



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOLBROOK ANIMAL SHELTER NON-PROFIT AWARDED SPAY/NEUTER GRANT FUNDS

HOLBROOK, AZ -- In September 2016, the Friends of the Holbrook Animal Shelter received the Animal Welfare Grant, a component fund of the Arizona Community Foundation, to support the group's efforts to decrease the homeless pet population in Holbrook, Arizona. The Friends group organized a spay and neuter voucher program that, since the funds' disbursement in early 2017, fixed over 150 community and shelter dogs and cats in Holbrook, Joseph City, Woodruff, and Sun Valley.

"The voucher program is still going, but we already see a significant impact." said Dani Casto, Board Member and Shelter Liaison for the Friends Group. "We see fewer litters of puppies brought to our shelter, and most of the incoming kittens are not from Holbrook, but the surrounding towns within Navajo County. The grant from the Arizona Community Foundation gave us additional resources to further improve the welfare of our shelter pets and extend the help to the pets in our local community."

Vouchers covered the cost of the spay and neuter surgeries at the Holbrook Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Reidhead at the Clinic required all shots before these surgeries, so all fixed animals are also vaccinated. Friends group volunteers distributed vouchers – one per household per month – at the shelter and at each major community event this spring and summer. The largest distribution of vouchers occurred at the annual shot clinic hosted in February by Dr. Reidhead from the Holbrook Veterinary Clinic and the Animal Control Officer at Holbrook Animal Care & Control. The Friends group initially restricted the vouchers to one per household per month, but removed those restrictions in July to cover more households and more animals before the grant deadline. As of August 1st, the grant money is fully consumed and all vouchers disbursed, with only a handful of vouchers to be honored in the month of August.

The Friends of the Holbrook Animal Shelter is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to improve Holbrook animals' quality of life and decrease euthanasia of adoptable shelter animals. The Friends group worked countless hours with the Animal Control Officer to create a network of no-kill options through partnerships with Arizona rescue groups and local adoption-committed shelters, successfully decreasing euthanasia rates at the Holbrook Animal Shelter from nearly 85% in 2012 to less than 5% in the last three years. Now, because of our reputation, the shelter receives and transfers more animals than ever before. Spay and neuter programs like these mean fewer homeless animals need rescue, so more resources, attention, and care is devoted to the ones in need.

The growing group of volunteers with the Friends of the Holbrook Animal Shelter works tirelessly to care for the shelter pets, increase adoption rates and shelter visits, transfer adoptable animals to local rescues, raise money for life-saving veterinary services, and work with the citizens of Holbrook to improve the lives of all dogs and cats in our community. The good work done at the shelter is only possible because of the volunteers, supportive community, partnerships, and funding from donations and grants like the ACF Animal Welfare grant. Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation is a statewide family of charitable funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. More information is available at www.azfoundation.org.

For further information visit our website: www.friendsoftheholbrookshelter.org
Contact the Friends of the Holbrook Animal Shelter at friendsoftheholbrookshelter@gmail.com