



Dedicated to finding loving, forever homes for any pet rat in need. July 2022 Issue



Happy 4th of July!

Photo Courtesy Brandi Saxton – It's a Rat's World

Rat Tip

Rats should always be kept as pets in same-sex groups of two or more. In the wild, rats live in immense colonies and naturally need and enjoy the company of other rats. They groom each other, sleep together, and play together. No amount of human attention can replace the company of another rat. Therefore, pet rats are happier, and perhaps even healthier, with at least one other rat for companionship.

Enjoying the newsletter?

Let us know at anyratnews@gmail.com
Tell us what you like or what you would like to see. Send us YOUR photos and stories.
We want to hear from our foster homes, adopters and rat enthusiasts!

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Before you shop
at Amazon, visit
Smile.Amazon.com and
select to support ARR.

Also, check out our
Amazon WISHLIST at
<https://amzn.to/3sLxrde>

Either way, ARR benefits
while you shop.

We appreciate your support!

FLIGHT FROM FLAGSTAFF

He was a black hooded fancy rat. He must have been someone's pet at some point. But now he was abandoned on the streets to fend for himself. Winter was closing in and he had nowhere to go.

He was noticed in the backyard of a homeowner. Together with their neighbor, the homeowners came up with a plan and trapped the sad rattie in a cage. The neighbor found ARR and contacted Director, Jenna Lillibridge, who said, "Bring him to us." The Good Samaritan neighbor drove him all the way down from Flagstaff.



Flight departs Flagstaff

He was given the name Flight. He must have been on the streets for some time since this elderly boy was frail, had an ear infection, respiratory problems, and a very bad case of lice. Jenna didn't know if he would make it. The lice infection was so bad she had to shave his hair off to do a lice treatment. She also treated his ear and respiratory infections and fed him nutritious foods. Flight slowly responded and his sweet personality started to shine.

He was sent to one of our best foster homes to continue his recuperation. He was a great eater and he soon started to fill out. He had hind leg degeneration (now being treated with anti-inflammatories) but, according to foster mom Kristin, this just gives a cute little wiggle to his walk. She says, "he is the most loving rat and he loves to give kisses." He happily bruxes and boggles when he gets his ears scratched.



Flight's hair growing in after being shaved

Kristin loved him and would have kept him if she didn't have so many ratties of her own. But Flight found a wonderful home with a previous ARR adopter. As you can see from the photo, he is now in much better shape and is a companion to another older boy who needed a friend. No more days of foraging on the streets. Flight has landed a permanent, loving home. -C.L.



Flight today with his new companion

ARR takes in strays like Flight every month. We need help with veterinary services, medications, and nutritious foods to nurse them back to health. Please help us in this mission. Consider donating through the PayPal link on our website at anyratrescue.org or at Any Rat Rescue, P.O. Box 833, Scottsdale, AZ 85252-0833. The ratties thank you!

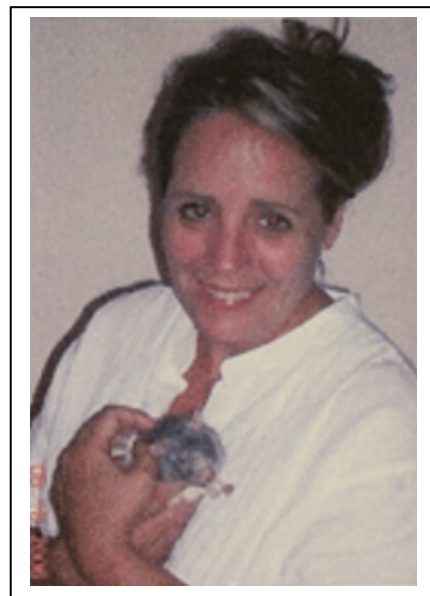
Blast from the Past

by Mary Chavez

In 2007 ARR started a print newsletter. This article is from the first printing of the quarterly ARR publication. It introduces readers to the founder of ARR.

Meet Therese

Therese Hitesman is the founder and mainstay of ARR. Therese became involved with rats after her daughter brought home four tiny female rats from Petco. As many children do, she lost interest and was no longer caring for the girls. So, Therese stepped in and moved the rats from her daughter's room to the living room and began interacting with them. Therese was soon researching the behavior and healthcare of rats, as she suspected they needed medical attention. She took them to a vet and soon a bond formed with the precious girls. After nursing them back to health, there was no doubt that the rats were now Therese's. Information on rat care and health issues was conflicting, and not wanting to act on inaccurate information, Therese began to search for other rat owners in the Valley, which ultimately led to the founding of ARR. Therese is proud to be owned by 8 furry little terrors: Willy, Waylon, and Johnny; and 6 girls, Phoebe, Cinder, Sara, Hanna, and Carmen (all spayed), is fostering 2 girls Twitch and Pepper. She's also rat-sitting for Stormy and Circa, two more adorable girls. Therese also has 39 energetic little ratties in the rat quarantine house. In addition to the rats, she has two rescue dogs, Delilah and Spot. As a true animal lover, Therese also spays or neuters and feeds feral kittens in the neighborhood. In addition to running the rescue, Therese works part-time for a catering business. This busy lady has great respect for all animals and those who help them. – M.C.



Therese moved to Washington state in 2008 where she carries on her work as a champion for animals.

Meet the 2022 ARR Team:

Director: Jenna Lillibridge

Assistant Director: Margaret
Benson

Treasurer: Terri Emerson

Communications: Janet
Cooper

Social Media / Public Events:
Keli Quinn

Newsletter: Cynthia Laymon
& Tricia Schaeffer



Want to help the Rescue? Buy Our Hammocks!

Throw them in the washer and dryer. They come in four shapes and sizes. All are only \$10 each. All materials and labor are donated, so every dollar you spend on our hammocks goes directly to ARR.

Available from two locations:

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

South: I10 & Chandler Blvd.
OR 202 & 40th St. / call
Cynthia 480-598-8540

How Cute is That??



Shhhh!! Baby is sleeping

Photo courtesy of Jenna Lillibridge

Wish List

Please consider donating the following:

- Used .03 and/or .05 syringes with removable needles
- New / used towels, sheets, pillowcases
- New or gently used flannel or fleece fabric
- Pipe cleaners
- Hammocks
- Gift cards to: Sprouts, Natural Grocers, Whole Foods, Traders Joes, Joann's Fabrics

Donation drop-off locations:

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

South: I10 & Chandler Blvd. OR 202 & 40th St., call Cynthia 480-598-8540

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

Classifieds

WANTED: CAGE MAKER

Metalworker who can cut and assemble wire and metal cages. Examples and specifications will be provided. Price per unit negotiable.

Please call Jenna at 480-510-7282.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS



FOSTER OR QUARANTINE HOMES

We supply equipment and medical care.

Application at:

https://anyratrescue.org/files/foster_app.pdf

TRANSPORTERS

Transporters needed who can move rats, medicine, and/or equipment around the metro area. Flexibility is helpful as needs are sporadic.

Please contact Jenna at 480-510-7282

ADOPTION BAG ASSEMBLER

Assemble ARR adoption materials and place in adoption bags. Call Jenna at 480-510-7282



Yum! I love a summer BBQ!

Photo Courtesy Brandi Saxton – It's a Rat's World



Volunteer Spotlight

Trevor Baize

Sixteen-year-old Trevor Baize of Peoria was attending a pet adoption fair when he ran across the Any Rat Rescue booth. Trevor has always loved animals including the dog, four cats and a hamster at home. However, becoming involved with rats was a new way to care for animals. So Trevor decided to become a foster home. He researched ARR, filled out all the paperwork, and set up the phone interview. Trevor's mom, Melissa, a professional pet and house-sitter, was so impressed by his initiative that she gave her wholehearted support. After the initial phone interview and speaking with the ARR director, Trevor was ready to set up a cage and welcome little furry visitors.

And that was the first surprise. Trevor was asked to take two naked rats, Soft and Smooth. Naked rats are not everyone's ideal pet, but Trevor gladly took the two little girls. He described them as *"the sweetest rats ever. Anytime I came close to their cage, they would run up the side trying to get my attention. It was the cutest thing."*

This might seem like an easy first assignment but that wasn't the case. In addition to the usual quarantine medication, Soft had to have medication for a badly infected eye. Sadly, it was then decided the eye had to be removed. Again, many people would not want to deal with such a difficult task, but Trevor was willing to do post-surgical care. He even noted that having her eye removed did not affect Soft's mood. She remained happy and sweet. But even our sweetest little friends do not always follow doctor's orders. Soft tore her incision open. Trevor remembered procedures, contacted ARR, and soon was on his way back to the vet to have the incision stitched closed. Now Trevor had meds to dispense but he also had to keep an eye on the little patient to make sure she didn't tear out her stitches again.

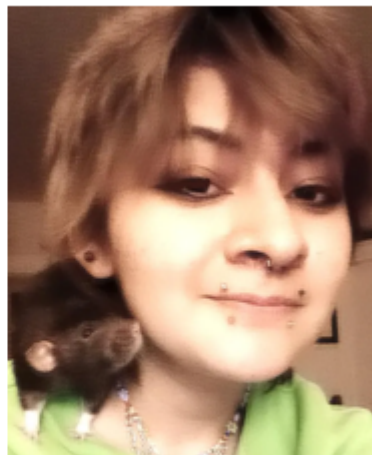
With Soft's eye healing, a potential adopter came forward. Trevor conducted his first adoption. And so, as with most foster parents, Trevor found it difficult to say goodbye to the girls. But he was also happy and found it satisfying to know they had found their forever home.

Now Trevor is fostering three ratties and he finds them as adorable as the first set. When I asked Trevor if he would like to say anything more about the foster program, he said *"I really love being part of this program and taking care of rats makes me really happy. I hope more teenagers are encouraged to foster rats and see the importance in helping and finding homes for animals"*. So do we, Trevor. Welcome to ARR! -C.L. (Photo credits: Trevor Baize)

Smooth looking for attention



Soft after surgery



Trevor with foster rat Diaval

ARR helps many rats like Soft. Will you help us help them? Please send a check or call with a credit card to Palm Glen Animal Hospital. 7771 N. 43rd Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85051 / 602-841-1200. Ask them to put the donation on the ARR account. Soft and the other ratties thank you!

Send us your stories! anyratnews@gmail.com