

# The Prescott Dog

January/February 2018

ALWAYS  
**FREE**  
TO GOOD HOME

## Small Rescues, Big Hearts

Local Pulitzer Nominee

All In a Dog's Work

What's a Hoodoo?

Paw Marketplace

Page 39

**KITTY PALOOZA**

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◆ **CELEBRATING OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!** ◆

Dedicated to Promoting the Human-Animal Bond



**HURRY!**  
**SALE**  
**ENDS**  
**1/31/18**



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# The Prescott Dog

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# THE PRESCOTT DOG

PO Box 11868, Prescott AZ 86304

**Cherie L. Dreves - Publisher/Owner**  
[info@prescottdog.com](mailto:info@prescottdog.com)

## FEATURED WRITERS

**Gary DeGeronimo** – Sora...The Making of a Facility Dog

**Heidi Dahms Foster** – Earth Dog Competitions Test Hunting Instincts of Terriers

**Cheryl Hartz** – On the Trail: What's a Hoodoo Hike?

**Briana Lonas** – Business Spotlight: Harmony Holistic Veterinary Care; Proper Safety Restraints Save Dog Lives

**Skye Lyons** – All In a Dog's Work; Dogs for Adoption; Cats for Adoption; Creature Feature: What Do You Think of Winter?

**Portrait Park by J** – Cover photo

**Rita Thompson-Tinsley** – Making Horse Sense: The Obstacle Course; Tips From the Trainer: Ned Leigh, Equine Focus

**Allie Werhan** – Cover Story: Small Rescues, Big Hearts; A Writer of History; Kitty Korner: Autumn All Year Long; Book Review: *Total Cat Mojo* by Jackson Galaxy

**If you have a story idea, please send it to:**  
[info@prescottdog.com](mailto:info@prescottdog.com)



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## The Prescott Dog Staff & Writers



**Cherie L. Dreves – Publisher/Owner** Cherie has had her share of furries "follow her home" (a few times on the end of a rope). Her public relations career probably started back then; lobbying her mom, "can we keep 'em? Cherie has worked to increase community awareness for several rescue groups around the southwest. She is a writer, speaker and idea generator; with a passion for puppies, of all ages.



**Allie Werhan – Editor** Allie was born loving animals and trying to rescue them. (Can we keep him? He followed me home.) After several careers including teaching and retail management, she is now a part-time writer. Allie coordinated the cat program for United Animal Friends for years. Some of her best friends are dogs. The cat is her boy, Scamper, who is a Maine Coon mix, about 7 years old, and a love.



**Briana Lonas – Pet Health Tips** Briana Lonas lives with her husband John and two dogs – a Labrador/hound mix and a Border Collie/Pembroke Corgi mix. Aside from also raising a horse and chickens, she enjoys researching animal safety issues and natural remedies in tandem with traditional medicine. She feels that our furry family members are happiest when they are healthy.



**Cheryl Hartz – On The Trail** Cheryl Hartz is a tree and animal hugger, an award-winning writer and photographer and a 30-year resident of Prescott Valley. She has hiked extensively with only minor bumps, bruises and sunburns. She was the Arizona Game & Fish Outdoor Writer of the Year for 2014.



**Gary DeGeronimo – K-9 Service Corner and Training** Gary has been a Canine Behavior Specialist for close to 30 years and has been involved with many aspects of the canine world from training to shelter administration. He is currently the Founder/Director of Training for Gentle Hearts Service Dogs, a non-profit charitable organization providing trained and qualified service dogs for those in need, with a particular focus on children with autism.



**Heidi Dahms Foster – The K-9 Beat** Heidi has lived in the greater Prescott/Prescott Valley area since fourth grade. She has been involved with dogs her entire life, and shares her home with husband Randy and a houseful of critters. She recently changed careers after 27 years with Prescott Newspapers, Inc. and now works as Communications Relations Coordinator for the Town of Prescott Valley. She enjoys keeping her hand in writing about and photographing dog activities and events.



**Rita Thompson-Tinsley – Equine Contributor** After a career in broadcast advertising and production, Rita and family moved from a ranch in Texas where she raised Nubian goats, retired show lambs, miniature donkeys, llamas and horses, to Arizona. She currently resides in Dewey with her husband, three horses and two rescue labs. Her equestrian and western writing has been featured in Arizona publications as well as an international magazine for cowgirls.



**Skye Lyons – The Creature Feature** Skye has been a life-long magnet for lost creatures; those who need a helping hand, some redirection mentally and physically, and some hugs. Observing animals has always been a passion, gaining her some strange interactions and conversations with anything and everything, from a cat asking her to be a midwife to owls perching on the hood of her car. Every creature has a story, and she loves finding out what it might be.



## From the Pack Leader

All of us, at Prescott Dog Magazine, hope that all of you had a peaceful Holiday Season.

The turning of the calendar to 2018 marks the beginning of our 10th year of publication. We are all excited to be a part of Prescott Dog Magazine at this very special time. Throughout the year we will bring you several "inside stories" about

the magazine and those that are so diligent in its creation.

Speaking of creation, Prescott Dog Magazine was created for animal lovers by animal lovers. We continue to be the voice for the voiceless and help hundreds of animals find new homes each year. We are honored to continue this tradition.

Peace, Love, Dogs, Cherie



**WE WANT TO HEAR**

..... from .....

**YOU!**



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or

**info@prescottdog.com**

## Hazel Howls

Pickle. A remembered taste formed in my mouth when Mom and Dad first brought him through the door. Some years ago Dad was eating a sandwich in the truck and a pickle fell to the floor. Before he could stop me I had scooped it up. Big mistake. I couldn't get that nasty thing out of my mouth fast enough. Watching this strange adult dog approach brought back that memory as he snooped and paraded around my world, my home.

As the two-leggeds were gushing and trying to encourage me to engage with him, (a male of all things, now Dad's side might get two votes), I decided I was going to have to take control of this "situation" right off the bat.

In the past I endured the Bella years. That snappy and moody bulldog kept me on my toes, and eventually we managed to tolerate each other. Then came the fostering years (still ongoing). First, the puppy Lucy came through the door. Yes, she was beautiful and smart. A tribute to her breeding and lineage. Lucy was a handful and had a masterful way of swinging her hind quarters at me during play. She was fostered and trained as a service dog, and I hear that you can see her beautiful and smart self working up north on a college campus.

Before Lucy moved on, another foster puppy, Butter, arrived. Although Butter came from the same pedigree, she had a mischievous streak that was unpredictable and gave Dad a run for his money.

When the fostering of those two came to a close, I was looking forward to my retiring from being a nanny.

Now this. A white fluff ball of possible trouble. I can sense that he is not a foster dog, or a visitor.

For the next 36 hours I read this dog the riot act. Every time he came near me I vocally went over the rules and boundaries of the household. I snapped my teeth and bared them at each approach. It was working as far as I could tell. He stayed demure and quietly kept out of my way. During my barking alerts he did not attempt to assist or add his two cents. So far so good. Until the third day.

On days one and two, Dad and I discovered that this dog did not



**Tucker (right) & me**

know how to play. Dad would throw toys for me so I could do my scramble and fetch. Then I would shake the life out of the toy and bring it back to Dad, (most times). With this dog however, Dad had to put the toy in his mouth for him. Then we would watch him paddle anxiously from room to room not knowing what to do with it. Not the brightest bulb around, it seemed.

Then came day three. Dad lofts one of my "favorites" into the air. With a short gallop, a slight jump, and my jaws closing on the airborne target I turned to run back to Dad. Immediately I am met by a supersonic white blur of a missile that stops right at my muzzle and issues a loud, sharp, commanding bark. I drop the toy instantly out of shock and alarm. The toy is quickly snatched up and taken away.

"He can talk!"

Dad's words broke the spell as I stared at the white dog enjoying my toy.

"Yeah, and he's fast too, Dad." This was not the "shy wallflower shelter rescue dog" I thought he was. "What's his name again Dad?"

"Tucker," Dad said in a whisper.

"More like Sgt. Tucker it would seem," I sighed.

After that day, I had to change my approach. Now, some months later, I appreciate having a companion near my age. Not only is Tucker smarter and faster than we first thought, he is very loyal to Mom and keeps her feet warm at night.

In early November Sora arrived. Another foster puppy to be trained as a service/facility dog. Tucker adopted her and serves as nanny and playmate. I'm so grateful for him now. I call him "Old Uncle Tuck" sometimes and when Dad gets to my nerves I call him "Au Pair". When I do, Dad threatens to put pickles in my dinner.



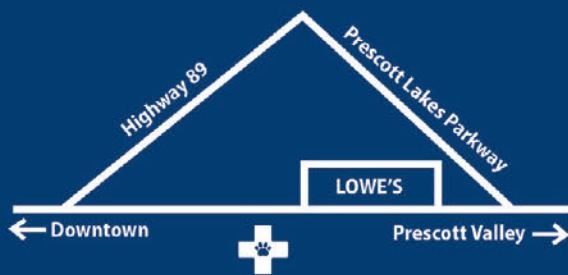


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At PAPEH we have seen several treat related emergencies. All pet store treats run the risk of choking, pancreatitis, gastric upset, or obstruction. Dr. Barnes also learned the hard way that bully sticks break teeth.

We recommend avoiding any treats unless they are approved by or purchased through your veterinarian.

**PAPEH is open 24/7 - we can be reached at (928) 778-1990.**  
*If you are concerned, we are concerned.*





## Special Events

### ONGOING

#### LOW-COST WALK-IN VACCINATION CLINIC

Fri 8a-11a & 1p-4:30p Yavapai Humane Society, 2989 Centerpointe E., Suite B., Prescott. (928) 771-0547

#### UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS

If you want to volunteer or learn more about United Animal Friends, visit [unitedanimalfriends.org](http://unitedanimalfriends.org) or call 778-2924.

#### YAVAPAI HUMANE EQUINE CENTER

If you would like to schedule a tour of our center, please call (928) 515-4947.

### JANUARY

#### HERITAGE PARK ZOOLOGICAL SANCTUARY

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Half-Price Admission** - Monday, January 15.

#### BARRELS & POLES - BUCKLE SERIES

January 20, 12-4 pm, Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Registration at 11 am. Info at [cvequestrianpark.com](http://cvequestrianpark.com) or call (928) 636-3242

#### WILD ROSE HORSE OBSTACLE CONTESTS BENEFITTING BETHANY'S GAIT

January 20-21, Dale Creek Equestrian Village, Litchfield Park. For Info, call Gary at (928) 595-0428.

### FEBRUARY

#### VALENTINE PHOTOS BENEFITTING UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS

February 3rd, 11a to 3p, Whiskers Barkery, 225 W Gurley St, downtown Prescott. \$10 for a 5"x7" framed photo or a CD with multiple prints. For more info, call (928) 776-8700.

#### HERITAGE PARK ZOOLOGICAL SANCTUARY

**Valentine's Day Special - Buy One, Get One Admission.** Wednesday, February 14.

#### BARRELS & POLES - BUCKLE SERIES

February 17, 12-4 pm, Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Registration at 11 am. Info at [cvequestrianpark.com](http://cvequestrianpark.com) or call (928) 636-3242

#### WILD ROSE HORSE OBSTACLE CONTESTS BENEFITTING BETHANY'S GAIT

February 23-25, Bumble Bee Ranch. For info, call Gary at (928) 595-0428.

## Ongoing Adoptions

#### CATTY SHACK - CAT ADOPTIONS

**Onsite** - Tues thru Sat 10am-2p, 609 S. Granite St., Prescott, [ssnsmart@yahoo.com](mailto:ssnsmart@yahoo.com)

#### CIRCLE L RANCH ADOPTIONS

**Onsite** - by appointment  
**Dogs** - Liz Steigmeir, (928) 273-7005  
**Farm Animals** - Terry O'Brian, (928) 925-1926  
**Offsite**, Whiskers Barkery Every 3rd, 4th, 5th, Saturday, 11a-2:00p, Pet Headquarters, every Sat., 11a-2:00p, [circlel.org](http://circlel.org)

#### GREYHOUND PETS OF ARIZONA

Petsmart 4th Sat of each month 1:30p

#### MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE

**Onsite** - Open House, Fri, Sat. 11a-3p 302 W. Alarcon, Prescott.  
**Offsite** - Petsmart, Sat/Sun 11a-3p

#### UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS

**Cat Adoptions** - Petco, Saturdays & Sundays (Hwy 69, Prescott), 11:00a-2:00p or by appointment by calling Ruthie at (928) 379-1088  
**Dog Adoptions** - Petco (Hwy 69, Sunday 12p-3p. Whiskers Barkery (225 W Gurley St, Prescott) 1st two Saturdays of every month, 11a-2p. [unitedanimalfriends.org](http://unitedanimalfriends.org)

#### YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY

**Onsite Adoptions** - Mon-Sat 11a-6p; Sun 12p-4p, 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd., Prescott, (928) 445-2666  
**Offsite Adoptions** - Petsmart Mon-Sat 2p-4pm; Sun 11a-2pm. Petco Fri & Sat 11a-2p  
**Lost Pet Center Hrs** - Mon-Sat 11a-6p; Sun 12p-4pm

MARK YOUR  
2018 CALENDARS  
**NOW**

AND

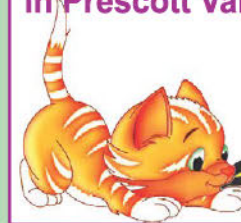
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Saturday,

March 10, 2018

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*Mrrw!*  
See  
Pages 24-25  
For More  
Info!



Saturday,  
June 9, 2018  
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Sunday,  
October 7, 2018  
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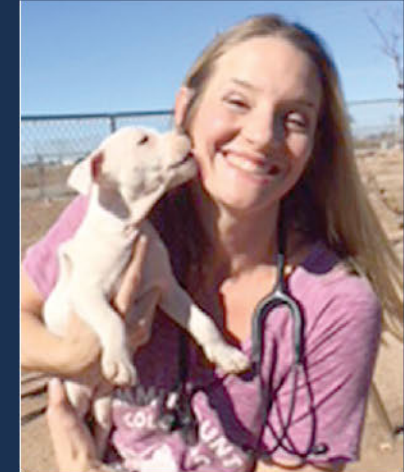


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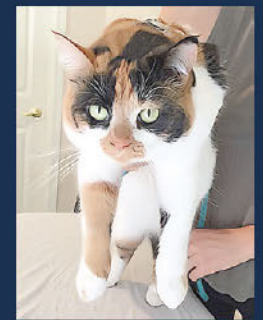
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# SMALL RESCUES, BIG HEARTS

Story by Allie Werhan. Photos courtesy of Kim Lytle and Ella Hess.

We often do stories about the larger rescue groups, but today we are going to recognize some of the smaller rescues in the area. After all, every rescue was once small. Some choose to stay small, some grow whether they want to or not, and others are specialized and are just the right size for their focus.

Petey's Playground in Yarnell was started to fill a particular need in that rural area.

When the fire department went on an emergency call, sometimes there were dogs or cats in the homes, so they would take the animals back to the station with them and hold them overnight until someone became available to take the animal.

That need is what prompted Kim Lytle to do something about the situation. She started Petey's Playground so the animals would have an emergency shelter. She limited the size of the area to Yarnell, Congress, Wilhoit, and Skull Valley.

There are few resources for temporary animal care for people in these towns. About 30% of the people are living in poverty, are mostly over 65 years old, and are living alone. Their family is far away. They choose that life style, and like living in the quiet by themselves, but they love their animals. Sometimes they won't go to the hospital if there is no one to care for their pets. Many rural areas have similar problems.

Kim decided she had to do something about it. "This was an unmet need," she said.

Most rescues are long-term solutions, and few will do a short-term foster. Kim decided that would be her focus. She wanted to limit her geographical impact area to something she could handle. She has taken animals outside the area, most recently a dog from Kingman. It was supposed to be for three days, but the owner died, and the dog became a placement issue. They had a foster available and it was a nice dog, so she took it.

People in her area prefer a shorter time period. She has uncovered a network of people who are available to be short-term fosters. So far, she has been able to accommodate everyone. She also has her own outside area, Petey's Playground, where she can take quite a few dogs.

In a small town like Yarnell, people often know each other, and if someone has to go to the hospital, some of the fosters may even know the dogs. "Can anyone take care of Wiggles for a couple of days?" "Yeah, she can come over to my house."

"What we did find," Kim says, "is that not too many people get well enough to take their animal back. It turns into a long-term foster. It is comforting to people to know their

animals aren't in a shelter, and are still in the local area.

The fire they had last summer brought her three dogs for four days until the family could get back to town from their travels. There was a veteran who went into the VA hospital and didn't come back, always a sad situation. Kim rehomed his two dogs.

Petey's has a fall fundraiser of a fish bake supper, which is always a success. People come from all over for that, but it isn't enough.

Kim and her group have been doing some work outside their mission, with some unowned cat colonies. She discovered that the colonies mean a lot to the older population, many of whom live where they are not allowed pets or are unable to care for pets of their own. One colony was about 30 cats and another 12, but most are one or two adults and some babies. A woman had names for every one of the 30 cats, and could pick them up even though other people could not get near them.

Kim and her people catch the cats, spay, and neuter and give medications. If the kittens are young

enough, the staff at Muleshoe Veterinary socializes them so they can be adopted.

They have a fundraiser called the Treasure Sale, on the same weekend in February as Gold Rush days, and those funds go only to the cat program.

If the cats can't be taken back to where they came from, they are spayed, neutered, and vaccinated, and placed as barn cats. The kittens are rehomed. Everyone loves kittens.

Petey's Playground has applied for a grant which they should have found out about in December. Word gets around about their program and they hate to say no to anyone.

We all hope that this will be the year when the money stretches, the dogs and cats thrive, and the rescuers get a few days off somewhere along the way!



Willie and Felix resting



Kim with Willie, a foster



Kim with Felix, a foster



Kim at play with foster dogs



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Ella Hess first started working with United Animal Friends about 2 months after UAF started, in 2004... 15 years ago. She remembers exactly, because she and her husband, Berk, rented while their home was being built. Finally they were able to move into their house 2 days before their furniture in storage was to arrive. Then they got a call...the whole storage place burned to the ground. Nothing was left except one big white ceramic pot, which they have on their patio. March, 2004.

Ella spent days writing out the inventory for the insurance company. She needed a break, so she took a drive and saw a group of people and dogs in front of Petco Pet Store. She went in and met some of the members. She decided to get involved and show dogs for adoptions 3 hours every Sunday. For a while that's all she did, learning the ropes and how to get dogs adopted.

Her breed of choice was beagles, so she decided to rescue them. She started with Southern Arizona Beagle Rescue in Tucson, working in Prescott with beagles. She switched to Arizona Beagle Rescue and then to BARC, a rescue which has folded. Then she contacted Toby, then president of UAF, and

joined UAF with her own fund, working with beagles.

She put out a big monthly report for all the dogs and cats, but that got overwhelming and the work was divided among UAF members. Ella says she then went "all beagles" in 2007-2008, and included all kinds of hound dogs too.

Now she works with rescues in New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona, and a California coonhound rescue, moving dogs from one area to another, and seeing as many as possible. Beagles, bassets, and hounds are her special breeds now, although she works with big dogs and helps whoever needs her.

Ella was raised with horses and collies. She and Berk got a dog when their son was young. Daisy was a beagle pup.

One day she disappeared from their fenced and locked yard. Of course, they thought she had been stolen, but a neighbor called. Daisy was in their yard, having a nap with their Great Dane. Apparently, she had figured out how to go under the fence and spend the day with the dog so neither would be lonely.

Ella knows at least 900,000 dog stories by heart, and told me many of them. I will tell you a few, and if you want to hear more, Ella will probably tell them to you if you can keep up with her.

Snoopy was found walking down a dirt road with a chihuahua in New Mexico. No idea how they met. A man who owned a pecan orchard

took them to the vet, and paid all their bills. Ella arranged through her many contacts to transport the two dogs from Anthony, New Mexico.

Ernie, the man who found them, is a licensed detective who arranged for a nice guy to bring the beagle to Ella, an 8-hour drive.

Snoopy, it turned out, could jump a 6-foot fence. Ella found a family in Tucson who wanted him, and added a foot of fencing to their 5-foot fence, as well as buying a new taller gate for \$300. Snoopy had a good home in a loving family.

Ella got Lucy last year. Her foster, Pam, in San Tan Valley, called Ella and said she found a little beagle on Craigslist, free to a good home because she had seizures. At first, Ella thought about the cost of care for such a dog, and then stopped herself and said, "If you can't do this, then what are you doing here?" So she told Pam to go get the little dog.

It was a leap of faith, with no idea what was wrong or what the dog looked like. Pam reported that it was a terrible situation. The man also had a Great Dane that was terrorizing the beagle; she was shuddering in fear under the table.

The man had gotten the beagle 3 years earlier from a shelter. She was having seizures at that time, but he never took her to the vet. She had never been evaluated. The owner reported that she was having seizures every few months, but it turned out to be more than one a day.

Ella took her to Dr. Smith at Mile Hi, and was afraid Lucy would die. Dr. Smith put her on Phenobarbital. After a while the new foster couldn't handle the situation any longer; Lucy was getting 2½ pills a day, a costly treatment.

Ella knew a family in Scottsdale who had adopted a beagle from her. The woman, Chris, found out about Lucy. She had a beagle with seizures and another little dog. After little Lucy was moved several more times, she went to Chris. All the little dogs got along.

Chris had a pool, which was a hazard for Lucy. While the women were talking, they suddenly heard a splash. Both pulled their shoes off and ran to the rescue, but Lucy was paddling around the pool like a little duck. She went to the steps, climbed out and shook water all over everyone. It was still considered a hazard, but Chris adopted Lucy, and all are doing well.

Sometimes Ella is surprised by a situation that looks difficult but turns out to be successful. A foster in Surprise told Ella about 4 puppies found in a box in the desert. They were purebred beagles. A rescue in Sierra Vista took them in, and to her surprise, Ella took all 4 of them. She got them all adopted handily. Things worked out.

As I said, Ella has thousands of stories, with a lot of love and compassion in every story. Sharing the stories brings each dog and its adventures alive to the listener...and brings a smile to Ella's face.



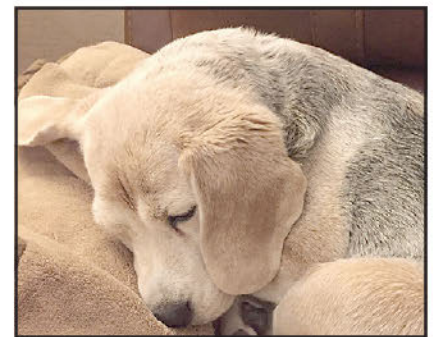
**Buddy, a Boxer-Beagle, lives in Prescott**



**Ella, Precious, and Ruby**



**Ella's Lucy**



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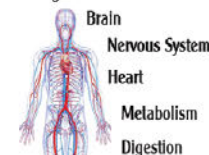
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# A WRITER OF HISTORY

Story by Allie Werhan. Photos courtesy of Mike Rothmiller.

Last year, we featured a book Mike Rothmiller wrote with a friend of his, Allen Appel. *Old Dog's Guide for Pups* and its sequel featured Hogan, a local canine star explaining the facts of life to puppies. This year, I want to tell you a little more about Mike and his writing.

He had a long talk with a woman who wrote a new book about the Black Dahlia, a murder that happened in Los Angeles in 1947. The TV rights have been optioned for it as a docu-drama, and Mike is going to produce the program. The author has decided one of two suspects was the murderer, and Mike helped her get in touch with a man he knows in Prescott whose father and grandfather were members of the gangster squad in 1947, and who worked on this case.

Almost everything Mike has written has been on history. Even the dog books were based on his and Allen's dogs and their activities. He has always wanted to understand what makes people act the way they do.

When he was a detective who worked intelligence, he did extensive research trying to understand the mob and figure out what their next move was going to be. Mike had to know the background of people and groups to make accurate guesses about how the minds of criminals worked and how to predict their next move. He said, "I wanted to know how they functioned as a key point to their personality, and how I could make their life miserable!"

It was the same process when he set up intelligence operations "...that we ran with international agencies outside the U.S." He looked at people who were targeted to understand their background, see how they viewed it, and see if he could infiltrate their

operations. "We had to do the deep background research and then put together the plan."

Through this work, Mike learned how interesting it was to go back and dig into any subject, find out the truth, and find out what people were really thinking. "If it's the last 50 to 60 years, I'll go back and pull their telephone transcripts...what were they saying in a private conversation, as opposed to what they were saying in public." This can apply to politicians, generals, business officials, and the higher up in rank, the less candid they are. They have an agenda to protect and accomplish.

Mike has a very good friend whose great-great-grandfather was General Dix. Fort Dix, established in New Jersey in 1917, is named after him. General Dix served under Abraham Lincoln and almost became his running mate. Mike found quite a bit of information that his friend knew nothing about.

That got Mike to thinking. He started asking people he knew to name generals from either side of the Civil War. Most of them knew 2 or 3 at the most. Mike was taken aback, because these Americans were extremely important to the history of our country, making powerful decisions about the war. So he decided to write portrait books about the generals. He combed the archives looking for quality pictures of all the generals. Only one general's picture was missing. He decided to write about the Confederate generals first because there are only about 450, and there are 670 Union generals.

After he finished the book about Confederate generals, he had to

write the one about the Union in the name of fairness. The Confederate book "...got a lot of play." Attention from the news media both in the U.S. and abroad happened because when it was published, much of the country was focused on the preservation or destruction of Confederate statues and war memorials. Suddenly people needed to know about all those Confederate officers in order to understand why they were admired or despised, or considered heroes or villains.

Mike says, "People live by images, and if I just talked about the general, no one would remember him. You have the image and the name and something catches your attention. You can do your own google search to find out more."

Many of the generals have remarkable stories. Mike tells about many who were mere boys, 20 or 21 years old, who had been pulled from West Point or the regular army to serve as officers in the war. Many of them died. Wars aren't fought that way any more, with officers on the front lines of the battlefield.

The big news is that the new book, *Confederate Generals of America's Civil War*, has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in History. It is an outstanding example of United States historical writing.

Last year, his book, *Secrets, Lies, and Deceptions*, was reviewed in *The Arizona Republic*, as well as on national TV and in national publications. It contains a series of stories about the government and the documents to back them up from

the time of Lincoln to the present. It is going to be of importance again soon because of a major investigation done by a reporter in Phoenix, which is going to be featured in *The Arizona Republic*.

Mike and his wife, Nancy, are anxious to acquire another rescue dog one of these days soon. He previous dog was a rescue, half Chow and half Golden Retriever. She was a great dog. I expect Mike will use his research skills to find the perfect new best friend.



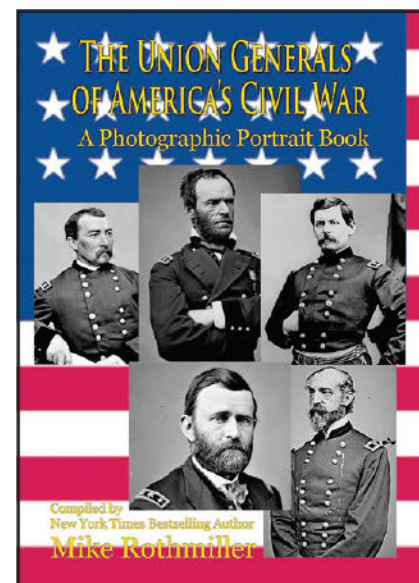
Kona and Coco



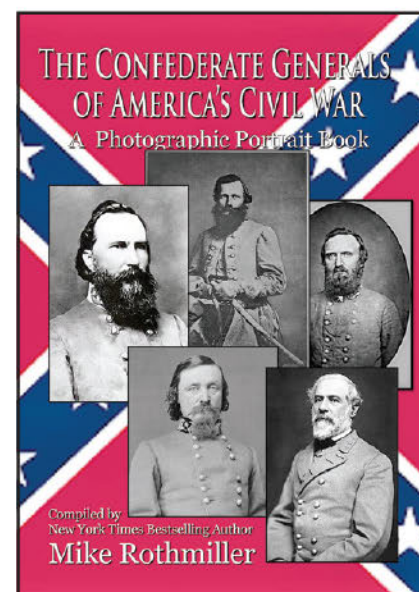
Mike and Nancy Rothmiller



Brandy, Our First Dog



The Union Generals of America's Civil War



The Confederate Generals of America's Civil War

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Owner



# On Giving Back

by Dan and Julie Hussey, Owners, **Totally Floored**

Here we are in Yavapai County living with a bunch of other people in this beautiful place. I have been here nearly half of my life, almost 30 years now.

I have always considered it a privilege to live here in Northern Arizona. When you live in a place that is voted No. 1 in air quality by the EPA, it's a privilege.

Then there is the easy access to hiking trails, the numerous off-road options, cool little lakes and streams and camping galore.

We have a vibrant economy, so if you are willing to work hard, you can make a good living.

We seem to have a passion for education, so we have a plethora of options for continuous learning.

If you can't find a church, it's not because you lack options.

All this is to say, "We all have a wonderful home here in Yavapai County!"

As always, wonderful things need maintenance to stay wonderful. We all need to play a part to keep our home a lovely place to live.

What can we all do to play our part in maintaining and improving our neighborhood? Here are a few thoughts:

1. Join a civic club. You can easily find like-minded friends who have a common interest. Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and So-roptimists, just to name a few, are active in enhancing our home base. They give back, without much notice or recognition. They just do it because it's good and right to give back.

2. Volunteer your time and energy. Get involved with one or two of the many groups that believe in giving back. Assist at Yavapai Regional Medical Center; help build a hiking trail; pick up trash along the highway; teach a child a new skill; and on and on.

3. Be happy. Yes, being happy is a responsibility. We all get cut off in traffic, and people do rude things (not us, those other people, LOL). But how we react is a choice. Sometimes I've been rude and short-tempered, but when I am, I am not making this a better place to live. In some small way, I become a taker, not a giver.

4. Be a good neighbor. Be friendly and helpful. One of my neighbors takes our trash

can out if we forget. That kind act just makes us feel wonderful. We realize we have someone close who cares. Do you have a neighbor to whom you can show an act of kindness? Do it today.

5. Live in gratitude. Thank a police officer, a firefighter, a county worker, a city employee, your neighbor and God. Living in gratitude is one of those magical attitudes that just makes you feel better and makes our world a better place.
6. Give your money to worthy causes. Donate, as you can, to groups that make a difference.

As for my wife and me, we thank you! We thank you for what you contribute to our livelihood and for making this an outstanding place to live our lives.

## SPARKLING FRESH NEW FLOOR

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2017 was a great year for our rescue. We've adopted out more than 90 adorable, precious pups to the most amazing loving homes ever.

While we've made the best of our current location, we have outgrown it and have been looking for a new home to continue what we started over 2 years ago, saving pups from euthanasia lists. Well, God has blessed us with an amazing property in Chino Valley and we have moved.

Whew, lots of hurdles but God is good and faithful. The trials in life bring us closer to Him and He never lets us down. Our new facility is perfect and we have

started the processes of putting up outbuildings for our pups.

This land will give us large, separate play yards for different sized and aged pups, as well as a place to build larger kennels for our sanctuary dogs or those who, due to health issues, need to be kept separate. We need an isolation area for new pups coming in as well.

We are hoping you'll continue to support what we've done by helping us raise \$10,000, which is what it will cost to take this great piece of land and transform it into a temporary home for our adoptable pups, and a forever home for our sanctuary dogs.

We need siding for outbuildings we've purchased, fencing (chain link is great), water lines to bring water from the house to the rescue, and electricity.

We also need the land cleared, so we can have a safe place for the pups to run and play, and sheds



to store food, blankets, and all the supplies we need to run the rescue.

We are a non-profit 501 c3, so your donations are tax deductible. If you can donate electrical expertise or any other service, we would greatly appreciate that, as well. We greatly need your help to give these most deserving babies a great place to live while they wait for their forever homes.

Donations can be made at:

[PayPal.Me/nladogrescue](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&source=url)

or at:

[www.gofundme.com/rv4v486a](https://www.gofundme.com/rv4v486a)

Thank you so much, and God bless you for helping to rescue.

### NO LONGER ASTRAY'S NEEDS LIST

- Home Depot/Ace/ Lowes gift cards for lumber, siding, concrete, electrical supplies, fencing, insulation.
- Storage sheds; used is fine.
- Pet supplies, beds, blankets, bowls leashes, toys, dog food, dog houses.
- Pallets.
- Cash donations.
- Volunteers needed and welcome!

*Thank you and God Bless.*



Catty Shack adopted 22 cats in 24 days! A November record!

We rescued a pregnant mom who

had been attacked by a predator with two of her kittens being stillborn. She has 2 left so they all went into a loving foster home where she is healing while taking care of her remaining babies. Pregnant moms, who are often dumped, fare badly on the streets.

Our last Rescue of the month of November is a

whopping 21 lb Maine Coon and his friend, Gracie. They were found together and are bonded both being large cats and having been together. They have wonderful dispositions with a lot of purring and head butting going on!

Thank you everyone in the Tri City area and also to Prescott Dog. We couldn't do all of this without your support!



Miss Kitty's had some great adoptions. Our great mellow yellow cat Murphy found his perfect home to settle on dad's lap, just what the dad wanted in a cat. Murphy was adopted by the dad's daughter, who lives next door. Murphy explored dad's house (he lives next door to Jennifer, her husband & daughter) then settled in on dad's lap which is exactly what dad wanted. It's a large house with lots of windows for sunning and quiet. Jennifer & daughter come over twice daily to check on dad & play with Murphy who has settled right in. Makes your heart smile!

Six year old Jessie also found his perfect quiet home, and Morris is now the Head of his Household, we are told by his loving family. He settled right in on the very first day, walking out of the carrier like he owned the place! Bentley also found his lovely home and his folks are thrilled w/ their new family member.

Fosters were busy with their kittens shown at Petsmart on the weekends. Brothers Huntley and Brinkley went to two great homes while sisters Iris, Willow and Daisy also found their 3 perfect homes. Millie and Mallie found 2 great homes also. Sisters Smudge and Sassy each found their loving homes with lots of kisses! Hershey was adopted by his foster dad and now has 4 cat playmates and 1 dog to keep him company. Lots of happy families.

## SEEING HANDS



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# UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS ON A RESCUE MISSION

love and trust. Cat owners (and fosters!) are known to have lower blood pressure

## Foster a Kitty - For Your Health!

Do you find it difficult to keep all those New Year's resolutions for improving your health? It's hard to change our diet and to exercise regularly, even though we know it's good for us. Well, here's an easy way you can do something good for your health and save a life at the same time - foster a cat or kitten for United Animal Friends!

Having a cat can trigger calming chemicals in the body, decreasing stress and anxiety levels. Studies indicate that cat owners (and fosters!) have a lower risk of stroke than any other pet owner. The calming effect of petting a cat releases oxytocin, the "feel good" hormone that induces feelings of

due to the calming presence cats provide. Studies also show that cat owners (and fosters!) have a decreased risk of heart disease and heart attacks and lower triglycerides and cholesterol levels.

Now, doesn't fostering a cat sound like a much better New Year's resolution than a strict diet? Reduce stress and anxiety, decrease your risk of stroke, lower your blood pressure, triglycerides and cholesterol, and have fun doing it! It's good for your heart; not just for the health benefits but for the emotional benefits too. You'll not only be saving a cat's life, you could also be saving your own. For information on fostering, visit us at [www.](http://www.)

[UnitedAnimalFriends.org](http://UnitedAnimalFriends.org) and look under Animals / Foster or call us at 928-778-2924.

## Evie's Rescue

Our favorite dog rescue story from 2017 is about Evie, a Shih Tzu who was found wandering in Ramah, New Mexico. One eye had been removed at some point and the other was badly infected, leaving her totally blind. When we found out about Evie, one of our super fosters, Jeanne, immediately agreed to take her in. A visit to the vet confirmed that the infected eye needed to be removed.

After recovery, Jeanne took Evie to the building where we were preparing for our rummage sale so we could get photos for her adoption listing. As the photos were being taken, we speculated that she might never get adopted,

because who would want to adopt a blind dog? Jeanne assured us that she would keep her forever if the perfect home was not found.

As Jeanne and Evie were leaving, a couple came in with donations. They stopped to chat with Jeanne because they have a Chihuahua who lost both eyes due to a medical condition and a Shih Tzu who needs special care. When they found out Evie was available for adoption, they said, "We think we could give Evie a wonderful home. She would fit in with our pets and our lifestyle." We agreed wholeheartedly. So that's how Evie went from being a throwaway dog at risk of death to being a beloved pet living in the lap of luxury through a chance encounter at a rummage sale. And that's our favorite dog story of the year.



**Circle L Ranch**  
Animal Rescue & Sanctuary

## Making Changes....

After a year that gave us many wonderful rescues, adoptions and moments, the Ranch is changing, restructuring, with a new look. Here is our canine side and you will be hearing more about the "how" soon. Follow our stories and activities on Facebook or [circlel.org](http://circlel.org).

After days of planning, drawing, measuring, cleaning, digging, demolition and packing, the farm side has consolidated with a brand new focus. There will be more concentration on education and demonstrating how to care for and be a partner to animals.

Look for more information after the first of the year on our website [circlel.org](http://circlel.org), or in our Newsletter (you are on our e-mailing list!).

Our livestock side also has a new Facebook page. Circle L Ranch Sanctuary Livestock. Be sure to check it out!

The Ranch would like to thank all the hard-working, generous people that have helped us through this transition with donations and volunteering. It would not be possible to accomplish this huge task and continue to give our animals the love and care they deserve without their help.

We are very excited about the changes and have amazing plans for the "new" Ranch. We look forward to sharing our new facility with the community so people will be able to continue to experience first-hand the magic of Circle L.



On Tuesday, November 28th, 2017, Alta Vista owner Mr. Wayne Levy donated a check for \$5,000 to WildHorse Ranch Rescue at Beastro Farm Yard in Chino Valley.

Kim Meagher accepted the check for the Beastro Farm Yard which Mr. Levy had learned about through the Prescott Dog Magazine November/December cover article.

The money will be used to prepare the Beastro for rescued horses.

## Does your Homeowners or Renters insurance policy discriminate against your dog?



Call your current company and ask if you are covered if your dog bites someone. If not, call us. We love all dog breeds, and we'll make sure you get the policy you and your canine companion deserve.

**We provide coverage for:**  
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ATVs/UTVs • Life - Annuities

\*All breeds eligible for your liability coverage. Speak with agent for details.



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# ADOPT -A-DOG

**PATSY:** A 1-year-old shepherd mix. She's a very sweet girl who gets along with other dogs, loves playtime with her friends and loves going for walks. No Longer Astray (928) 632-2334.



**ROXY:** An 18-month-old rat terrier mix. She loves to sit in your lap, go for walks and play with other pups her size. No Longer Astray (928) 632-2334.



**GINGER:** A 14-week-old Terrier mix. She's super fun, loves to be held and cuddled, and loves going everywhere you go. No Longer Astray (928) 632-2334.



**JAX:** An 8-month-old rat terrier/doxi mix. He's super sweet, loves his toys and friends, and enjoys lap time. No Longer Astray (928) 632-2334.



**SPANKY:** A 3- to 4-year-old Bulldog mix. Quiet, sweet, and loving, good with other dogs, but not good with cats. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext.7.



**DEANA:** I am about 10 years old, guessing on what breed I might be. I am a big love bug. Definitely overweight, but slimming down. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext.7.



**LUCKY:** I am about 9 years old, guessing on what breed I might be. I am a big love bug. Definitely overweight, but slimming down. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext.7.



**TODD:** A Jack Russell Terrier mix, between 5-8 months old. He gets along well with other dogs, cats, and kids. Todd is housetrained. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext.7.



**RUSTY:** A small 12-pound terrier. He could be a Cairn terrier or Norfolk, or could be just a great mix! He is about 2 years old. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



**TEDDY:** He looks to be a Schnauzer/Poodle mix that is just about 4 months old and is 7 pounds of energy! United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



**KENNY:** A terrier/cattle dog mix. He weighs about 40 pounds and has a fun-loving personality. He gets along great with other dogs. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



**LADY:** A 3-year-old schnauzer mix. She is on the petite side. She is loving and friendly and gets along great with other dogs. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



**DAISY:** A boxer/lab mix, she is very tall and lanky! Daisy is 3 years old. She lived with a family, but they moved without her. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



**JULIA:** A cattle dog mix, she is a joyful loving dog that will put a smile on your face! Julia is medium size and has short hair like a lab. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



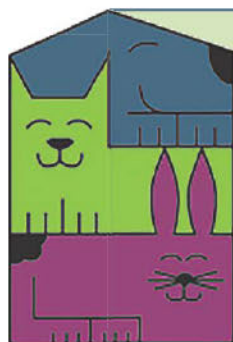
**Maggie:** She is around 7 months old and looks to be lab/whippet mix. She is a petite girl who probably won't get any taller. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



**LEON:** A sweet and loveable mix of cattle dog and maybe rat terrier. He's 1-2 years old and 18 pounds. United Animal Friends (928) 778-2924.



Dogs for Adoption



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Mary E. Cannon

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**To help your pet become...**

- Physically and mentally comfortable
- Confident and focused
- Balanced and easier to walk on a leash



# ADOPT -A-DOG

**JAX:** A 5-year-old pittie mix with a fun personality. He loves hiking and being outdoors. He also enjoys other dogs. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**ELVIS:** A 2-year-old boxer mix with a sweet demeanor. Elvis is very puppy-like and lovable. He enjoys walks and lots of playtime. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**RILEY:** A 2-year-old pittie mix who loves to play fetch. Her favorite thing is chasing tennis balls. She is an active, fun, happy girl. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**PAUL:** A 6-year-old terrier mix. This guy loves people and is polite with other dogs. Walks well on a leash and has wonderful polished manners. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**MONA:** A 4-year-old American Blue Heeler mix. Mona is a smart girl who knows sit, stay and kennel. She loves lots of walks. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**SAMANTHA:** She is a Labrador retriever who was born middle of August. Her motto is "girls just want to have fun." She lives happily with other dogs and cats. Circle L Ranch/Toby (928) 899-3942.



**TESLA:** A Doberman/Lab, almost 4 years old. He is a silly boy who gets along with other dogs, knows basic commands and walks great on a leash. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**SPUNKY:** Spunky and Bruno are two bonded brothers. Yellow lab mix. Need to be only dogs but need to be together. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**BRUNO:** Spunky and Bruno are two bonded brothers, 8-9 years old. Yellow lab mix. Need to be only dogs but need to be together. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**PUDDING:** About 4 years old. Pudding is good with other dogs, but she'd be fine as an only dog. Brown dog mix, maybe a little beagle? Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**ONYX:** I am a beautiful chocolate color, 3 1/2 years old, and a mix of a few breeds. Very sweet and loving. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**LEDGER:** A 4-year-old shepherd mix. Good with other dogs and is a very happy boy. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**BAXTER:** A young Rhodesian Ridgeback mix. Large love bug! Loves other dogs and kids, but not sure about cats. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**MEEMEE:** A 10-year-old spaniel mix, loves her people, and is good with other dogs. She is deaf, but does fine. She likes walks. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**BARNEY:** A Rottie/Shepherd mix, about 8 years old. Loves people, knows his commands, great on a leash. Circle L Ranch (928) 273-7005.



**ELLIE:** is a 4-year-old Black Mouth Cur mix, spayed female. She's a little shy at first but comes around quickly. Quiet but active home is best, great with other dogs. Petey's Playground (928) 713-1375.



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**JILL:** Gray tabby girl, born 3/19/17. Very friendly, has lived with cats, dogs, kids, and loves to play. United Animal Friends/Ruthie (928) 379-1088.



**MIJA:** Tuxedo girl, born 3/10/17. Bonded to sibling Blue, nearly mirror images. Loves to play and is a lap cat. United Animal Friends/Ruthie (928) 379-1088.



**BLUE:** He's a black tuxedo boy, Mija's brother, born 3/10/17. United Animal Friends/Ruthie (928) 379-1088.



**LIL MISS:** Lil Miss is a black short-haired female who says, "I love to play and be petted, and get tummy rubs. I'm quiet and sweet." United Animal Friends/Ruthie (928) 379-1088.



**STRIPEY:** Stripey is a brown tabby girl, born 4/21/17. She is playful and affectionate and makes a good companion kitty. United Animal Friends/Ruthie (928) 379-1088.



**LIAM:** A beautiful 3-year-old guy who has wonderful blue eyes and pretty silver fur. This guy is looking for his forever home. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**ABRA:** A 1-year-old sweet girl with beautiful green eyes. She loves head bumps and scratches. She also is quite playful and enjoys toys. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**HARRY:** A 6-year-old sweet guy who enjoys head and cheek rubs as well as tummy rubs. He is quite affectionate once he warms up to you. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**SINATRA:** Sinatra is a 7-year-old Siamese mix. He is a bit Overwhelmed in the shelter but does like to be petted and is especially sweet. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**MISSY:** A playful 1-year-old who loves chasing things. She is ready to go home where she can be appreciated for her goofy personality. Yavapai Humane Society (928) 445-2666.



**ROMY:** A very sweet 7-year-old brown-ticked long-haired tabby girl. She is very friendly, likes to be petted and picked up. Miss Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411.



**DAISY:** Daisy is a gorgeous senior lady, a laid-back gal and easy to LOVE. It's her teeny tiny squeak of a meow that makes Daisy extra special! Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411



**JAX:** He is an 8-month-old kitty with black-smoke short hair and gold eyes. He is very active, playful, and loads of fun. Miss Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411.



**ISABELLE:** A 5-year-old short-haired Tabby gal who likes to be petted, held, and cuddled. Sweet gal for a quiet home. Miss Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411.



**Ziggy:** I am a beautiful male kitten about 11 weeks old. I love sitting in laps, and I'll watch all of your favorite shows with you. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext.7.



**SLIM:** I am a smart, sweet, and lovable boy who likes to play with toys. So if you are looking for a sweet boy I'm your guy. My DOB is 4-14-17. Catty Shack (928) 778-6951.



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# KITTY KORNER: AUTUMN ALL YEAR LONG

Story by Allie Werhan. Photo courtesy of Portrait Park by J.

About three years ago, a beautiful autumn-colored cat emerged from beneath the studio at Portrait Park by J. in Prescott, and began to acquaint herself with the people and animals who lived there. Mr. Kitty, a snowshoe Siamese cat with bright blue eyes, became her friend. Mr. Kitty was quite elderly, but the presence of his new little buddy helped him stretch out his time. The little cocker spaniel also became a friend, and he helped Autumn, for that is her name, learn how to play. He too soon passed, and sometimes she sits in the middle of a room and cries for him.

She first appeared on October 1, so that is her birthday. She had belonged to someone, but they never found out to whom. She was already spayed, so they had her vaccinated and made sure she was healthy.

Autumn loves to be with people, including her "mom," Terilyn Grover, co-owner of Portrait Park by J. Jay, Terilyn's husband, and Hildy, his mother, with whom he co-founded the Park, are Autumn's sweeties also. When



Autumn and Terilyn

clients come to call, she greets them, purring and rubbing against their legs, and sometimes turning somersaults to express her joy. She sits on the couch to make it easier for clients to pet her.

Hildy lives across the street, and Autumn will often be found there, or following Terilyn and Jay when they go for dinner. She has the run of a dream land, with tall trees, shrubbery, grass, flowers, a gazebo with a swing, and many other places to play and run and hide and chase bugs and do all the other fun things she has learned.

She loves to chase the chipmunks and scare them to pieces. She has caught a gopher, lizards, and once a snake, and leaves them in the studio door for Terilyn.

While Terilyn doesn't care for this carnage, it is a natural behavior for a healthy cat, and keeping Autumn inside all the time is not an option.

Autumn has lots of company, because Portrait Studio by Jay takes photos of rodeo queens, weddings, cowboys, and lots of local activities. All three Grovers do the photography together and Autumn wants to be in the middle of it all. Sometimes she has to be removed or everyone would have a beautiful cat in their photo.

There are grandchildren who love Autumn, and she is very good with them. Each week sees her growing and changing, starting new habits, like sleeping with Terilyn and Jay.

She is a talker, and keeps the conversation moving with all the people coming and going. She is a happy, contented, mellow kitty, who provides wonderful companionship for her family and visitors alike. Autumn's world changed when she appeared from under the studio and so did the world for her people. What a beautiful world it is.

## CATS FOR ADOPTION (CONT'D)

**JESSE:** I'm 8 months old. I love to explore, especially new places. I love wand toys, balls, mice and cuddling. Catty Shack (928) 778-6951.



**TOPAZ:** Topaz is a predominantly gray tabby girl, 6 months old. She is a little shy at first but warms up when she gets to know you. Catty Shack (928) 778-6951.



**SELMA:** This is a black domestic short hair. She has beautiful and expressive amber eyes that say cuddle me! Catty Shack (928) 778-6951.



**SWIRLY:** A handsome, short-haired, male kitty with interesting patterns of gray and black in swirls. I am smart, like to play and be petted. Catty Shack (928) 778-6951.



**PUNKIN:** Curious, lovable, and always busy. An intelligent girl who will keep you entertained for hours. She is 8 months old. Catty Shack (928) 778-6951.



**WHISKEY BOY** is a sun lover and will find the perfect warm spot when it is nap time. He likes quiet voices and soft petting. Miss Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411.



**HANSEL** is full of action, easy going and ready for playtime anytime. Delightful kitty, a favorite of everyone at the cat house. Miss Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411.



**STELLA** can be a true sweetheart in a quiet environment, sitting on your lap while you pet her. She begs for attention when you walk by. Miss Kitty's Cat House (928) 445-5411.



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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: HARMONY HOLISTIC VETERINARY CARE AT FOREFRONT OF GROWING TREND IN MEDICINE

*Moves into a larger space and adds a new partner*

Story by Briana Lonas. Photos by Briana Lonas and Tammy Pauletto.

Harmony Holistic is moving harmoniously with a growing trend in veterinary medicine – not to mention the clinic recently moved into a spacious facility that is just as welcoming as the quaint, tiny space it once inhabited.

In fact, walking into the new clinic immediately calms, quiets and soothes and it's no wonder the friendly staff love their new digs. But why the move? Alastair Macdonald, who owns the practice with his wife Delia and fellow veterinarian Tammy Pauletto, saw the need for a larger clinic to accommodate their growing needs.

One year ago, Pauletto joined the staff and brought with her years of medical experience. "On the heels of that," he said, "we're able to go from purely holistic into an integrative practice – both Eastern and Western. I think it's the future of medicine."

Harmony Holistic combines Eastern and Western approaches in treating their animal patients, thereby taking a 1,000-year-old approach to complicated health issues and bringing about tremendous results. Eastern medicine originated in China and utilizes mind and body practices including herbal medicines and acupuncture.

Harmony Holistic follows the traditional, three-part Eastern approach being herbal therapy, acupuncture and tui na – a gentle manipulation that helps with the animal's defense system in opening up energy throughout the meridians, or channels, of the body. The clinic does not perform chiropractic care.

The concept of integrative medicine has been something Delia Macdonald, DVM had felt connected to early in her career.

"I felt drawn to integrating other modalities because we have poor pain control on the Western side," Macdonald said.

She explained how she had witnessed horses receiving acupuncture and benefitting from it. On a personal note, Macdonald was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease, and the steroid treatments made her very sick.

"I started looking at ways to live healthier, and I think there are ways Western medicine fails us," she said, referencing her health issues.

Macdonald is quick to point out she's not against Western practices. Harmony Holistic performs blood work, diagnostic protocols, vaccines, spays and neuters, and ultrasounds as well as elective surgeries and dental procedures.

Macdonald explained that their animal patients respond well to the holistic approach. At the clinic, the patients' cortisol levels are tested; cortisol is a stress hormone.

It's not unusual for the doctors to find that the dogs and cats register low cortisol levels because they are not releasing the same level of stress hormone typically found in patients visiting standard veterinary clinics.

"That's because they are benefitting from the holistic approach. It's not Addison's," Macdonald says with a laugh. "They are simply not as stressed."

"So the short of it is, animals respond very well to acupuncture and natural relaxation methods – cats especially." She added that pet owners also may benefit from relaxation methods.

"Our pets are empathic to us and if the owner is anxious or upset, that transmits to the animal."

Pauletto said she focuses more on the Western side and performs ultrasounds and various diagnostic tests. Both doctors and their staff are then able to work together to come up with a healing plan individually tailored for each patient.

On the subject of dental procedures, Pauletto believes in

preventative plans that may help a patient avoid serious issues in the future. Both doctors point out that historically, poor dental hygiene is what killed people more than anything else many years ago. Harmony Holistic likes to see their furry patients early to help prevent gum disease and other mouth-related problems before they become emergencies.

Both doctors also believe that weight maintenance is important, and they've devised health plans to quickly and effectively help dogs, for example, lose those extra pounds with simple, little changes.

"Just the weight loss alone makes a huge difference in the endocrine system," Pauletto said.

Cancer is another big health concern for many animal patients. Pauletto explained that the clinic will implement early protocols to help prevent cancers. She recalled one day, she tried out her new ultrasound machine using her own dog. She discovered a malignancy and by using integrative therapies, he is still alive and doing well six months later.

"Things that used to be considered alternative are now being considered the standard of care – essential oils, laser therapy," Pauletto said.

The doctors also perform at-home euthanasia when needed, so the pet may be comfortable and surrounded by loved ones.

As far as the new and improved clinic, pet owners will notice many cat and dog pictures gracing the building.

"All of those pictures you see on the wall, those are our patients," Macdonald said and pointed out that Pauletto is responsible for taking the photos and artfully arranging them on canvas. Every picture has a story.

In completing the soothing energy of the new building, the waiting lobby features cozy, personal touches such as a steamer trunk from Macdonald's grandmother, and the doctors found an old church pew that fits perfectly beneath a window. Harmony Holistic offers two lobbies now and several rooms devoted to the specific needs of their patients.

Another bonus: the staff gives their appointments plenty of time, typically 30 to 60 minutes and new patient appointments are scheduled for 1-1/2 hours.

For more information regarding pet geriatric issues, pain, arthritis, neurological conditions, cancer, and endocrine disease – including an overview of how acupuncture works – visit Harmony Holistic's website at [harmonyvetcare.com](http://harmonyvetcare.com).

## What is Integrative Medicine?

Below is an easy-to-understand definition of what integrative medicine is, courtesy of the University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine.

- Patient and practitioner are partners in the healing process
- All factors that influence health and disease are taken into consideration, including the mind, spirit and body
- Appropriate use of both conventional and alternative methods facilitate the body's natural healing response
- Effective interventions that are natural and less invasive are used whenever possible
- Integrative medicine neither rejects conventional medicine nor accepts alternative therapies uncritically
- Alongside treatment, the broader concepts of health and the prevention of illness are paramount



Harmony Holistic's Lobby



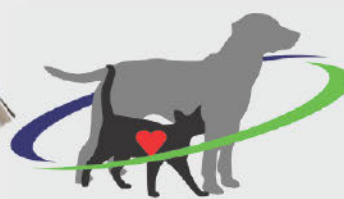
Dr. Macdonald and Dr. Pauletto. Photo courtesy of Tammy Pauletto.



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# ALL IN A DOG'S WORK

Story by Skye Lyons. Photos by Skye Lyons and courtesy of Jon Burke.

For a great many of us, the rush out the door to our place of employment ends with bidding our dogs goodbye for the day, occasionally including a plea to stay out of mischief while we're gone. But for a growing number of lucky dogs, leaving for work includes them.

Buster and Brandi accompany their owner, Jon Burke, to Absolute Industrial Supply in Chino Valley. It's been their daytime home for 6 years, since they were just puppies. Buster, a Shar Pei mix and Brandi, a Labrador retriever, are both now 6 years old, and they are with Jon almost 24 hours a day. Jon feels that people should spend as much time as possible with their dogs, and he is certainly living up to that philosophy.

Buster and Brandi are not the first dogs to have the run of the shop; Jon has been bringing his dogs to work with him for 11 years now. Buster and Brandy love the shop and the customers. Buster will even cry if he is behind the counter and cannot greet a customer he knows. They are long-standing representatives of this organization, and everyone, dog and human alike, enjoy their being part of the business.

At Ultimate Performance Auto Sales, you find the charming Jackson, a Golden Retriever and lovely little Naomi, a Morkie (Maltese/Yorkie

cross). They come to work every day with Amie Cutler and Jerome Cutler. They are still puppies, with Jackson at 3-1/2 months and Naomi at 5 months. Both dogs were carefully sought out by the Cutlers. Their intention was to have one dog, and they brought Jackson home as their chosen family member, but they could not stop thinking about Naomi, whom they had met when they got Jackson. And so, within a short time, they found themselves heading back for Naomi.

One of the joys of working where they do is that they can bring their puppies with them 24 hours a day. "We feel that the dogs should be with us as much as possible," says Amie. In fact, everyone is enjoying the dogs, including the Cutlers' 6-year-old son, who had the honor of naming Jackson and is helping out with his training.

Watching the puppies play together is something that brightens the day for everyone, including the staff of Ultimate Performance Auto Sales. They are all dog lovers, but their acceptance of the dogs in the workplace was cleared with them before the puppies arrived, so there would be no difficulties.

The dogs enjoy greeting customers, but the Cutlers are aware that not all who come seeking a car will be dog lovers, and so the dogs have a space to play when customer interaction is not desirable. The atmosphere of their showroom is quiet, elegant, and



**Jerome and Jackson**

happy, which cannot be said for some other auto dealerships. The presence of these affectionate puppies makes for a visit that is relaxed and friendly, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

A third very lucky dog with a job is Charlie, an irrepressible Shih Tzu/poodle mix, who comes to work every day with Gary Roberts at Vac 'N Sew in Prescott Valley. Charlie is the official greeter of the shop, sitting tall to give each customer a special grin and front paw wave when they come in.

Gary says that "Charlie is a gift from God." Gary initially did not want a



**Gary and Charlie**

dog at all. His wife wanted a dog, and she searched carefully for over a year until she found just the perfect dog. And so Charlie joined the family. Sadly, Gary's wife was only able to enjoy Charlie for a year and a half before she passed away. Gary was left with the loving Charlie, who provided company and much comfort, and now the two are inseparable.

Charlie goes to work with Gary and anywhere else a dog will be welcomed. There are words Charlie recognizes, such as 'church' and 'grocery store', which he knows mean he can't go. His disappointment is expressed with dignity, snubbing Gary's apologies by turning away and refusing to look at him. Even treats, usually dearly loved, will be refused and left to lie uneaten on the floor until Gary returns.

In the shop, Charlie's cheerful greetings make him a favorite with the customers. Often business must wait until the customer says hello to Charlie. And when it's time for business, Charlie waits patiently for another customer to charm.

These are the stories of very lucky dogs that are included in every aspect of their owners' daily lives, including the hours spent at work. We hope that these examples will give others something to think about, and we hope that this trend of Office Dogs will continue to grow.



**Buster, John, and Brandi.**  
Photo courtesy of Jon Burke.



**Buster at the counter.** Photo courtesy of Jon Burke.



**Amie and Naomi**

All In a Dog's Work



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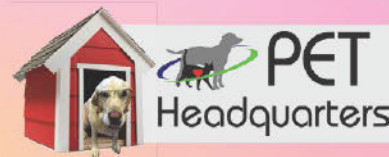


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# PROPER SAFETY RESTRAINTS SAVE DOG LIVES

Story and photos by Briana Lonas

Every day is a great opportunity to travel with your furry loved one. After all, there's almost nothing better than the feel of the wind on your pup's face as he pushes his face out the window while you cruise down the highway. Dogs love to travel and let's face it, most of us love to take our furry family members out for a drive.

What most of us don't think about is the possibility of an accident while driving with our pet. After all, we're buckled up, right? It's not fun to think about, but the force of a collision will send any loose objects in the vehicle flying, including unrestrained animals. Imagine being struck by your very own dog as he's propelled through the vehicle like a torpedo.

An unrestrained 10-pound dog will exert about 500 pounds of force in a collision at 30 mph. An 80-pound dog will exert around 2,400 pounds of force under the same conditions. It is for this reason that properly restraining and securing your dog is critical.

There are many harness devices on the market, some that connect to your vehicle's seat belt or LATCH system – similar to securing a child safety seat. Pet owners who use crates for transporting dogs may secure these items to seat belts as well, but keep in mind that during a collision your pet could still become airborne inside the crate.

It's also important to note that dogs should always ride in the backseat for two reasons: they are safer and the passenger air bag won't deploy causing serious injury, and your pet won't become a dangerous distraction while you're driving.

If you must have your dog in the front seat, disable the passenger side air bag and use a safety

restraining system so that your pet can't move around freely.

Lyman Louthian, assistant manager at Pet Headquarters, recommends a safety restraint harness system with a tether that protects the dog similarly to a seatbelt for humans.

His store carries the Ruffwear safety harness brand that covers every size from a Chihuahua to a mastiff. The washable harness allows the dog, "To do all the things a dog likes to do in the back seat, look out the window, lie down," Louthian said.

Louthian's advice to owners who introduce their dog for the first time to the safety restraint harness is to start the dog off in an actual walking harness – the kind designed for attaching to a leash.

"Make it fun. You don't want to leave the harness on them all the time," he said. For example, with Louthian's dog Legion, he doesn't wear a collar or harness inside the house. Outside, he wears his collar. When Louthian attaches the walking harness, his playful husky-pit bull mix knows it's fun time and he will go on an adventure.



**Legion holding a dog safety halter**

"Then it translates into the car very easily," explaining that the safety restraint harness signals to Legion that he's going on a car ride.

Louthian does not recommend using the walking halter as a safety restraint in the car. "I would separate the two," he said. "Your regular harness should not be used as a seat belt. You don't want to retrofit."

Many other products are available to help keep pets comfortable in the back seat. It's worth mentioning that some items won't protect in a collision, so consumers should do some research before buying.



**Legion demos a dog safety halter**

Auto zip line safety models attach to the seat belt from the harness by way of a carabiner. This system allows the dog to move freely in the back seat, but it will not prevent the dog's legs from buckling and getting hurt in an accident.

Lookout booster car seats offer smaller dogs an opportunity to look out the window, but again, research the product to see if it's a good fit for you and your companion.

"It's one of those things you don't think about until you need it," Louthian said referring to the safety harness. "If you do the research on car accidents with a pet in the vehicle, it didn't work out great for the dog."

## Why it's never a good idea to drive with your dog in the front seat

- In some states, including Arizona, distracted driving laws may be used to charge drivers with pets on their laps
- According to Kurgo/AAA, 29 % of drivers admit to being distracted by their dog while driving
- Fifty-two percent of drivers pet their dog while driving
- Nineteen percent of drivers use hands or arms to restrict a dog from moving from the backseat to the front seat while driving
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that twenty percent of injury crashes involved reports of distracted driving with pets
- Similar to a young child, the front airbag system in a car can be deadly during a crash if the dog is sitting in the front seat

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# BOOK REVIEW: TOTAL CAT MOJO BY JACKSON GALAXY

Review by Allie Werhan

The first question is, "What is mojo?" and the author jumps right into that with examples that are easy to understand. We all have mojo, but I think cats are more likely to have fully realized mojo.

Jackson Galaxy has a television program, "The Cat from Hell," which you may have seen on Animal Planet. He also has a vast knowledge of cats, a great love for them, and a happy memory of his cat, Barry, to whom this book is dedicated.

The second question is, "What is a raw cat?" No, it is not a cat that isn't cooked, so just stop that!

A raw cat is your cat's ancestral twin, living inside your cat and very closely connected. This is the cat that leaps from its soft bed and fiercely hunts down the mouse or the lizard, or even your toes in bed, reverting to

its "urge...of securing territory, hunting, killing, eating, and staying ever alert." This is another way of pointing out that cats are not truly domesticated, like dogs, but still are their original wild selves deep inside.

Total Cat Mojo traces the history of cats from the primary cat-like animal to the division of large and small cats, Old World cats and New World cats, and discusses the importance of changes in development at each stage.

When cats became familiar with people about 5000 years ago, a process of relationships began, not truly domestication, but a shared life, which included, at different periods, the cat being worshiped or being reviled.

"Today, cats live on every continent except Antarctica. They are perhaps the most

successful species on the planet in their ability to adapt...second only to humans," says Galaxy.

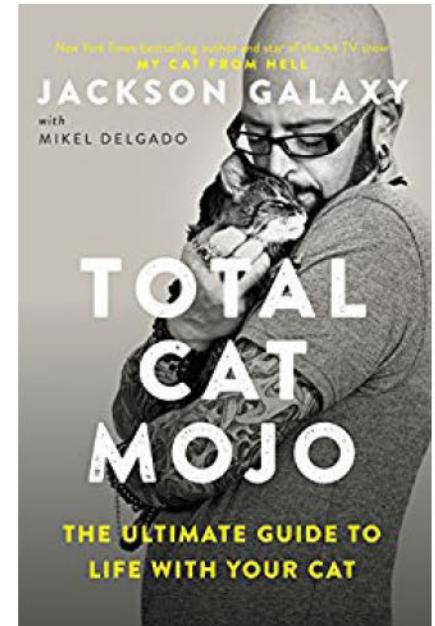
After the history and timeline of cats, the author includes sections about how to read your cat's body language, vocalizations, and various activities such as bringing you dead lizards and playing.

The book is divided into four sections: The History of the Mojo-fied World, A Crash Course in Cats, The Cat Mojo Toolbox, and The Cat Mojo Cookbook. This last section will help you find solutions to "industrial strength issues" which include behavior problems, litter box problems, and what not to do as well as suggested solutions.

Jackson Galaxy believes that all cats are our cats and we need to think universally to stop the senseless killing of them, and

to develop our feelings of love for all cats. We can understand them, and help them adapt to the human world by accepting responsibility and guardianship for every cat.

This book is delightfully illustrated, well written and full of ways to understand and appreciate your cat and its mojo.



Book Review: Total Cat Mojo

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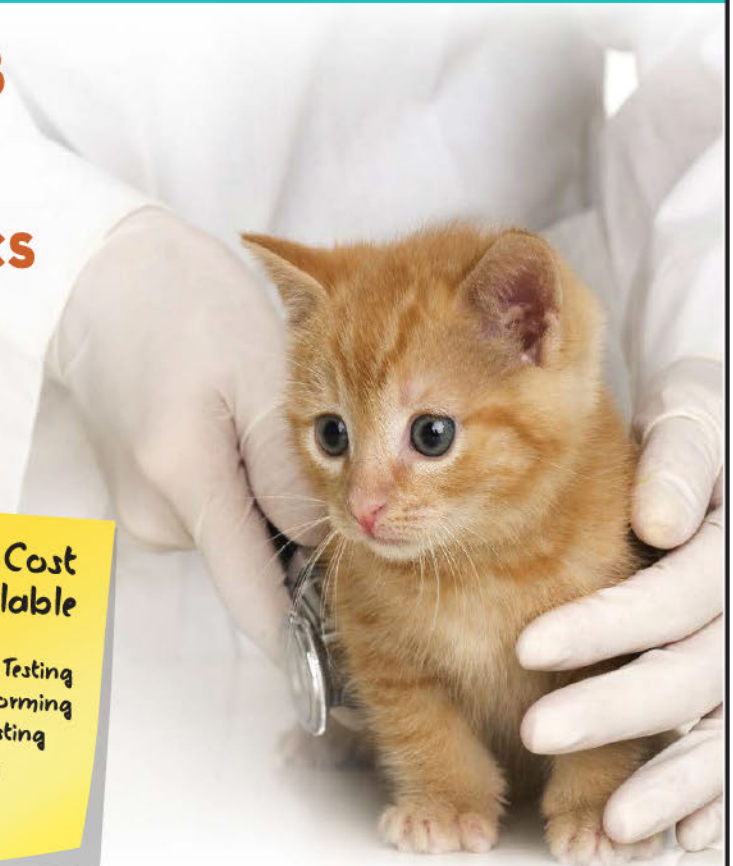
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# WHAT'S A HOODOO HIKE? FIND OUT AT THE COTTONWOOD BASIN TUFFS

Story by Cheryl Hartz. Photos by Cheryl and Myron Hartz.

To experience a prehistoric wonderland unlike any other in Arizona, you'll need to blaze your own short trail to the Cottonwood Basin Tuffs near Camp Verde. It's an easy hike, but once there, you might wear yourself out scrambling over the 10 to 12-foot tall concrete-like and hole-riddled columns. Some of these cone-shaped formations are as thick as 30 feet at the base and may put one in mind of supersized termite mounds. But these formations remind me more of the cartoon Flintstones' Bedrock.

The local reference for the area is "Tepee Rocks." Local geologist, adventurer and author Wayne Ranney calls the tuffs "hoodoos," a word that early cowboys likely coined because of the mounds' somewhat spooky semblance. They must have been awed by this unexpected anomaly in the midst of a typical desert landscape. Hoodoo now is an accepted geologic term and is listed in dictionary.com as "a pillar of rock, usually of fantastic shape, left by erosion."

These are not fumaroles, or chimneys that formed around vents that allowed for the escape of volcanic gases. Ranney explains that between nine and 11 million years ago, the Hackberry volcano some six miles distant probably left a thick sheet of ash that settled underground and was cemented by groundwater with a hard cap on top. Natural erosions by the elements caused the fantastical shapes we see. Some remnants to the west toward the Verde River already have eroded into oblivion, while others to the east have yet to be exposed.

These few acres are an anomaly in the desert landscape that you don't want to miss, but are an unmarked treasure in the Coconino National Forest.

To start your adventure, take State Route 260 out of Camp Verde to Fossil Creek Road, also marked as Forest Road 708. Drive 1.1 miles, then turn right onto FR 500 and park. You'll bushwhack about a tenth of a mile uphill on the

narrow road that ends at a cliff above the tuffs.

This is an unimproved area, so don't expect facilities. Take water and snacks. Don't forget to slather on sunblock, even during the winter months.

Be aware that these forest roads can be closed during eagle nesting season (spring), and infrequently at other times because of flooding. It's a good dog-walking area, but please keep canines under control, because this is open range for cattle.

Also watch for wildlife, as pronghorns, mountain lions, coyotes, javelinas, and even bighorn sheep could be present.

To check on road closures, go to the Coconino National Forest website: [www.fs.usda.gov/coconino](http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino), or call the Red Rock Ranger District visitor center at 928-203-2900.

Always remember the Golden Rule: pack out what you pack in. Happy Hiking!



**Approach: A cone shape gives the tuffs their nickname of Tepee Rocks.**



**House: This rounded mound could be a house for the cartoon Flintstones.**

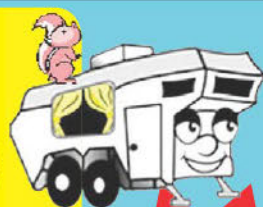


**Erosion effects provide a cozy respite from the sun.**



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# SORA . . . THE MAKING OF A FACILITY DOG

Story by Gary Geronimo. Photos by Gary Geronimo, and David and Cherie Dreves.

Research tells us that dogs have the ability to reduce stress in humans just by their very presence. Science also attributes this to a natural hormone known as oxytocin that is released just by petting your dog.

We see this phenomenon when therapy dogs visit patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities and the calming affect they can produce.

As we all know, it can be extremely stressful to undergo medical procedures in a hospital or even going to a doctor's office for simple testing. The worry, the fear, and yes, the stress.

Many physicians understand that there are innovative methods of reducing stress and worry in their patients and will sometimes turn to the benefit that can result from a trained Facility Dog as part of their office staff.

One such health care facility who will be introducing a Facility Dog as part of their office staff is Cardiac Care in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Dr. and Mrs. Patel of Cardiac Care will be bringing a wonderful Golden Retriever puppy into their lives who will be starting Facility Dog training in the weeks to come.

A Facility Dog is a dog trained in obedience and specialty cues as well as controlled social behavior, who generally will work in health care, education, and other like facilities. Facility Dogs are trained

to the same minimum standards as a Service Dog but without Service Dog privileges outside the facility they work at.

But the training of a Facility Dog has several stages of education and many months of training before it can be considered for the position of Facility Dog in such an important health care environment.

And so will start the adventure of Sora, the female Golden Retriever puppy who will be Cardiac Care's future Facility Dog. But first comes the stages of development and training for Sora.

At approximately nine weeks of age, Sora arrived at the home of David and Cherie Dreves, her puppy raisers, where she began her early development and training, such as house training or where's the best place to eliminate other than in the house, when to sleep or that 2:30 a.m. is really not the right time to play, as well as appropriate interactions with people and other animals.

Sora will begin her Public Access Training during her time with David and Cherie. This will involve working with Sora at public places so she receives the same training as a Service Dog.

David is very experienced in how to handle that very important early training stage, as he has been involved with Public Access

training in the past.

Public access training is a critical part of Sora's education, as she will learn to behave in a controlled manner while experiencing the day-to-day stimulation and stress that we see in public environments.

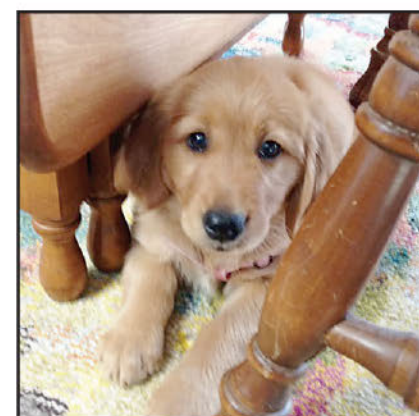
In several months, Sora will go to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Patel where obedience training will continue, as well as further Public Access training. During this time, Sora will also begin visiting Cardiac Care, where she will become familiar with staff, as well as with the environment.

The training of Facilitators will also begin at this time. A Facilitator is one or more persons who will be responsible for the care and continued training while the Facility Dog in training is at Cardiac Care.

As Sora continues with her advanced training, she will be at the facility under controlled conditions. She will learn techniques such as deep pressure therapy (resting her head on a lap or against a chest during stressful situations), how to calmly sit next to a person who would appreciate her warm and gentle behavior during their time in the office, or just greeting a patient with a wagging tail and walking them to an exam room.

Once Sora has gone through months of extensive training and reaches the appropriate skill level required of a Facility Dog, she will be on duty at Cardiac Care. Of course the Facilitators will make sure she gets her well-deserved breaks and has a place to rest and relax.

In the months to come, we will report on Sora's training progress and watch as she works hard to achieve her goal as a Facility Dog.



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# EARTHDOG COMPETITIONS TEST HUNTING INSTINCTS OF TERRIERS

Story and Photos by Heidi Dahms Foster

If you're out Chino Valley way and happen to see a group of people with a variety of active terrier dogs peering excitedly into tunnels in the ground, you may have stumbled upon an Earthdog event.

Earthdog is a sanctioned American Kennel Club event for purebred terriers. However, mixed breed terriers may enjoy the sport through the American Working Terrier Association.

According to the AKC description of Earthdog, "The purpose of non-competitive Earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small terriers and Dachshunds a standardized gauge to measure their dogs' natural aptitude and trained hunting and working behaviors when exposed to an underground hunting situation. The non-competitive program begins with a basic introduction to 'den work and quarry' and progresses through gradual steps to require the dog to demonstrate that it is willing to perform the required tasks, including seeking and locating its quarry underground."

The event is meant to display the working instincts of dogs bred to hunt and rid farms and barns of vermin, and they must show the instinct and desire to hunt. In Earthdog competitions, the dogs do not kill or harm the rats, most of which are tame family pets.

The Earthdog courses consist of wooden tunnels resembling mazes set into ditches in the ground. The instinct and novice level courses are simple and easy for the dogs to negotiate. As the dog advances in each level, the courses become more difficult, and obstacles, false nests and dead-end tunnels are added. In every course, the dog is released a short distance from the tunnel. He must enter the tunnel, find his way to the end in the allotted time, and then indicate for a specified time the desire to get to the rat, which is in a cage and also protected behind a barrier. Strict rules govern the care and handling of the dogs and the

rats. After the dog reaches the rat, no matter how excited, he must allow himself to be removed from the tunnel by the owner.

As with any animal/human team sport, the unpredictable is always possible. Dogs are released and instead of entering the tunnel, range above ground. Some enter the tunnel, find their way to a false den, and refuse to move from it. That's when the course stewards must use hinged lids on the tunnels to allow the owner to find and remove the dog. Some dogs enter the tunnel, happily reach the rat, and then turn around and exit through the entrance. Some dogs are really difficult to remove from the tunnel after they find the rat, taxing the owner's ability to call them off.

The Arizona Earthdog Club recently has gained permission to use a portion of land at the Chino Valley Equine Center for their practices and competitions. Terrier aficionados from the Valley, they come north to escape the heat and the Valley Fever spores that reside in the desert.

Club President Carol Battin said the group has been working at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, but having to pick up their tunnels and haul them off after each event became difficult. In Chino Valley, they can set the courses from basic to advanced on a several acre parcel and leave them be. On a recent fall Saturday, club members



**A Border Terrier enters the underground tunnel**

came for a work day, spending the morning digging ditches and placing tunnels, and then practicing through the afternoon. The tunnels are closed after use, and because they can be opened from above, checked for safety before each training or event.

It's hard to spot the courses at the Equine Center because the club leaves the surrounding areas as natural as possible, and works to leave the area in better shape than when they arrive.

"We try to create a natural hunt environment," Battin said. "The dogs have to push through aromas and obstacles."

The Arizona Earthdog club, functioning for 10 years and consisting of about 28 members, generally conducts two trials each year, along with training and social events. The club includes author Jo Ann Frier-Murza, who wrote the definitive book on the sport: *Earthdog Ins and Outs: Guiding Natural Instincts for Success in Earthdog Tests and Den Trials*.

A sanctioned trial the week after the course building day included an AKC sanctioned event for the purebreds, and the Working Terrier Association event for the mixed terriers, in which many of the purebreds also participated. Attendees were



**Larry Battin and Wirehaired Dachshund Cuddy.**

quick to cheer each other on, clearly enjoyed sharing their knowledge and pride in their dogs, and willing to help the "newbies."

Much like people who train their dogs for herding trials, Earthdog enthusiasts enjoy testing their dogs on the instincts for which they are bred.

"I love to watch a dog do what it is bred for. Dachshunds were bred to go after badgers - much bigger than rats - going into the holes and chasing them out for the hunters. Dachshunds are little sergeants," she said. Some of the other terriers competing include Border, Manchester, Miniature Pinschers, Miniature Schnauzers, Rat Terriers, and Fox Terriers, among others.

The next local Earthdog event will take place in April. For more information, visit the Arizona Earthdog Club at [www.arizonaearthdogclub.com](http://www.arizonaearthdogclub.com). For information on the American Working Terrier Association, visit: <http://www.awta.org/>



**Sonja Rottmeier sends Eros the Dachshund into the Earthdog course.**



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# MAKING HORSE SENSE: THE OBSTACLE COURSE

## Designed for Your Horse

By Rita Thompson-Tinsley

Within the equestrian universe full of trail rides, horse classes and shows, dwells a truly fun and enticing sport which combines trail finesse with first class, adventure-seeking treks. Added to the mix is the ever-challenging, ever-surprising obstacles that you will swear have been masterminded by a madman. In reality, there are knowledgeable, well trained ride managers that use calculated guidelines to create safe and strategic maneuvers for you and your horse. The end result is phenomenal. There is no better means to nurture the trust-based, cohesive relationship between you and your 4-legged, mane-bearing buddy, propelling you to the level of relationship you've always been seeking.

EXCA is the extremely recognized acronym for Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Association, the original and only association promoting Extreme Cowboy Racing. Craig Cameron and his wife Dalene created this competition to give "weekend" riders the opportunity to compete in horsemanship at a higher level through designed trails, resembling real life challenge trails. The Extreme Cowboy Challenge specifically invites riders of all levels to participate. EXCA has organized their sport with an Official EXCA Rulebook to keep competition safe, fun and consistent for everyone.

Jody Swink of No Sweat Natural Horsemanship was former EXCA director and judge for Arizona. Jody built and designed many

of the obstacles recommended. Obstacles include an Archery Shoot, horrendously scary Cowboy Curtains, Log Pulling and Water Obstacles. When training for these events, Jody recommends using his Seven T Method:

1. You have to put in the TIME.
2. TALK: Communicate through ground work.
3. Once you begin to TRUST the horse, he will begin to TRUST you.
4. Once the horse trusts, then he begins to TRY.
5. Once he begins to try, you will begin to see his TALENTS.
6. Once you have practiced the previous 5 steps, you start to become a TEAM.
7. TIME: Yes, TIME again. Spend the TIME to build on these steps, and you will be stronger as a team and individually.

Trainer Mary Rose Anderson competes in a variety of obstacle course events. In training a horse, she finds the methods to use are "those that are first built on a solid foundation. The start to approaching obstacles and having your methods work in your favor are developed in doing ground work and piecing together those foundation exercises you've reinforced under saddle. This

builds the confidence and leadership each horse is seeking in their rider no matter what's being asked of them."

Equine Trail Sports is rapidly becoming another recognizable acronym. ETS competitions normally span out the course of a weekend and can include one or all of the following formats. TRAIL CHALLENGE is designed as a relaxing trail ride with 6 or more judged obstacles placed in camp and on a 5-10 mile trail. OBSTACLE TRAIL combines pasture, arena and 2-4 miles of trail with at least 8 obstacles. OBSTACLE COURSE is the same as OBSTACLE TRAIL with a limit of only 1 mile trail. A Ride Manager can include a RECREATIONAL RIDE of 5-10 miles, which often serves as a practice Trail Challenge including obstacles and feedback from judges.

Southwest Ride Manager and Host Mary Sutherland organizes ETS events and also trains judges. In choosing a location to create an event, Mary explains that she looks for "great trails, good footing, beautiful scenery, and room for 25-40 rigs". When creating an obstacle, Mary's priorities are that they are safe, different and imaginative, fun, challenging and a good learning experience for horse and rider. There

are three challenge levels in ETS competitions: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced.

High scoring contender Leslie Brekke explains how ETS competitions have enhanced the relationship between her and her rescue horse "Mama". She states, "Our journey together has developed a level of partnership through trust in each other that I could not have achieved otherwise. Because we have to be disciplined in how we execute each obstacle, my horse has to trust that I'm not going to ask her to do anything that would hurt her. I have to trust that she will tell me when I'm asking her to do something that she feels unsure about." Leslie is a firm believer in ground work.

Gary and Carole Wilder have hosted over 90 riding events since 2011. They are currently Ride Managers for their organization Wild Rose Horse Obstacle Contests which benefits 501(c)(3) charity Bethany's Gait of Prescott. They specialize in trail as opposed to arena challenges. In describing their obstacle criteria, Gary explains, "We try to use as much natural trail material as possible in creating safe obstacles that a

(Continued on next page)



Mary Rose pulling calf on wheels. Photo courtesy of Mary Rose Anderson.



Leslie Brekke & Mama. Photo courtesy of Jason Brekke.



EXCA contender in Noodle River. Photo courtesy of Tanner Photography.



Jody Swink No Sweat Natural Horsemanship. Photo courtesy of Tanner Photography.



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(Making Horse Sense cont'd)

novice can negotiate, while still being a challenge for the advanced riders". Trail materials include hills, water, logs, rocks, bridges, gates, basically anything found on a trail.

Kati Anderson has worked alongside the Wilders over the years helping with registration, serving as starter for event, and checking riders for proper attire and tack. "Judges use a rubric that helps them determine if either the rider or horse meets the standard for each obstacle," she explains. Judges must be standard in their assessment throughout the day.

AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) is another organization that offers a version of horse obstacle competition. It's referred to as AQHA TRAIL CHALLENGES. Morgan Dick has been a contender in AQHA TCs for 3 years and summarizes, "the trail challenges improved my overall relationship with each horse, because they required understanding which cue to give, and when, how your horse moves and where his feet are or will be. But most importantly, it builds confidence".

The common ingredients for each of these riding groups is clear. Corral with the best of comradery. Challenge yourself every chance you get. And hang your hat where the scenery is superb.

## TIPS FROM THE TRAINER: NED LEIGH, EQUINE FOCUS

By Rita Thompson-Tinsley

Raised on a farm in Indiana, Ned Leigh knew horses as a way of life, and sometimes as his only transportation. Fast-forward to 1984. Pat Parelli presented a clinic in Prescott where Ned was starting colts. "It was a 3-day clinic, and we got done in 3 days what I would normally take 3-4 weeks to accomplish. The training was more focused on working on the nature of the horse, rather than the physical side of the horse. And that just kind of lit a light for me".

The Paulden resident has become one of the leading trainers in the Prescott area and is regarded with respect because of his great knowledge and integrity, and a sensitive insight for the horse. One

of his philosophies: "You can't teach a horse until you become a good student OF the horse".

**Q: What is the most effective method you use to ensure a secure connection with the horse?**

**Ned:** Liberty Driving. There are no lead lines, the horse is free. I drive the horse from my (physical) approach. Liberty Driving is the same approach a horse would have with another horse it was going to control. The goal is to keep the horse moving in two full circles. Eventually, the horse comes to recognize your leadership and will actually turn around and follow you.

**Q: How have you made a difference in the horse owner's life?**

**Ned:** Becoming a good horse trainer has very little to do with horses. It has EVERYTHING to do with people. When an owner has a horse, whatever problems exist are things that come from the person. People have baggage and the horse will reveal those flaws. The most important change I would like to see in horse owners, is that they would see themselves in the horse. I would like horse owners to read the horse, so their personality can embrace the personality of the horse. They will start to look at the horse differently.

Ned sums up his evaluation by stating what many of us have come to appreciate. "Learning how to have a proper relationship with a horse will teach you to have a proper relationship with people."

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# CREATURE FEATURE: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WINTER?

Story and photo by Skye Lyons

The holidays are over, and now it's just winter to get through until spring returns. I know how I feel about winter – limited enthusiasm – but what do my animals feel about it? What do your creatures feel about it? Mine have several reactions, running the gamut between “Ewww” and “Oh, wow!”

The one I find most entertaining is watching a young dog, cat, or horse encounter the cold and the snow for the first time. I've seen a few cats state unequivocally that they weren't into cold ground, and they were not about to put their little paws on it ever again.

Many dogs find it great fun, but my favorite reaction came from an Arabian filly the morning after several inches of snow had fallen in her field. I led her from her stall and turned her out into her paddock, which nature had transformed into an alien landscape.

Sere said the white mystery stuff was scary and horribly confusing, but after much snorting and dancing, she got deeply into investigating the white menace. Gathering her courage, she stuck her nose deep into the snow, probably seeking the grass that had been there the night before. I don't know if she found the grass, but watched as she invented a new game of Snow Plow. Keeping her nose on the ground, she walked in circles and pushed the snow ahead of her with her muzzle. When the snow piled up to reach her eyes, she stepped back, shook it off, and snorted it out of her nostrils. She'd then go back for more. She spent most of the morning walking in circles with her face buried in the snow. Winter for her had just become great fun.

Other animals find snow to be high entertainment from the word

go. Dogs whose breeds originate from colder climates seem to have more fun than the others, as though their genetics and breed history recognize the unique opportunities offered by the cold, wind, and wet.

Some dogs create their own joy. My family brought back a pair of dachshunds from Germany in the 1950s, and I grew up with them. Dachshunds were bigger then, and still close to their roots of being bred as tunnel-hunting badger hounds. I didn't know about earth dogs then, but Heidi and Penny saw the deep snow, charged forward, and promptly disappeared. They ran under the snow like moles and forged their own tunnels, enjoying every snowy moment. They'd pop up periodically, get their bearings, and then dive back into the snow to tunnel some more. I think they had more fun in the snow than I did.

Other creatures were not so thrilled. It's cold. It's windy. The ground is hard, and the grass is dead. The litany of complaints went on and on for my little lovers of sun and summer.

Another Dachshund I had was Max. This was a miniature Dachshund born in 1978. He did not see himself as an earth dog, nor any kind of nature lover. He liked carpeting and couches, and wanted nothing to do with cold weather. Getting him outside was always an argument, until I got him a sweater. Thereafter, all I had to do to get Max out the door was pull out his little blue-striped knitted sweater, and he'd actually break into a happy dance. Although he despised the cold and wet, at least a compromise could be reached.

One horse I had would not leave her stall willingly, and stood the whole day by the barn gate,

waiting to be allowed back into her warm stall with the yummy hay and heated water. She was not impressed by my efforts to break the ice in the outdoor water tank, starting my morning pounding away with a 5 pound hand sledge and spraying my face with ice chips, or marching through the snow or the mud to make sure she had hay. No, she'd wait, unmoving, until she could get back inside; no winter sports for her.

I think that Shiloh, one of my barn cats, was the greatest picture of winter resentment. She'd follow me to the stable by leaping slowly and carefully, to land precisely inside each of my footprints so as to have as little contact with the icy stuff as possible. The look of disgust conveyed through her furry face and tilted ears will stay with me always.

Some animals, regardless of whether winter days are great fun for them, or something to be endured, would work alongside me, and were a great help. Dogs with jobs don't call in sick or claim they're unable get to work because of icy road conditions. They leap into it with all their heart and do their best.

Working dogs – like herding dogs – are entirely dedicated

to their job, and their person, regardless what sort of weather winter brings. Collies, Corgis, and sheepdogs are like the mail carriers of the canine world: neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night (or muddy ground), will stay these determined dogs from their appointed rounds.

Service dogs focus entirely on their person and stay beside them, helping in whatever way they can. They ignore the rain and the snow, the cold and sometimes icy ground, salt on their pads, freezing wind in their coats... they do their job with unwavering loyalty and love, and we love them as well.

Other animals will often help any way they can. One memorable snowstorm in Virginia saw my family and others snowed in for days on our private dirt road. We had no electricity, no mail, and no newspapers; the world had forgotten us.

I pulled out my steadiest school horse and climbed onto her bareback to ride to the end of our silent, snow-covered road, where I discovered that our mail and newspapers had been piled in the snow beside the street sign. We went home, got a 5-gallon bucket and headed back. I collected the mail and papers, and together Tawny and I delivered it all ourselves. My poor horse had to push her way through five-foot-deep snowdrifts to make it to the doors of some of the homes, but she never hesitated. That mare was always willing to do her best for me.

Whether we're out in the cold, or curled up by the fire, winter brings its pleasures. Our joy is always deeper when we shared our lives with furry family members. Whatever we do, they want to be with us.



Sere playing snow plow

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# CELEBRATION OF LIFE: DIGGER

by Loni Hunt

As my fingers slipped through the soft golden fur for the last time, 16 years of memories flooded my mind as the tears flood my eyes.

He came into this world a tiny red bundle of fur, the 8th pup in a litter of 12. He very quickly grew into a very Big Boy, all legs and ears, bouncing through the house and into our hearts.

He named himself; when all the other puppies were eating, sleeping, or just "puppy playing," he was hard at work, excavating our entire back yard. So Digger earned his name!

He grew into a stunning 120 pounds of rich golden fur, topped with a massive block head and deep brown, soulful eyes. Oh, those eyes! He could melt me with just a look! It was so hard to ever get upset at him, even when all we could see was a big, fluffy tail and a cloud of dirt rising from our once groomed granite yard.

We were always told not to let our male dog around newborn or even young puppies as they could hurt them. One problem with that: NO ONE EVER TOLD DIG HE WAS A DOG. Dig was as proud as any new human father. He checked out each and every puppy from the day it was born, to the day it would leave us for its forever home.

We knew from the first litter that he was an incredible dad, and he was! Dig was always looking after his "kids" whenever Mom would take a break. He was so patient, loving, and gentle. Everyone who saw him with the pups marveled at his ability to put up with the squealing, yapping, and even the puppy play.

They would bite his ears, pull on his tail, and climb all over him! Then, when big enough, to eat from a bowl by

standing under Dig with their heads between his front paws.

Digger had such a big heart that when the time came to say goodbye to his own mother, he would not leave her grave for 3 days, even at night. I finally took a blanket out to him. The only way we got him back in the house was to put up a fence around her grave.

He was always so sensitive to any hurt, pain, or just sadness, whether in a human or animal. He always knew a sloppy kiss, a warm snuggle, or just a gentle paw was just what was needed to "make it all better."

Digger raised four generations in his years, every pup carrying on the legacy of love and devotion Digger showed all living things. Over 1,000 Golden Retrievers (and counting) working, loving, and serving from this amazing dog -- no, not "just a dog," a friend, a companion, a protector, and most of all, my love!

As he closed his eyes one last time, I held him close and whispered softly "Go ahead Boy, you can cross the Rainbow Bridge. We will see each other again."

Digger lives on in his grandson, Billy the Kid, and great-grandson, DJ, and many more to come!

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(928) 273-7005, circlel.org  
circleranchdogs@gmail.com

Coconino Humane Association  
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(928) 526-1076, coconinohumane.org

Humane Society of Central Arizona  
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(928) 474-5590  
HumaneSocietyCentralAZ.org

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(928) 282-4679  
humanesocietyofsedona.com

Humane Society of the White Mtns.  
Lakeside (928) 368-5295, hswm.org

Jerome Humane Society  
Appointments: (928) 639-1341  
jeromehumanesociety.com

Tuba City Humane Society  
(928) 793-2364  
tubacityhumanesociety.org

Verde Valley Humane Society  
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(928) 634-7387  
VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org

Yavapai Humane Society  
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(928) 445-2666, yavapaihumane.org

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Ghost Town Dog Rescue  
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Minpinmom@hotmail.com

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pittiemerescue@gmail.com

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Tucson (520) 250-2034, azpuggle.org

**SAINT BERNARD**

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(928) 515-2354

**PETSITTING**

Auntie Pam's Pet Sitting  
(480) 466-5022

Four Paws Dog Resort  
928-237-1063, PrescottDogBoarding.com

Petsitting Plus  
Karen Sable Goldstein, (928) 308-6560

**TRAINING**

CritterTouch  
Tellington TTouch™ Method  
Mary E. Cannon  
(858) 361-8038, www.crittertouch.com

Farbenholt Dog Training  
Dewey (928) 632-7557,  
azgermanshepherds.com

Pawsitively Awesome Dog Training  
(928) 710-8188,  
awomecanines@gmail.com

**VETERINARIANS**

**Chino Valley**  
Chino Valley Animal Hospital  
3601 AZ-89, (928) 636-4382  
chinovalleyanimalhospital.com

Circle L Animal Hospital  
845 AZ-89, (928) 536-4421  
circleanimalhospital.com

**Dewey**

Kachina Animal Hospital  
850 S. Henrickson Rd, (928) 772-8225  
kachinaanimalhospital.com



## Prescott

Prescott Animal Hospital  
1318 Iron Springs Road, (928) 445-2190

Mile Hi Animal Hospital  
334 White Spar Road, (928) 445-4581

VCA Thumb Butte Animal Hospital  
1441 W. Gurley Street  
(928) 445-2331  
vcahospitals.com/thumb-butte

Yavapai Humane Society  
Spay/Neuter & Wellness Clinic  
2989 Centerpoint East, Ste. B  
(928) 771-0547  
yavapaihumane.org/clinic

## Prescott Valley

Bradshaw Mountain Animal Hospital  
6227 E. 2nd Street, Prescott Valley  
(928) 772-7775, bmahonline.com

Pet Dental  
6550 E. 2nd St., Suite C  
Prescott Valley, (928) 772-1181

Premier Pet Hospital  
3322 N. Glassford Hill Rd.  
(Next to Starbucks) 928-719-7387  
premierpethospital.com

Prescott Valley Pet Clinic  
9501 E. Lorna Lane, Prescott Valley  
(928) 772-6069

## HOUSE CALLS

Visiting Vet House Calls for Pets  
(928) 778-7657

## VET - EMERGENCY

Prescott Area Pet Emergency Hospital  
2245 Hwy. 69, Prescott, (928) 778-1990

## VET - HOLISTIC

Harmony Holistic Veterinary Care  
Delia McDonald, DMV and  
Tammy Pauletto, DMV  
919 12th Place, Suite #6, Prescott  
(928) 445-7499 harmonyvetcare.com

Holistic Veterinary Care and  
Acupuncture Center  
Caroline A. O'Sullivan, DVM, MS  
800 E. Valley Road, Prescott Valley  
(928) 925-4130

## LOCAL DOG PARKS

### Prescott

Willow Creek Dog Park  
New Beneful Dream Dog Park is now  
open. Grass, agility field, water features,  
separate small and large dog parks  
Prescott Parks & Rec. (928) 777-1122

### Prescott Valley

Mountain Valley Park, just off of Nace  
Lane. Almost 2 acres of open space.  
Fenced, handicap accessible. Agility  
equipment, benched, shade, parking and  
water. Dogs must be vaccinated.  
PV Parks and Rec (928) 772-5180

## IMPORTANT PET CONTACT NUMBERS

### Animal Disaster Services

(928) 925-7990 (Shelter for animals in  
the event of a disaster)

### Chino Valley Animal Control

(928) 636-4223 x7  
Licensing 928-636-4223 x7

### Prescott Animal Control

(928) 777-1135  
Licensing (928) 777-1291

### Prescott Valley Animal Control

928-772-5180  
Licensing 928-772-5180

## Equine Services

### TRAINING

Piñon Meadows Boarding & Training  
5000 West Road 2 South, Prescott  
(928) 717-9885 • Cell (928) 821-1453

### VETERINARIANS

Prescott Animal Hospital & Equine Center  
2611 Avenger Rd, Prescott  
(928) 776-7669, prescottvets.com

Harmony Holistic Veterinary Care  
Delia McDonald, DMV and  
Tammy Pauletto, DMV  
919 12th Place, Suite #6, Prescott  
(928) 445-7499  
harmonyvetcare.com

## Pet-Friendly Establishments

### HOTELS/MOTELS

Apple Creek Cottages  
1001 White Spar Rd., Prescott  
(928) 445-7321

Comfort Inn  
1290 White Spar Rd, Prescott  
(928) 778-5770

Motel 6 – RV  
1111 E. Sheldon St., Prescott  
(928) 776-0160

Wyndham Garden Hotel  
4499 Highway 69, Prescott  
(928) 777-0770

### REAL ESTATE

Wendy Roudy Bush, Associate Broker  
Garden Brook Realty (928) 713-5136

Rehab Boswell Team  
Realty Executives (928) 925-1125  
rehabyhomes.com

Home Smart  
Elizabeth Kennedy, (760) 61-3885  
lizkrealstate@gmail.com

### RESTAURANTS

Barley Hound  
234 S. Cortez St.  
Prescott (928) 237-4506

Cupper's  
226 S. Cortez St., Prescott  
(928) 445-1636  
258 Lee Blvd., Prescott  
(928) 515-2446

Jaime's Waffle Express  
3050 Windsong Dr., Prescott Valley  
(928) 772-3131

Kensington's Restaurant  
220 W. Goodwin ST., #1  
Old Firehouse Plaza  
Prescott, (928) 776-0477  
kensingtonsrestaurant.com

Leff-T's Steakhouse & Grill  
150 S. State Route 69 #12, Dewey  
(928) 632-1388

The Palace Restaurant & Saloon  
Downtown Prescott  
120 S. Montezuma St.  
(928) 541-1996

Waffles N' More  
1365 W. Iron Springs Rd.  
Prescott, (928) 778-3039

Wildflower Bread Company  
Prescott Gateway Mall  
3250 Gateway Blvd., (928) 717-1700

### AUTOMOTIVE / RV

Autoworks  
6540 E 2nd St, Prescott Valley  
(928) 775-3332  
autoworksserviceandrepair.com

Courtesy Auto Sales  
Prescott - 1004 E Gurley St.,  
(928) 515-2919  
Prescott Valley - 6900 E Frontage Rd.,  
(928) 775-0069  
courtesyautosalesprescott.com

Little Dealer/Little Prices  
2757 N Truwood Dr., Prescott Valley  
(928) 350-240, littledealer.com

Valvoline Instant Oil Change  
Prescott Valley - 8201 E State Route 69  
(928) 775-2336  
Prescott - 439 Miller Valley Road  
(928) 776-9677

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Blind Dog Apparel & Graphic Design  
9386 E Florentine Rd, Prescott Valley  
928-202-4852  
blinddogapparel.com

Holly Lorette  
Master Stylist, Master Colorist  
537 6th Street, Prescott  
(928) 460-3349

Liberty Mutual Insurance  
Adam England, Agent  
(928) 642-0073  
Adam.England@LibertyMutual.com

Seeing Hands Therapeutic Massage  
Kevin Rusco, Massage Therapist,  
AZ License #MT22788  
(928) 301-4309

TriAlpha7 ~ My Health Etc.  
Organic Hemp CBD Products  
1515 W. Thumb Butte Rd., Prescott  
www.myhealthetc.com  
(928) 776-0944 or 1-844-779-2200

### SHOPPING

Ace Hardware  
7211 E 1st St., Prescott Valley  
(928) 772-8111

Clothes Hound  
122 S. Montezuma, Prescott  
(928) 771-0811

Cortez Street Emporium  
113-115 N Cortez Street, Prescott  
(928) 541-0077

Home Depot  
Prescott Valley - 5500 E. St. Route 69  
(928) 771-8467  
Prescott - 1941 E. Hwy 69  
(928) 777-2400

Lowe's  
2300 E. St. Route 69, Prescott  
(928) 541-8640

N.O.A.H. Thrift Store  
603 S. Granite St, Prescott  
(928) 708-0545

Prescott Super Pawn  
703 E. Gurley St., Prescott  
(928) 776-4653

Prestige Security Doors  
600 E. Sheldon St., Prescott  
(928) 541-7900  
Prestige Security Doors.com

TimberWoof Pet Boutique  
Bashford Courts Atrium  
130 W Gurley Street, Prescott,  
(928) 443-9663

Totally Floored  
2710 N. Glassford Hill Rd.,  
Prescott Valley 928-445-4650

Warren's Hay – N – More  
2295 S. Hwy 89, Chino Valley  
(928) 636-1303

Yavapai Humane Society Thrift Store  
1601 Iron Springs Rd, Prescott  
(928) 445-5668

### GALLERIES

The Frame and I  
229 W. Gurley St. Prescott  
(928) 445-5073

Mountain Artist Gallery  
228 N. Alarcon Street, Prescott  
(928) 445-2510



*Prestige*  
SECURITY DOORS LLC

THE 100%  
**PET PROOF**  
SCREEN DOOR!

Home of **"THE WORLD'S STRONGEST SCREEN DOOR"**

- ✓ CUSTOM BUILT TO FIT ANY OPENING
- ✓ WOVEN STAINLESS STEEL SCREEN
- ✓ EXCEPTIONAL AIRFLOW
- ✓ LIFETIME WARRANTY



Prestige Security Doors offers a lifetime guarantee that **YOUR PET WILL NEVER RIP, TEAR OR PUNCTURE THE SCREEN** on our Guardian Screen Doors. Stop wasting money replacing torn screens!



COME INTO OUR SHOWROOM  
**WE'LL PAY THE TAX**

MUST PRESENT THIS COUPON WHEN PLACING NEW ORDER.  
OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2017. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUS SALES.  
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS.

600 E. Sheldon Street  
Prescott AZ  
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm • Sat 10am-2pm

**928.541.7900**

**PrestigeSecurityDoors.com**

PO# #229454



# NOW OPEN!



"Your other family doctor"

## PREMIER PET HOSPITAL

### Welcome to the Premier Pet Hospital!

Here at Premier Pet Hospital, we strive to provide the best veterinary care possible, with an attentive and sensitive hospital staff to serve you.

We believe that preventative care is the best way to keep your pet healthy and happy, so one of the most important services we provide is the annual physical examination. In that examination, we check of all your pet's vital systems, create a baseline of health, and proactively catch any situations that might need attention.

### Our Other Services include...

- Annual Exams
- Vaccinations
- In-House Diagnostics Laboratory
- Surgery
- Spays, Neuters
- Dental Cleaning
- Pet Emergencies
- Therapeutic Laser Treatment
- Deworming
- End of Life

For your convenience, you may drop off your pet if you are unable to schedule a specific appointment time.

Our hospital also provides a variety of more extensive services for

your pets, such as hospitalization and intensive care for seriously ill patients, and diagnostic tests performed both in hospital and at our in-house laboratory. The hospital has both x-ray and ultrasound abilities. All x-rays taken in our hospital can be reviewed by a board certified veterinary radiologist.

We have a dedicated surgical suite and strive to provide the best in anesthetic and surgical care, from routine spays and neuters, to orthopedic and abdominal surgery. Should the need for referral arise, we have excellent relationships with many board certified specialists in areas such as internal medicine, critical care, surgery, cardiology, dermatology, ophthalmology, and oncology.

Emergencies that arise outside of hospital hours will be handled by our hospital whenever possible. Otherwise, you will be referred to the Prescott Area Animal Emergency Hospital.

We look forward to meeting you and your pet. Please call any time you have questions regarding your pet's health. We will always do our very best to practice outstanding veterinary care, communicate clearly, and earn your trust at Premier Pet Hospital.



**Dr. Gordon Vergason, DVM  
Owner**

### February is National Veterinary Dental Health Month

**Schedule Your Pet's Dental Cleaning in February for a 10% Discount**

"Routine cleanings not only can help prevent periodontal disease and save money in the long run, but also allow for a complete oral examination that can detect hidden health problems," said Dr. Vergason. "Brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective way to maintain dental health between professional dental cleanings."

**928-719-PETS (7387)**

3322 North Glassford Hill Road (In front of Kohl's & Next to Starbucks), Prescott Valley

Hours: Monday - Friday 8a-6p; Saturday 8a-4p; Closed Sunday • [www.premierpethospital.com](http://www.premierpethospital.com)





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