

HARC ANNOUNCES NEW CEO

HARC, Inc. has announced the selection of Jenna LeComte-Hinely, PhD as its new Chief Executive Officer. She filled the vacancy created by Eileen Packer's retirement last month. "The selection was made after an extensive interview process," said Board President, Dr. Glen Grayman.

"Jenna will bring leadership and creativity to HARC and a deep sense of commitment to the work we do. The Board is confident that her expertise and passion for research will help strengthen and expand this organization to reach new heights," reported Dr. Grayman.

Dr. LeComte-Hinely has been the Director of Research and Evaluation at HARC since 2012. In this role, she has successfully produced HARC's most recent triennial health survey. The results of this survey, known as the Community Health Monitor, are provided to the community free of charge. To date, the data from this survey has helped dozens of local organizations to raise over \$7.1 million for much-needed programs and services to improve health and wellness in the Coachella Valley.

She has also been in charge of all of HARC's customized research and evaluation services. As such, she has conducted many program evaluations and needs assessments, which provide objective, relevant data to numerous local organizations, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley, Get Tested Coachella Valley, the LGBT Community Center of the Desert, and many more.

In the past three years, Dr. LeComte-Hinely has become deeply involved in the Valley's wellness activities. She is a member of the Healthcare Industry Council (led by Coachella Valley Economic Partnership), the Riverside County Health Coalition, and the Coachella Valley Disability Collaborative. Recently, Jenna served as an adjunct faculty member at California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus, where she taught Statistics for the Health Sciences.

"I am honored that the Board has selected me to lead HARC," said Dr. LeComte-Hinely. "I hope to build on the foundation that Eileen Packer was able to create, and take HARC to the next level. I want to raise public awareness of the services HARC provides, and HARC's key role in protecting and promoting the quality of life in our Coachella Valley community. I hope to become the Valley's go-to person for anything regarding research, evaluation, or data in general."

About HARC

HARC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing research and evaluation services related to health and wellness. HARC is funded in part by grants, donations, and customized research and evaluation services. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 404-1945, or visiting the organization's website at www.HARCdata.org.



JENNA LECOMTE-HINELY, PHD

Petco Foundation Invests in Guide Dogs of the Desert's Service Animals

Grant of \$200,000 will extend efforts to help people live their best lives

Guide Dogs of the Desert of Palm Springs announced it has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Petco Foundation to support its ongoing breeding and training programs to place guide dogs with individuals who are blind.

Guide Dogs of the Desert is a nonprofit organization who provides custom trained guide dogs for the blind, and for those with special needs, for safe mobility, companionship and independence. Since 1972, Guide Dogs of the Desert has graduated close to 1,300 teams from its program. They are accredited by the International Guide Dog Federation.

The grant was made possible through the Petco Foundation's annual Helping Heroes fundraising campaign, in partnership with Natural Balance Pet Foods. During the campaign each October, customers are invited to donate in Petco stores across the country to support service and therapy animals and organizations.

The Petco Foundation investment will be used to support all programs and services of Guide Dogs of the Desert, from breeding to puppy raising to initial dog training, and then custom training and placement of a guide dog with a client who is blind," stated Sarah Clapp, Executive Director.

The Petco Foundation has served as a voice for companion animals across the country since 1999. Today, with more than 8,000 local animal welfare partners across the country, the Petco Foundation donates approximately \$15 million a year to make a difference in the lives of millions of animals. The organization is funded through donations raised during fundraisers conducted in Petco's more than 1,300 stores across the country, as well as from Petco associates, vendors and corporate contributions. Money raised helps fund animal welfare organizations, spay and neuter efforts, animal-assisted therapy programs and humane education. The majority of the funds raised remain in the communities where they were raised, as well as animal welfare efforts nationwide.

For more information about Guide Dogs of the Desert or the Petco Foundation, visit www.gddca.org or www.petcofoundation.org. Join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or by using the hashtag #PetcoFoundation.

About Guide Dogs of the Desert

Guide Dogs of the Desert is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, provides custom trained guide dogs for safe mobility, loving companionship, and life-enhancing independence. For more information, please contact Sarah Clapp, at 760-329-6257 or sclapp@gddca.org.

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$125 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 8,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay/neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 4.2 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

