



"I just can't live without my pet who is such great company to me," said pet owner, Gen.

April 29, 2014 - Verde Valley Caregivers Makes "Pets Count Too!"

Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition was awarded a \$7,500 grant from Banfield Charitable Trust to fund its new Pets Count Too! Program. The program provides funds for pets of VVCC's eligible older adults for emergency pet boarding due to hospitalization of their owners, as well as pet food and supplies, veterinary services and emergency dog walking/grooming.

"Pets play a huge role in the lives of the neighbors we serve," said VVCC Executive Director Kent Ellsworth. "About 1,600 of our neighbors live alone and approximately 40% of them have pets that are important to their quality of life." VVCC is in its 22nd year of providing services to older adults throughout the Verde Valley who can no longer drive, and/or are disabled, and wish to live independently in their own homes.

Over 300 VVCC volunteers are helping older adults with transportation, grocery shopping, friendly visits, hospital to home assistance, handy person assistance, and more.

VVCC would like to thank the following partners for participating in the Pets Count Too! program: Cornville Pet Clinic, Oak Creek Small Animal Clinic, and Verde Veterinary Hospital. These establishments are making it possible to keep pets with their owners and provide a greater sense of independence for our older adult community.

"No one should ever have to face the heartbreak of surrendering a pet. They become part of the family, and in many cases, these animals are all our neighbors have. The more assistive services we can provide, the greater quality of life our neighbors can

enjoy," said Community Resources and Eligibility Coordinator, Kim Meller. For more information about becoming a partner and helping pets remain in the homes of their owners, contact the WVCC office at (928) 204-1238.