Life on the Front Lines of COVID-19 A BRAVE NURSE'S STORY

Prince Harry Talks 'Family Time' in Quarantine





The mom & daughter duo on their incredible bond, getting through tough times and passing on a legacy of joy



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HELPING ANIMALS IN NEED <u>A SWAT</u> **Team for Lost Pets**

AN ARIZONA RESCUE GROUP USES HIGH-TECH TRICKS-AND LOTS OF PATIENCE-TO BRING RUNAWAY DOGS AND CATS BACK HOME By JOHNNY DODD and DIANE HERBST

t had been nearly three weeks, and Donna Kelly admits she'd all but lost hope. Her foster dog Eddie-an easily frightened feral German shepherd-had bolted out of their garage and disappeared. "I felt so bad," recalls Kelly, 51, who, after days of searching in the "brutal" 105° Phoenix heat last July, feared she'd never see the dog again. "I was supposed to keep him safe." At her wit's end, she remembered hearing about HARTT, an animal rescue group that uses high-tech cameras and humane traps to track down lost pets. Kelly reached out, and two weeks later in the middle of the night, as a fierce rainstorm flooded the area, her phone rang. They'd found Eddie on a golf course two miles from her house. "I drove there in my pajamas,

'These animals have no advocates but us' - CHERYL NAUMANN





crying," says Kelly, who has since adopted Eddie. "He was drenched, disheveled, very thin, but safe."

It's a happy ending that

hundreds of distraught pet owners in Arizona's Maricopa County have experienced, thanks to HARTT (Humane Animal Rescue and Trapping Team) and its founder, Cheryl Naumann, 58. Started in 2017, the nonprofit and its 50 specially trained volunteers focus on rescuing skittish strays, runaways and lost pets. "If you can recover a lost animal by walking down the street, whistling and putting a leash around its neck, we're not needed," says Naumann, who also owns a pet resort with her husband, Roger, and oversees a HARTT-affiliated shelter that's helped care for many of the nearly 800 dogs rescued by the group. "We're only needed for those animals that are too shy or scared to come to anyone else."

The idea for the organization came about in 2012, after a friend told Naumann about a stray

(center) and Ann

Langlois—and

Tucker, one of

their rescues.

HARTT volunteers in April with a trapped stray named Tyler, who has since found a home.

'They're like heroes to me for what they did' -CHERYL HEFLIN

Young shepherd 35 lbs

HELP-LOST!

Do not chasel

dog that had been living beside a local freeway. Naumann, whose day job is running the University of Phoenix's human resource department, had long been a passionate animal welfare volunteer; she served as CEO of the Arizona Humane Society for six years and has one cat and four rescue dogs of her own. So she bought a humane trap and soon got the stray dog off the street. "I quickly realized there was a great need to get these animals that no one could catch, but nobody was doing it," says Naumann, who began leading workshops to teach others the patience and skills needed to track and trap lost pets.

These days, HARTT's well-run network (which is funded mainly by private donations) is made up of dedicated volunteers spread out across the sprawling Arizona county. Once a pet owner who's lost a dog or cat fills out a form on the group's website (Azhartt.org), volunteers mobilize a search team. Working with the pet owner, they create and post dozens—sometimes hundreds—of eye-catching fliers



Happy Tales!



Holiday Miracle Missing for four days, Emmylou was found the day after Christmas 2019, much to owner Bradley Weichold's relief.



A Happy Reunion Lyla, an Australian shepherd, was reunited with her family on Easter three days after going missing.



Missing 43 Days Oralia Ochoa refused to stop looking for her dog Maria, who was finally found and rescued in April.



Safe and Sound Little Londyn was rescued in September and has since been adopted from the HARTT shelter into a loving home.

in the area where the animal was last seen. "The fliers have proven hugely effective, because not everyone's on social media," says Eva Livesay, 48, a lead volunteer with the group.

Once they receive a tip that the animal has been seen, team members set up box traps baited with everything from cheeseburgers to chicken, along with trail cameras that provide searchers with live views of the area. "They're like heroes to me for what they did," says Cheryl Heflin, 67, whose 5-year-old Chihuahua Sheba got spooked by a neighbor's dog during a walk, wiggled out of her harness and vanished into the desert in early March. Acting on a tip from a park worker who spotted the pup, volunteers trapped Sheba just four days later. Says Naumann, who hopes to spread HARTT's mission to communities outside Arizona: "Being able to use our skills and equipment to save these animals is like no other feeling in the world."

COURTESY HARTT(7)