



# any rat rescue newsletter

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

2022, Issue V



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY BRANDI SAXTON**

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## Happy Halloween!

Letter to the Editor:

I'm loving the newsletters!! Each article is well-written and full of great information. I especially liked the volunteer spotlight on Trevor Baize. I love his dedication at such a young age! I look forward to each and every newsletter. I know it takes a lot of work to put one together, and just know it is much appreciated!

Sincerely, Karen Harwood

In this special edition:  
**Artwork, Photographs,  
and Articles by YOU...  
our Readers!**

**Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022**

10 am – 3 pm

Pet Supplies/North Scottsdale

31329 N. Scottsdale Rd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85266



**Adoption  
Events**

**Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022**

10 am – 3 pm

PACC911 &

All Saints Episcopal Church

6300 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85012

## THOUGHTS ON IRIS

Iris rat came to me by accident and of course, by the spiritual intent of whatever in this world agrees that love is of utmost importance.

Her human mom had developed allergies to Iris and I jumped at the chance to adopt her, my first rat. . . a jumbo, snuggly, warm and scratchy 'lil bundle of intelligent curiosity and a fearless kisser!

She was a being who said "yes" to life with so much strength and joy that she eclipsed any human I had ever known.

Someone with a tail and an array of whiskers that looked fairy-like and delicate. . . but with a tough and resilient 'lil body that was built to survive! She was a playful little magic creature with poor eyesight who saw just about everything!

She came to me as the pandemic began and we were together, often 24/7, as she transformed that time into an intense inter-species sacred circle. Indeed, Iris was an older rat when we first met and my time with her was short. . . and her taking leave hurt as would the leaving of any truly adored family member. I mourned her and drew her and drew her and mourned her.



What she left me with was the vow to house one of her kind always; to lavish the richest, happiest life I could on my next rat and to speak truly of rats, so often reviled and hideously murdered! But in their deepest ways, rats are deserving of all compassion and admiration and are no more destructive than our species who can, on any given day, destroy the world with the push of a button!

Viva Iris! Viva to those whose hearts are open to the Rat People! Love, Ptrza.

### Tribute and Drawing by Patricia Catto

Any Rat Rescue is in need of .03 and .05 syringes, new or used. Syringes only, no needles. If you can help, please leave a voicemail or text ARR Director Jenna Lillibridge at 480-510-7282.

## Original Oil Paintings by Janie Jicha



*Who cut the cheese?*



*Teacher's Pet*



*Inresistible*



Don't forget to go to  
Smile.Amazon.com and  
select to support ARR.  
When you shop, Amazon  
donates to ARR.  
Also, check out our WISHLIST at  
<https://amzn.to/3sLxrde>  
We appreciate your support!

### Did you know?

Some rats are a solid color throughout their whole body. They have no markings, and the coat is one color from the base of the hair all the way to the tip. Colors for the solid rats include: White, Beige, Black, Blue or English Blue (cool medium to dark gray with a blue cast), Champagne (warm, light beige), Chocolate (warm brown resembling milk chocolate), Coffee (cool, light brown similar to the color of coffee with cream), Lilac (medium gray with a purple cast), Mink or Dove (medium grayish-brown color resembling a mourning dove), and Powder Blue (light gray with a blue cast).

## GYPSY, RAT AMBASSADOR

by Kristin Grasso

Gypsy came to our rescue as a pregnant mom who was found loose on someone's farm with several other ratties. She was placed with another mom and together they raised 26 babies. Both mothers and babies were under the care of foster Keli. So, when she went out of town, I happily watched them for her. I was told, "Be careful she bites!" I let her be for a few days to get adjusted. After a while I grew curious and attempted to take her out. To my surprise, she came out of her cage with ease, immediately crawled into my shirt and started bruxing and boggling! I knew at that moment she was home with me.



Gypsy turned out to be the best rat ambassador for ARR. Whenever I had a new rat, either one of my own or a foster, and needed to see if they would do well with others, she was my girl. To no one's surprise, when a four-week-old, abandoned baby came into the rescue, Gypsy acted as a surrogate mother. The little one climbed all over her, pushed her around, and did just about everything a bossy little baby could do, but Gypsy remained so calm and patient with her. She instantly went to work cleaning the baby and teaching her manners. She stayed with the baby and cared for her until she was old enough for adoption.

A few months later, a former adopter of mine came to me looking for help with one of her boys. He was nipping and struggling to get along with other rats. I knew just the spayed girl to help. The change was almost instant. Gypsy crawled right into the tissue box with him, and if by a stroke of magic, his whole demeanor changed.

The adopter and I were completely blown away. He spent a couple of days with me, and more importantly with Gypsy, and when he returned home, he was a completely different rat. It was as if she had a calming presence that let him know he was safe now.

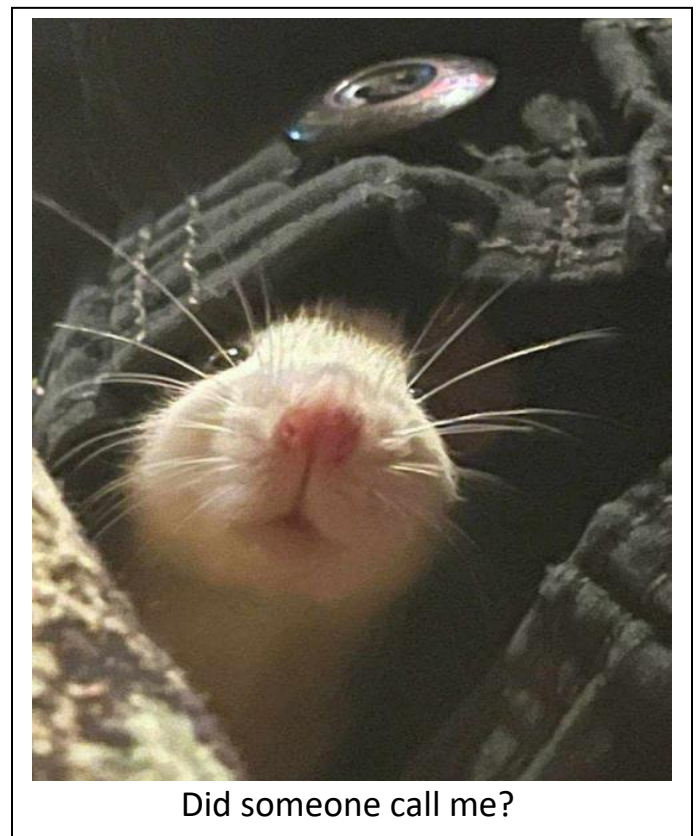
But Gypsy wasn't only amazing with rats. She was also very comical with people. When I would come up to her and say "Gypsy!" in an excited voice, she would freeze and look at me like, "How do you know my name?". When she decided she was done with my attention, she would politely put her mouth around my finger, "pick up" my hand, and move it away from her! She was the queen of the hand shove. If she didn't like something that the other rats or I were doing, she would take her little mouth and shove us out of the way. This came in handy for her when some of the boys would follow her around and she would politely decline their offers.

Gypsy passed away this year but until the moment she passed, she was nothing but patient and loving with every creature, both big and small, that she came into contact with. She was truly one of a kind and when she passed, there was a huge hole in the mischief. She will always hold a very special place in my heart as one of the most remarkable creatures I have ever had the pleasure of loving.

# Photographs by Noah Benson



Time for a nap



Did someone call me?



Tomato likes to play peek-a-boo



"Ash in a really deep sleep"



Do you shop Chewy for pet products? Did you know Chewy is one of over 2,100 stores featured on [IGIVE.com](https://www.igive.com)? Shop Chewy through IGIVE with ARR as your designated charity and IGIVE will make a donation to ARR every time you shop. It's a WIN – WIN! The ratties appreciate your support!

## Our ARR Family Mischief by Lucas Boyle

**(Note: All of the boys in this story were neutered and the girls were both spayed)**

My girlfriend and I wanted to adopt rats, but we had no idea where to find them besides pet stores. We found out about Any Rat Rescue when we talked to the ringmaster of the Cirq De Sewer rat circus show at the Renaissance Faire. We reached out to ARR in hopes of bringing home a couple of four-week-old babies.

At the foster meet and greet, a precious, inquisitive little guy chose me long before we chose him. He was a little black Berkshire boy who couldn't stop sniffing my hands. We named him Dragon. We teamed him up with his acrobatic brother, an agouti with an adorable star on his forehead who we named Archimedes.

I knew how cute and smart rats were, but who could have imagined that they could be so affectionate, communicative, funny and have such distinct personalities. I definitely wasn't prepared to love them so exponentially; much more than any other animal I've cared for before.

It was just Dragon and Archimedes for the first two years. As they got older, Archimedes became more independent, and Dragon wasn't very satisfied with his brother's "I'll only play with you when I want to" attitude. A friend for Dragon was found in a boy a few months younger than ours. He was described as "calm and cuddly in the cage but full of energy during free roam." We fell in love with Gideon's handsome, round face. Although told he had difficulties getting along with cagemates, we put in a lot of care and patience introducing him to our boys. Eventually we got them to bond, and he and Dragon became best buddies!"



Gideon (left), Dragon (middle), and Archimedes (right) relaxing in the sunlight

Sadly, Dragon and Gideon only had a few months together before Dragon had urgent business to conduct on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. We wanted to give ourselves time to process Dragon's absence and kept telling ourselves, "no rebound rats".

(cont'd on page 7)



### Holidays are Coming!

Have you thought about what to get that special rattie in your life?

We now have hammocks in 3 distinct patterns featuring your favorite rodent!

**Place your order now.**

100% of sales goes to the rescue.

Call Cynthia 480-598-8540

(Cont'd from page 6)

Then we saw Alfred! My girlfriend and I both melted at the sight of his pudgy little cheeks and when we read that he was the last boy left rescued from a hoarder's litter, we knew he had to join our family. There's nothing like having a soft little rat cuddle up to your leg and fall asleep the first night he's home with you. His new brothers accepted him fairly quickly, but Alfred struggled to fit in. We joked that Alfred "doesn't know how to rat", often freezing or running away when the other boys approached. Once Alfred learned there wasn't anything to be afraid of, and he fit right in!



Alfred being extremely cute

Alfred and Gideon were practically inseparable, Archimedes got to have his "me time" when he wanted it, and things went blissfully for the next several months. Maybe a little too blissfully. The boys were getting lazy and putting on weight. It was time to shake things up.

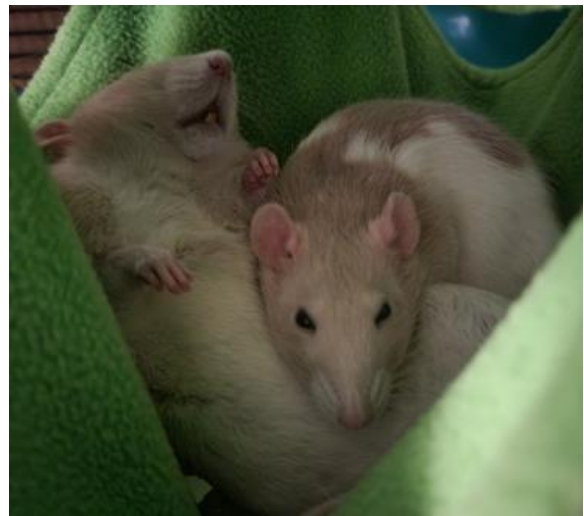
We took Alfred and Gideon to visit their former foster mom at an adoption event nearby. There we found a fearless five-month-old girl who loved exploring and had the softest fur I've ever felt. We brought her home that day and named her Lottie. She bonded so quickly and smoothly with the boys. I loved her even more because while she would be rowdy with Alfred and Gideon, she showed so much gentleness with Archimedes, who was approaching three years old and slowly declining in health. We were fortunate enough to see Archimedes's health problems coming well in advance and spoiled him with love, attention, and mounds of treats in the last few months before he reunited with his brother Dragon.

Lottie did reinvigorate Alfred and Gideon, but they still couldn't keep up with her youthful energy. It was serendipity that, a few weeks after Archimedes passed, a young girl became available for adoption. She was cute as a button and the same age as Lottie. Penelope didn't have much trouble fitting in. During one introduction session, she and Alfred both snuggled up to me and took a little nap. Penelope is probably the most affectionate rat we've ever had and she is very clever at learning tricks.

The mischief is getting along great. The boys can loaf around in their hammocks while the girls wrestle around the cage and make assertive requests to be set free and/or given treats. They play, they cuddle, and they bring more joy to our lives than we thought could come in such a small package.



Lottie and Penelope wrestling



Penelope enjoying her favorite pillow, Alfred