, my biggest food hoarder, my least happy to be picked up BUT ultimately most compliant (his squeaks of annoyance are very small, very low. "enough.")*



*Michael says he loves his boys dearly and will be a rat owner for a very, very long time!*

Submit your favorite rattie personality!  
[anyratnews@gmail.com](mailto:anyratnews@gmail.com)

## RAT TIPS



Did you throw out all those packing materials that came with Christmas gifts and those January electronic sales? Many have clean, chewable cardboard packing materials that make great rat houses, caves, and mazes. Connect several and you can build an impressive structure for your ratties to climb through. Just cut several openings for your rats to come and go and climb.



And don't forget clean food and tissue boxes make no cost tunnels and hidey holes. The more hammocks and hideouts in your cage the better!

## Wish List

Please consider donating the following:

New & used towels, sheets, pillow cases

Used insulin syringes

Any brand ground walnut shell litter

V – Dog Food; Wild Earth Dog Food;

Natural Balance Vegetarian Dog Food

New or gently used flannel or fleece fabric,  
Hammocks

Gift Cards to: Sprouts, Natural Grocers, Whole  
Foods, Traders Joes, Joann Fabrics

Pipe Cleaners

We now have three donation drop-off  
locations:

North: 101 & 7th St.,  
call Keli 602-989-1894

East: 101 & Indian School,  
call Jenna 480-510-7282

South: 110 & Chandler Blvd. OR 202 & 40th St.,  
call Cynthia 480-598-8540

*Any Rat Rescue is a 501(c)(3) organization,  
incorporated in the State of Arizona in 2004  
and dedicated to finding loving, forever homes  
for any pet rat in need.*

*Your donations are considered tax-deductible  
to the extent of the law – check with your tax  
advisor for details!*

## Upcoming Adoption Events

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and our Website to learn more about upcoming Pet Adoption Fairs!

[https://www.facebook.com/  
AnyRatRescuePage/](https://www.facebook.com/AnyRatRescuePage/)

[http://www.anyratrescue.or  
g/adopt-2/](http://www.anyratrescue.org/adopt-2/)

Sat. Jan 15, 2022

PACC911 Adoption Event  
Anthem Community Park  
41703 N Gavilan Peak Pkwy  
10 am – 3 pm

Sat. Jan 29, 2022

Doggie Street Festival  
Steele Indian School Park  
3<sup>rd</sup> St & Indian School - PHX  
10 am – 4 pm



Any Rat Rescue is a network of volunteers.  
We need volunteers like YOU!

FOSTER OR QUARANTINE HOMES

We can supply equipment.  
Go to our website to apply.

TRANSPORTERS

We need transporters who can move rats,  
medicine, and/or equipment around the  
metropolitan area.

Flexibility is helpful as needs are sporadic.  
Please contact Jenna at 480-510-7282

AN EASY WAY TO HELP ARR  
IS TO SIGN UP FOR

[AMAZONSMILE.COM](https://www.amazon.com)  
[IGIFT.COM](https://www.igift.com)



*Happy Valentine's Day!*

*February 14, 2022*

*Photo Courtesy of Brandi Saxton*

Director: Jenna Lillibridge  
Assistant Director: Margaret Benson  
Treasurer: Terri Emerson  
Communications: Janet Cooper  
Social media: Keli Quinn  
Newsletter: Cynthia Laymon and Tricia Schaeffer

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