



## ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of Animals Since 1957

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### **Pledge for Homeless Pets Travels more than 7,500 miles**

*US serviceman on active duty half a world away gives HOPE to the homeless pets at the Arizona Humane Society*



SPC Military Police Robert "RJ" Citrullo, Jr.  
on duty in Bouqara, Iraq

(PHOENIX) – During the Arizona Humane Society's 2008 Pet Telethon, pledges to help injured, sick and unwanted pets came from near and far. One pledge in particular created quite a buzz at the shelter – it came from more than 7,500 miles away in Bouqara, Iraq.

Robert "RJ" Citrullo, Jr., a military police specialist in the United States Army, is currently in the middle of a 15-month tour of duty in Bouqara, Iraq. A self-professed animal lover, Citrullo heard about the pet telethon and wanted to help the homeless animals.

Despite the 10-hour time difference and his daily patrol responsibilities, he set his clock to call in his pledge during the telethon.

"When RJ's pledge was announced live during the telethon, the studio erupted in a loud cheer and everyone was applauding," said Tim Crum, executive director of the Arizona Humane Society. "A lot of us, including myself, had tears in our eyes. We were so moved by this gesture. RJ is obviously a very compassionate and dedicated individual. His commitment to our country to protect our freedom combined with his love of animals and wanting to give them hope makes him such an extraordinary person. He truly is what we call a 'Humane Hero,' and the Arizona Humane Society would like to give RJ a hero's welcome when he returns from his tour of duty."

Upon his return from active duty in Iraq, Citrullo hopes to re-enlist in the Army's military working dog training program.

*Founded in 1957, the Arizona Humane Society is the state's largest, nonprofit animal-welfare and protection agency. The mission of AHS is to improve the lives of animals, alleviate their suffering, and elevate their status in society.*

Learn more at [www.azhumane.org](http://www.azhumane.org).

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