

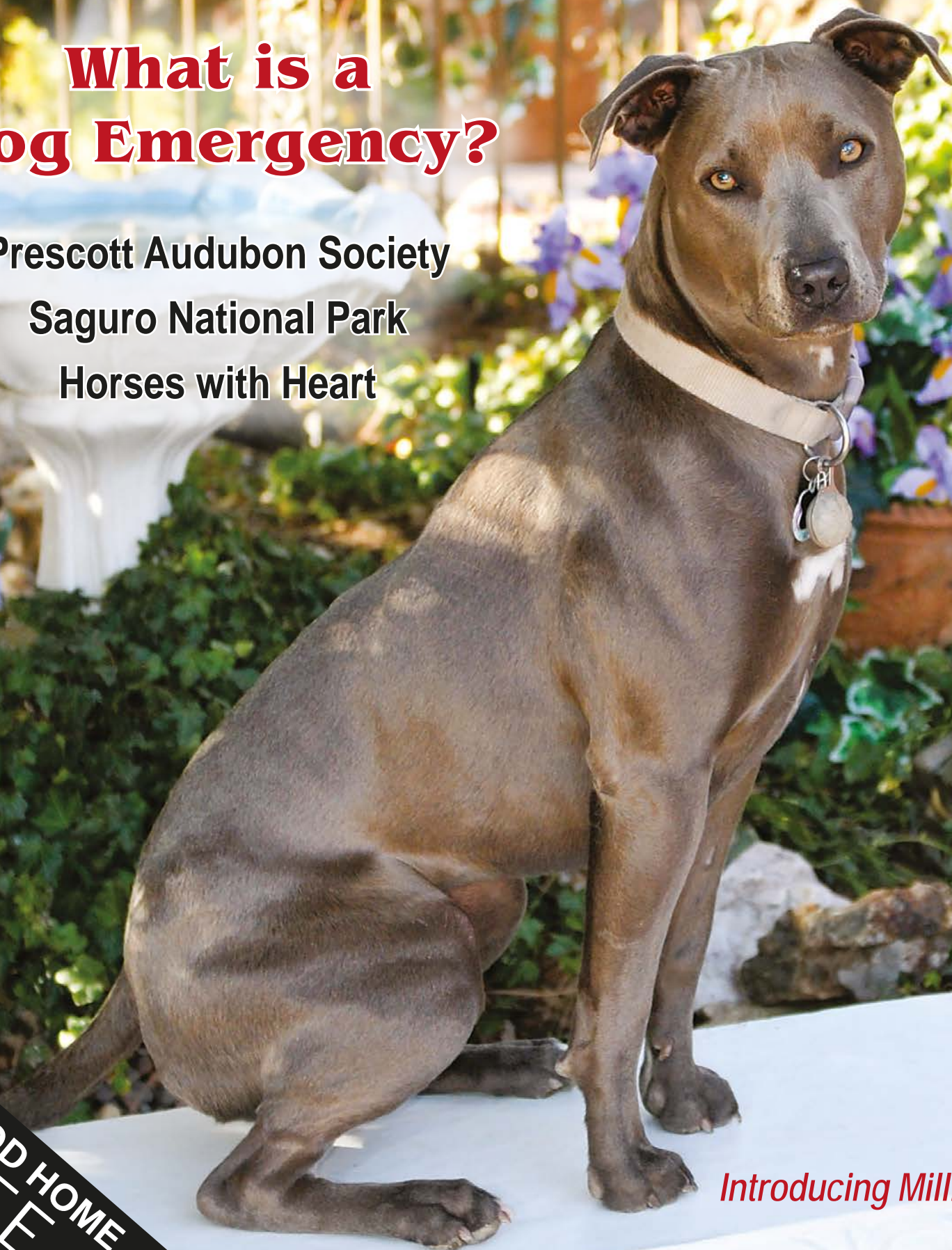
Prescott Dog

magazine

March/April 2022 • PrescottDog.com

What is a Dog Emergency?

Prescott Audubon Society
Saguro National Park
Horses with Heart



TO GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS

Introducing Millie, Our Cover Dog

My Dog does this
AMAZING THING
where he just exists & makes
my whole life better because
of it!



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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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*Serving Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley,
Dewey-Humboldt, and The Highway 69 Corridor for 14 Years*

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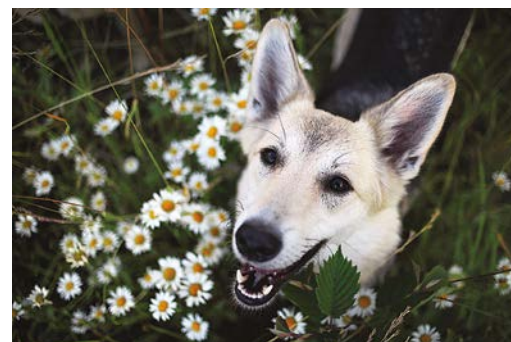
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COVER DOG CONTEST

It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

- 1) Take a picture of your canine pal
- 2) Send your picture to info@reddogpublishing.net

Winner will receive:

- 1) A photo shoot with A Portrait Park by J in Prescott
- 2) 50 copies of Prescott Dog
- 3) A personalized social media post congratulating your dog as the winner and an electronic copy of the printed cover

All entries are judged for the edition submitted..
You can enter for EVERY edition! One entry per dog, per edition.

**Deadline Dates - 3/31/22, 5/31/22, 7/31/22,
9/30/22 and 11/31/23**



Millie, Our Cover Dog

Name: Hi! My name is Millie! My gangster name is MJ, according to my mom.

Hometown: I was born in Phoenix, Arizona but moved up north to Chino Valley.

Age: I turned 2 years old as of January 15, and my mama was so sad when I became a teenager in dog years!

Favorite brand of kibble: Currently, I'm eating Purina Strive, a high protein sport-dog food.

Favorite people food: Every now and then, I get some steak in my bowl. I also love boiled chicken, and chicken stock as a delicious sauce for my food.

Favorite toy: My favorite toy is a plastic turtle. I like chewing the balls I play fetch with, but mom doesn't like that, so she bought me some turtles to chew instead.

Favorite outdoor activity: My siblings and I are fans of doggy soccer, swimming in rivers and lakes, and of course playing fetch!

Favorite indoor activity: Easy! Napping! I sometimes sleep in until my mom gets home from work or school! When she gets up, I don't get out of bed until she is making it!

Favorite nap spot: In mom's bed, on my outdoor elevated dog bed, or just on the couch! Even though I'm not allowed on the couch!

Fitness regimen: I play soccer, fetch, badminton, and I swim. Basically, I do whatever my mom is doing.

Describe your perfect day: First things first: nap, play, nap, eat, go to bed! Pretty sleepy, huh! That's my kind of fun!

Perfect canine pal: Anyone willing to play fetch! Although I don't really like greyhounds....



HAZEL HOWLS

~THWOP! Goes the cardboard taco~

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of an undesirable situation. A highly uncomfortable circumstance that you wish you had never experienced?

As I stood there in the midst of one of those events, my mind tried to wander back through the trail of various four-legged moments that had brought me to this point.

Frozen in time (in my mind), I doubt more than one or two seconds actually went by according to the two-legged's dial on the wall. Understanding that I wasn't really going to solve this riddle under the pressure of Dad's glare, and my own confusion mixed with a canine form of shame, I retreated slowly down the hall to where any philosopher worth his salt reposes while sifting through "reason and evidence."

The bed. Back against pillows. Curled in a tight circle. Thankful that the curtains were closed against the cold constant wind assailing the room's outer wall. I felt very small, and very alone, the occasional howl of the wind seemed to emphasize my personal dreary frame of mind.

The day had started out in normal fashion, the three four-leggeds encouraging Mom to rise and greet the day, long before dawn. The satisfaction of full tummies and empty bladders, returning to bed to encircle Dad, listening to Dad complain he couldn't turn over while trying to shift Keira's non-cooperative body weight. Very normal stuff.

Later, up and out to do a full backyard scan for the scent of any small animal intrusions. Tuck watching the hill for his bunnies. Keira trying to secretly scoop up one of the small soft "pine cones" from under the tree, and Dad asking in mid-scoop, "What do you have in your mouth Keira?" Keira then spitting out her temporary prize and padding over to Dad, tail wagging. All normal and routine.

Afternoon came, and I did my normal musings away from the pack, in the bedroom by myself.

There was a sudden waking, and collective high-speed appearances when we heard Dad's truck keys being retrieved. Always hopeful and full of optimism, we watched Dad prepare, (coffee, wallet, watch, house keys, stick of gum...), and waited to see if he gathered harnesses, collars, leashes, seat-belt clips, extra water, water bowl. No such luck this time.

I stayed near the door to listen to the truck drive away, but Dad suddenly reappeared and blew past me twice (forgot phone), and then he was gone. And that's where I think my day kind of went off the rails.



I soooooo wanted to believe he came back for me, to take me for a ride in my limo. When he came back in and shot right back out, hardly acknowledging me, I remember my normally sunny mood evaporated. Instead of waiting in the living room for his return, I tried to find solace in my solitary place.

I halfheartedly headed to the front door at Dad's return and intended to sulk further until I saw what Dad was carrying (carefully) with two hands. A BIG crust circle! I believe hoomans call them pizzaz.

Dad cautiously placed the saran wrapped-cardboard encircled-not yet baked-crust circle on the counter and turned on the oven. He then methodically sought the leading edge of the saran wrap, and with several false starts and some unintelligible exclamations, managed to unwrap the big circle of soon-to-be-baked crust enhanced ambrosia.

Pizzaz crust and I go way back to when Dad and I were on the road. Since he wasn't allowed to leave me alone in the hotel rooms, Dad would usually skip his dinner. At some hotels though, he could get crust circles delivered to the room. Some of my fondest memories were Dad and I reveling together over a hot meal. Aside from the legendary "San Felipe Breakfast Burritos" of the past, pizzaz crust is a foretaste of heaven. I'm sure of it.

Dad left the kitchen, parked on the couch, and began to fiddle with his mini moron's magnet, (phone).

I felt it was important to stand guard in the kitchen and keep the pizzaz company. The oven sure was taking a long time to beep. I wondered, maybe something is wrong. It seemed like the logical thing to do would be to simply raise up a bit. Enough to place my front paws on the counter and, you know, just look around to make sure everything is OK.

Suddenly, there I was, muzzle one little inch from that wonderful, delightful, and oh-so-tempting circle of culinary genius. Maybe, if I just pull on the cardboard edge, just a little bit, that would speed up the whole process, and we could all be enjoying

it all that much sooner. At that moment it felt like the whole world, the kitchen, the living room, Dad, all faded away to just me and my altruistic intention to help.

Then...I completely lost my mind.

With my front teeth gently secured on the edge of the cardboard disk the pizzaz was resting on, my nose found itself in an irresistible place. The white sauce, the chicken, the baby spinach leaves...it all seemed to call my name, and without hesitation I answered back by giving the cardboard a hard pull, hoping to hear it call my name again as it hit the floor.

I hadn't counted on the loud "SLAP" the pizzaz made upon it's landing. Instead of hearing my name being called, I heard Dad's exclamation of "What the !* * &?" and that immediately snapped me out of my self-imposed trance. There I was, baby-spinach leaf dangling from my muzzle, the pizzaz laying accusingly in front of me folded over in half like a giant cardboard taco, and me waiting to be read the riot act.

"Hazel...Hazel! What on earth were you thinking?"

"Well, it should be obvious I wasn't."

As Dad bent down to lift the now taco-shaped pizzaz back to its place on the counter, the oven beeped.

I waited there (even though I just wanted to slink away), while Dad unfolded the pizzaz to its original circle and rearranged bits here and there, then put the slightly disheveled pizzaz in the oven. He then turned to me, removed the spinach leaf from my muzzle and quietly, firmly said, "Hazel, go lay down." With that, I was released in body, but not quite in my mind.

No crust was shared with the pack at two-legged dinner, and I felt that Tucker and Keira knew it was my fault. I wished I could go back and fix it to where I hadn't done that stupid, stupid thing. But I couldn't figure out how.

At our dinner time, Keira got fed first, and I heard her make a happy noise when her bowl was set down. Next Tucker, then me, and on top of my kibble dinner were two golden brown, thick pieces of crust. When dinner was over, and we had all checked each other's bowls, I looked up to see Dad waiting at the back door with my tennis ball and a smile. All of a sudden, everything felt right again.

I realized, sometimes, when you do something wrong or stupid, there's no way to fix it. It takes someone else's friendship and love to set things right again. That's a very awesome thing, I think.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog



available at
amazon

HAZEL HOWLS

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CALENDAR



Events are subject to change. Please contact the event sponsor to confirm date and details.

ONGOING ADOPTIONS

AARF ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY. Onsite adoptions by appt. in Mayer. Info 928-925-7219 or email at aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com. See pets available for adoption at aarfanimalrescue.org.

CATTY SHACK – CAT ADOPTIONS. Onsite: Tue-Sat, 10a-2p, 609 S. Granite St., Prescott. ssnsmart@yahoo.com

CIRCLE L RANCH ADOPTIONS. On-site by appt. Off-site info. 928-273-7005 or CircleL.org.

MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE. Onsite adoptions: By appt. 302 N Alarcon, Prescott, 928-445-5411. Offsite: Petsmart, Sat & Sun 11a-3p

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS. Petco, Frontier Village, 1931 E Hwy 69, Prescott.

- Dog Adoptions: Most Saturdays 11a-2p.
- Cat Adoptions: Mon-Fri: 9a-10:30a & 4p-5:30p; Sat: 9a-11:30a & 4p-5:30p; Sun: 10a-11:30a & 4p-5:30p

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY

- Onsite Adoptions: M, T, TH, F Noon-5:30p by appt. Sat-Sun 11:30-4:30pm by appt. 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd., Prescott, 928-445-2666
- Lost Pet Center by appt: M, T, TH, F 12p-5:30p, and by appt. Sat-Sun 11:30a-4:30p.

YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS. Most Sat at Prescott Petco. Visit YavapaiHumaneTrappers.org to request mtg or complete preadoption form.

ONGOING EVENTS

ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Do you and your dog love people? Is your dog well behaved? Share the love by becoming a certified Alliance of Therapy Dogs Team. No fee for testing. Info: tester.observer@gmail.com; robyn.petrillo@gmail.com; or therapydogs.com.

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS. To volunteer or learn more about UAF: unitedanimalfriends.org or 928-778-2924.

YAVAPAI HUMANE EQUINE CENTER. To tour our center: 928-515-4947.

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY (YHS)

- 50% OFF: 1st Sat every month at YHS Thrift Store, 1601 Iron Springs Road, Prescott. Open Mon-Sat, 9a-5p.
- Walk-In Vaccination Clinic every Friday between 8a-4p. No appointment necessary; first come, first served. Wellness Clinic, 2989 Centerpointe E Dr, Prescott.

MARCH & APRIL EVENTS

HEARTS & HOOVES HORSEING AROUND BENEFIT PLAYDAY FOR KAREN MOSELEY. Mar 12, 10a-3p. Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Open riding, obstacles, & horse-game competitions with prizes. All proceeds to Karen Moseley Family. \$50 entry donation. Info: cvequestrianpark.org.

HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- Mar 14-18, Spring Zoo Camp
- Apr 9, Breakfast with Lynx

- Apr 17, Easter Eggstravaganza
- Apr 22, Earth Day Celebration
- Apr 23, Behind the Scenes Photo Tour
- Apr 30, Community Appreciation Day

CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK. Info/registration for all events: cvequestrianpark.org

- March: HORSE CLINICS on Trail Obstacles, Improving Horsemanship, Working Equitation, & Intro to Ranch Riding.
- Mar 26 & Apr 23: ALL-BREED HORSE SHOW 8a-4p. Western, English, Trail, Ranch Riding.
- Mar 27 & Apr 24: DRIVING HORSE SHOW 8a-3p.
- April: HORSE CLINICS on Gaited Horsemanship, Obstacle Clinic & Show, Alternative Therapies, Improving Horsemanship Skills, & Intro to Jumping.
- Apr 1, 2, 3: 3-DAY GAITED CLINIC with Larry Whitesell.

DOG TRAINING CLASSES. UAF Rescue Ranch, Mar 13 & 27; Apr 10 & 25, 11a-12p. \$10 per class, 50% benefits UAF. Details/reservations: sammimaon@gmail.com.

"FORGET ME NOT" SILENT AUCTION OF ART. Mar 26, 4p-6p. Sponsored by AZ Pioneers' Home Residents. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, live music. Benefits UAF. Info: unitedanimalfriends.org or 928-778-2924.

WILD ROSE HORSE OBSTACLE CONTESTS. All proceeds benefit our vet heroes & rescue horses at Bethany's Gait. Info: glwild@hotmail.com or Carole 602-686-2435.

- Mar 26-27, Bumble Bee Ranch, Mayer.
- April 22, 23, 24, Patterson Ranch, Payson.

EASTER PHOTOS. Apr 2, 1p-4p at Whiskers Barkery, Prescott. \$15 for 5"x7" print or CD with multiple photos. Benefits UAF.



Rescue Resources

For an expanded view of Rescue Resources, visit PrescottDog.com

<p>AARF ANIMAL RESCUE AND SANCTUARY 6639 S. Country Road, Mayer (928) 925-7219, aarfrescue.org</p>	<p>ARK CAT SANCTUARY Parks, Arizona (928) 635-5909 arkcatsanctuary.org</p>	<p>BETHANY'S GAIT RANCH Prescott, Arizona (928) 499-9442 bethanysgait.org</p>	<p>BLUE MOON RESCUE AND SANCTUARY 1851 E Perkinsville Rd, Chino Valley (928) 925-7724, bluemoonrescue.org</p>
<p>CATTY SHACK RESCUE 609 S. Granite Street, Prescott (928) 778-6951 cattysackrescue.org</p>	<p>CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER 1950 Voss Drive, Chino Valley (928) 636-4223 Facebook: cvanimalshelter</p>	<p>CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE 8550 E Smitty's Place, Prescott Valley 7680 N Coyote Springs, Prescott Valley (928) 273-7005, circlel.org</p>	<p>DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Sedona, Arizona (928) 554-4127, DLRRAZ.org</p>
<p>MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE 302 N Alarcon St, Prescott (928) 445-5411 Facebook: Miss-Kittys-Cat-House</p>	<p>NOW THAT I'M SAFE EQUINE RESCUE Chino Valley, Arizona, (951) 233-1318 nowthatimsafe.org Facebook: nowthatimsafeequinerescue</p>	<p>PETEY'S PLAYGROUND Yarnell, Arizona (928) 713-1375 peteysplayground.org</p>	<p>UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS Prescott, Arizona (928) 778-2924 UnitedAnimalFriends.org</p>
<p>VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood (928) 634-7387 VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg (928) 684-8801, wickenburghumane.com</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY Multiple locations. Please visit website for info. (928) 445-2666, yavapaihumane.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL SEARCH & RESCUE Prescott, Arizona Facebook: Yavapai Humane Trappers Animal Search and Rescue</p>



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICES
Shelter for animals in the event of a disaster.
(928) 925-7990 • animaldisasterservices.com

EQUINE EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF YAVAPAI COUNTY
Assistance for equine owners in the event of wildfire and other emergency situations.
Emergency Hotline: (833) 922-9333 • eeeyc.org

WHAT IS A DOG EMERGENCY, AND HOW CAN I PREVENT THEM?

By Heidi Dahms Foster



When you're a dog owner, one of the most frightening things you can face is emergencies in any form. How do you know if a mishap or illness is a true emergency? And more importantly, how can you prevent such things from happening? Here are a few things you can do to prevent emergencies before they occur.

1. Keep dangerous items in house or yard out of your dog's reach.



Many visits to the vet are because pets find their way into harmful foods or other items. If your dog is prone to chewing up or ingesting items at random, you'll need to keep those items out of reach. Secure garbage cans, put away items on the counter and those your dog wants to tear up. Much as you would a child, keep cleaning supplies, insecticides, and other household supplies put away where your pet cannot access them.

Outdoors, beware of harmful things in your garage or yard, such as antifreeze and chemicals, fertilizers and insecticides. Be especially aware of rat and mouse poisons inside and outside, as these can quickly kill your pet. Look for other hazards such as debris, litter or during wet times, mushrooms that have sprouted in your yard.

Additionally, keep your dog away from toads, some of which if touched or worse, eaten, can cause harm.

When you need a vet:

Ingested items: When you know your dog has ingested a chemical, fertilizer, mushrooms, a toad, choc-

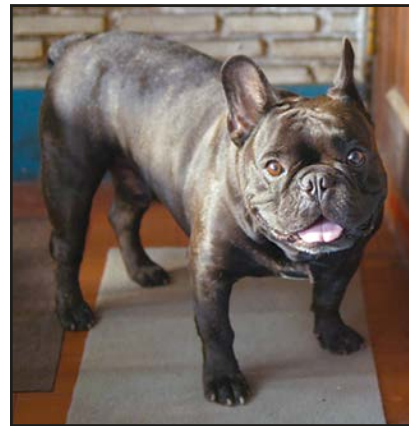
olate, medications, or rat or mouse poison. It's an emergency. Don't wait, see a vet immediately.

Lethargy, pain and off food: If your dog is lethargic, if a normal chow hound stops eating and drinking, if your dog cannot urinate or defecate, if he's hunched over or tense with pain, it's possible he is very ill or has ingested a harmful item.

It's an emergency. If he has simple diarrhea, is a bit off his food, or just seems slightly lethargic, you can watch a day or two, feed a light, bland diet, and dose with a canine tummy remedy, but more than that is time to call the vet. If in doubt, call your vet and ask.

Excessive drinking or vomiting: If your dog is drinking excessively and urinating often, it could signal kidney problems or diabetes. You need a vet. If your dog throws up once and you do not notice blood or foreign objects, keep an eye on him. If he continues to vomit, you need a vet.

Difficult or rapid breathing, or coughing: If your dog pants or has difficulty breathing at rest, or recovering after exercise or play, you need a vet. It could signal much more serious problems. Excessive coughing could indicate something in your dog's throat, (such as a foxtail), or a respiratory issue. You need a vet.



Ear shaking or constant scratching: Incessant ear shaking generally indicates a foreign body in the ear, such as a foxtail or ticks, and constant scratching can indicate an allergy, pests or dirty ears.

If a good over-the-counter canine ear wash (available at pet outlets) doesn't solve the problem, time for a vet visit. In the case of a foxtail in the ear, it's an emergency. Foxtails travel and can cause catastrophic problems if not dealt with.

2. Keep your dog contained and under control.



Letting your dog run free can present significant hazards. It's easier and safer to keep your puppy in a gated area or kennel while training, housebreaking or while you're away from home.

Away from home, keep your dog on a leash. Don't allow him to approach other dogs without the owner's permission. Some dogs may not be as friendly as yours, and fights can ensue.

Be aware that flexi leads can be dangerous to your dog for many reasons, and a dog on a flexi lead is not truly contained.

Your dog also should be contained in the car. Every year, hundreds of stories emerge of dogs that are lost after a car accident, because they escape and are frightened. Thankfully, many are found but some are not.

Confining your dog to a crate or seatbelt in the car will also keep him from becoming a projectile if you have to stop fast or worse, have an accident.

When you need a vet:

Dog fight. If your dog is in a fight, take time afterward to carefully go over him. Puncture wounds can become infected, so it's imperative to find them. Your dog may need antibiotics. If you find open wounds, time to call the vet. He may need stitches, drains or medications. Make sure your dog and the "other guy" are current on Rabies vaccinations.

Car accident: If you have an accident and your dog is not contained, have him checked for bruises, broken bones or other injuries, much as

you would yourself. If your dog is hit by a car, it's an emergency, see a vet asap. He may have internal injuries.

3. Put your hands on your dog every day.



Touch your dog, all the way to the skin, including feet and ears. Check out his teeth often. By doing this, you'll quickly find things that shouldn't be there before they become serious.

Look for lumps, bumps, skin sores or rashes. Feel between the pads of the feet for swelling, foxtails, thorns or seeds. Cuts or sores can hide under thick coats and become infected. In the mouth, look for reddened gums or loose or broken teeth. Eyes should be clear and bright.

Generally, anything that doesn't look or feel right should be suspect.

When you need a vet:

Lumps and bumps: Many lumps and bumps can be caused by old age, or are benign fatty tumors. But it's best to have them checked out. It's an emergency if: the lump is rapidly growing, or painful to your dog.

Foxtails: You can find and remove a foxtail if you can grab it and pull it out. Call a vet if you can see the foxtail but are not able to remove it, or if you observe a red or pus-filled sore or bump between pad or anywhere else on your dog's body.

Foxtails can enter by the foot or through a dog's heavy coat, especially on the tummy, near the genitals (especially on male dogs) and near the tail. If you live in a foxtail infested area, check your dog every day.

Rashes and skin conditions: Over the counter medicines are available to treat hot spots, rashes and other skin conditions, but a stubborn skin condition or rash is reason for a checkup. Your dog could have an

allergy to food or to a substance in its environment.

Burns: Always a reason to see the vet.

4. Remove collars and especially dog tags at home and at play.



Dog tags can of course save your pet's life if he becomes lost. But the same tags can be dangerous. If you crate your dog, or if he's playing with other dogs, or he's home alone, take his collar off. Tags can become caught in other dogs' collars, in crate doors, or can drop through floor air grates, trapping and choking your dog.

When you need a vet:

If your dog has caught its collar in a fence, grate or become wrapped in another dog's collar, it's a life-threatening emergency. If you have such an emergency, free your dog as quickly as possible by removing the collar or tag any way possible. Call a vet to make sure no damage to throat or neck has been done.

5. Feed your dog well.

Research and find the right food for your dog, and you'll have a healthier animal throughout its life. Some dog foods may be cheap, but so is the nutrition.

Be especially vigilant about treats. Never feed rawhide, which can become caught in your dog's throat or cause serious digestive issues. Some grain-free diets have been linked to cardiac conditions in dogs. It's best to educate yourself on what is best for your dog.



The American Kennel Club says that finding a healthy, affordable, dog food that's appealing to your pet is often frustrating. Find some tips on choosing at: tinyurl.com/5n7w6hwh.

When you need a vet:

If your dog's coat looks dry, scruffy, or unhealthy, and you are feeding a good dog food, you might try a good supplement such as salmon. If your efforts to feed good food and supplements fail, it's time for a vet visit.

6. Keep your dog properly groomed.



Regular grooming will keep your dog from becoming matted, which can trap debris and cause skin problems, and a proper nail trim will protect your dog's feet.

If you allow your dog to become matted, expect a much higher bill and a very uncomfortable time for your pet. Commit to either learn-

ing to trim your dog's nails yourself (you can do it!) or start early with a groomer so your dog will allow trimming without a fight.

When you need a vet:

Beware of topical pest treatments. There are many natural flea and tick treatments available that work well in all but the most persistent cases. It's an emergency if: You use a topical flea/tick product that causes a serious rash or burn, or if your dog becomes ill after using such a product.

7. Take care of your dog when recreating.



Your dog is subject to many of the same things that can trip you up when recreating outdoors. They can suffer heatstroke or frostbite, pulled muscles and other injuries.

Many people don't realize that hot pavement can severely burn your dog's pads, and rough surfaces can cause them to be footsore.

Short-nosed breeds are more vulnerable to heat and breathing problems. These dogs shouldn't go on long hikes, especially when it's hot outside. But even larger, longer nosed dogs can have problems if they are overweight or otherwise not in condition.

Most dogs love playing ball, but some are obsessed to the point that you will need to call a halt before your dog begins overheating or overworking.

When you need a vet:

Heat stroke: If an animal is suffering from excessive exercise or other causes, it is an emergency. Some signs of heat stroke are rapid panting, dark or bright red gums, dry

RESOURCES

[What to Do in a Dog Emergency](http://tinyurl.com/4v89xt39)
tinyurl.com/4v89xt39

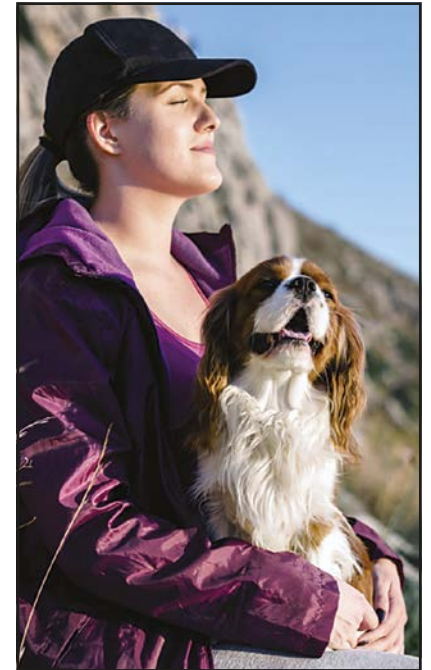


[7 Ways to Prevent Canine Injuries at Home](http://tinyurl.com/afsdjs58)
tinyurl.com/afsdjs58

[Choosing the Right Dog Food](http://tinyurl.com/2p9bhxf)
tinyurl.com/2p9bhxf

tongue, staggering, stupor or seizures, bloody diarrhea or vomiting. See your vet immediately.

8. Always look for any abnormal activity in your pet.



To protect your pet, keep an eye out for anything that is out of place. Most illnesses or injuries can be treated if found early, and you are the early warning detector.

When you need a vet:

Balance or movement problems. Can indicate neurological problems.

Crying or whining, or shying away. Can indicate injury.

Aggressive or unusual behavior. Can indicate illness or injury.

This article is not in any way an exhaustive list. Generally, only you will know if something is "off" with your pet. The internet provides many resources, but use your gut instinct to protect your pet.



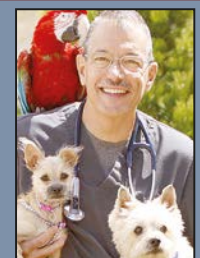
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Dr. Gordon Vergason, DVM
Owner



Gabriel's Angels



Pets Helping Kids®

Do you have a pet that loves people, especially kids? Consider becoming a registered pet therapy volunteer with Gabriel's Angels. We are a 501(3)C nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire confidence, compassion, and best behavior in at-risk children through pet therapy. Registered Pet Therapy Teams, comprised of owners and their pets, visit schools and facilities serving at-risk children in Yavapai County and other communities across Arizona. The therapy visits provide children with unconditional love and teach core social emotional behaviors.

If you do not have a pet but would still like to volunteer with us, consider becoming a Helping Hand. These volunteers are matched with a pet therapy team on designated visits and regularly visit children at group homes, homeless, and domestic violence shelters, residential treatment facilities, Boys and Girls Clubs, Title I schools, and other sites, where children have the opportunity to improve core behaviors through the unconditional love and hands-on interaction with the therapy pet. During pet therapy visits, volunteers spend time engaging children in animal behavior, pet care, grooming, safety, and relating animal needs and behaviors to the children's needs and behaviors. All volunteers are given tools, teaching aids, training, and continued support in helping children



achieve critical reading and social skills.

Gabriel's Angels mission and work is now more important than ever as so many children and youth have been challenged and affected during the past two years with the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the most marginalized. The demand for Gabriel's Angels services has doubled, illustrating the critical need for social emotional learning opportunities for children in our Arizona communities.

Still interested? We would love for you to attend a free information session facilitated by our Program Coordinators. You can sign up at Volunteer Information Sessions with Gabriel's Angels (gabrielsangels.org)

Studies show that volunteering is enriching and good for the soul. It creates purpose and helps fulfill the human need of belonging and connection with others. Join us in our mission of pets helping kids. We look forward to seeing you at a future volunteer session.

Visit us at gabrielsangels.org, contact us at infor@gabrielsangels.org, or find us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube under [gabriel-sangels](#).

~Melissa Steimer, CEO

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS ON A RESCUE MISSION

The United Animal Friends team was thrilled to conclude last year with many animal rescue successes, and we're confident that the coming year will be even better.

While it may normally be babies who symbolize the promise of the New Year, it is often our older animals whose stories are the most meaningful. That was precisely the case for Baby and OhhGee, two 17-year-old cat companions whose owner lost her home at the end of 2021.

Uprooted into a new location, their owner couldn't keep them inside, so the kitties were isolated in a barn. To make matters more complicated, both had kidney disease and needed special food, along with routine medical care. While they were loving and good-natured, United An-

imal Friends knew that adoption would be challenging, particularly if the cats were to stay together.

Still, they were welcomed into the UAF cat community, and soon, their playful antics earned them many admirers. It wasn't long before a kind person inquired about adoptable senior cats and met with the pair. Smitten by their charm, she asked to take them home. And just like that, a fresh adventure for Baby and Ohh-Gee began!

Big or small, old or young, every animal deserves the chance to make new memories. There are many ways to support the United Animal Friends mission. Please read more about our projects, animals, and donation needs at UnitedAnimalFriends.org. With your help, 2022 can be a joyful year in which we build many happy memories for the animals who need them most.



Our Annual Fish Dinner Fundraiser

We know how iffy fundraising events have been the last two years. We were nervous about being able to pull off our annual Fish Dinner, all things considered. Amended to "take out" for the last two years, this was our first attempt to get back to the sit-down, fine-dining experience. The surge in cases had us wondering until the final hour, but we did it.

Using the school district Covid protocol we were able to deliver one of our favorite events to a packed house. It really was something we all needed in more ways than one. Thank you to my rescue colleagues from AARF and United Animal Friends for coming out to support us, too.

Resource Center News

We want to thank everyone for the cat litter donations. We had three cat adoptions last month but we have four beautiful cats still looking for forever homes at the Resource Center. They're listed on petfinder.com and also on our website at peteysplayground.org.

Ralph came to us as a shelter transfer when his owner died. He was surrendered with a cat friend who got adopted and Ralph started hiding under a blanket so nobody knew he was there looking for a new home. Ralph is still hiding under a blanket at the Resource Center but we are going to help him come around.

He's eight years old and affectionate but mellow according to his surrender forms and great with cats, dogs and kids. An ideal companion for anyone looking for nice older cat.

We also took in a cat that needed some medical attention. Kimmee has seen Dr Kate, and although she is comfortable now, she has a tumor that cannot be removed.

We are looking for a quiet, compassionate home for Kimmee to live out her life. If this sounds like you, come and meet Kimmee at the Resource Center. Petey's Playground will continue to pay her medical expenses as long as needed.

Memorial Garden

The plan for our Memorial Garden in the front of the building is starting to take shape. We have the vision, and Kurt and Jerry Florman are bringing it to life on paper.

The garden will hold about 200 bricks. If you want to remember your pet in this garden you can purchase a brick at the Resource center for \$35.

We hope to have the peaceful garden completed by June 2022.

Dog and Cat Sweaters & Supplies

We still have a great selection of warm dog and cat sweaters on sale. Come by and check it out while the weather is still chilly.

We appreciate everyone thinking about us when you have great, dog and cat supplies to donate. It's a rare thing to have people stop by and not be able to find exactly what they are looking for, so please keep those donations coming.

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Team Sunshine: Touching Hearts

We are blessed. I can't even begin to tell you the heart opening that has happened from being with juveniles at detention. These kids are kind, loving, generous, grateful, humble, authentic, joyful, intelligent, and vulnerable. And they are also kids who have made choices where the consequences have reduced their freedom....or so it seems.

In my twenty years of working with animals and people, I have found that people who are in situations with less of a sense of freedom than those of us who may have a lot of freedom, are often people who are much more grateful. Losing freedom can cause a shift in gratitude.

Many years ago I volunteered at a prison for adult males in Wisconsin. The inmates were training guide dogs



for the blind, and I was teaching them a method of working with their dogs that would reduce stress and improve behavior.

The one question I get at all of my dog training classes on the outside is "How long will this take?" And in this prison situation, one guy approached me and said, "I'm excited to learn this. I have all the time in the world."

So when we head into juvenile detention for our therapy visits these days, I have a much greater sense of gratitude for these kids who have less freedom than I do, and yet squeal with delight every single time they see Reggae. What a reminder it is for all of us to be thankful for everything...no matter what.

~Sage & Reggae



**HEARTS & HOOVES
BENEFIT FOR
LOCAL EQUESTRIAN
KAREN MOSELEY**

Saturday, March 12th, 2022

The local equestrian community is coming together to support one of their own. It's tough enough battling breast cancer, but the horrific effects of chemotherapy can be overwhelming.

In an effort to make this battle less distressing, Hearts & Hooves, her community of friends, are planning an exceptionally fun Horsing Around Playday. There will be arena riding, obstacle courses, and whimsical horsie games with prizes.



Chino Valley Equestrian Park is generously donating the use of their facilities, open to the public, from 10 am to 3 pm.

For information, go to cvequestrianpark.org. If you would like to donate to Karen's GoFundMe account, go to: gofund.me/f436b9a3, or send checks to CVEA, PO Box 381, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.



Are You Prepared?

We never really know when an emergency is going to hit (that's why it's called an emergency), so it's extremely important to have a plan not only for yourself and your family, but for your pets too, because after all, pets ARE our family!

The first step is to make sure that your pet is microchipped and, more importantly, the information is correct and current. This is the best way to assure you that you and your pet can be reunited should you become separated for some reason.

Keep up-to-date contact info on your pet's ID tag. If the information is incorrect, take the time now to get it updated. We can make custom tags for you here at Yavapai Humane Society for just \$5 and it only takes a couple of minutes!

The next thing to do is make an emergency kit for your pets. Make sure this is kept somewhere you can get to it fast, because there won't be time to waste going through storage or closets to find it.

Also, it's a good idea to make sure your kit is waterproof, just in case it should get wet. This kit should include (at least) an extra collar and leash, durable metal food/water bowls, recent photo of your pet, canned food (3-7 days' worth), dry food, can opener, copies of your pet's medical records and your veterinarian's contact information, pet first aid kit, pet disinfectant wipes, potty bags for clean-up, bottled water (7 days' worth per pet), crate/carrier, flashlight, blanket and towel (at least 1 per pet), some of their toys, treats, disposable litter trays, litter, and scoop.

Most of us have numerous pictures of our pets on our phone, but phones die if they can't be charged. So, it's

also very important to have actual pictures in your emergency kit along with their medical/vaccination records, and it's a good idea to keep all these in a Ziploc bag so they don't get ruined should your emergency kit get wet.

Check your emergency kit often to make sure the food, water, and treats you have placed in it are still fresh and haven't expired. Same thing with the items in the first aid kit for pets... some items may have an expiration date and need to be replaced. It would be awful to have an emergency, and discover you can't use any of the items in your kit due to things being expired!

It's also a good idea to get a window cling for a window or area near your front door which alerts emergency workers you have animals in your home and how many if for some reason an emergency occurs, and you are not home with your pets. These are available for minimal cost online.

Make a list of evacuation shelters that will accept pets so you know where to go should the need arise. If you have friends or family that are willing to take care of your pets for you (if they are in a safe zone), have their contact information so you have a plan.

These are all things to research now as there won't be time once an emergency hits. Please, do not leave your pets home if you have to evacuate! If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them. The results could be catastrophic!

There are many different sites on-line that provide additional information regarding your pets and emergencies. Perhaps, take some time to go through them and read the information to make sure your furry family member will have everything to be safe, just in case.

We can always count on our pets to be there for us and keep us happy. Let's make sure our pets can count on us every day and especially when disaster happens.



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Animal Disaster Services

Animal Disaster Services (ADS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization since 1999. We help families with their pets during an evacuation, should there be a fire, flood, or any other disaster or emergency causing them to leave their homes. We set up a pet shelter next to the American Red Cross during an evacuation. We care for your animals so they can be near their human parents.

During the past few fires, it was discovered our "Big Red" trailer needs some major repairs. We have also discovered in following COVID-19 protocols, we have had to and must continue to make changes in the way we operate in order to keep these loved pets, their owners, and our volunteers safe during an evacuation.

All of our supplies to set up a shelter are kept in Big Red. If you are able to help us, be able to help others in need during an emergency, please donate.

There are several ways to send in your tax-deductible donation. You may mail check to Animal Disaster Services at: P.O. Box 25326, Prescott Valley, AZ 86312 or on our website at animaldisasterservices.com

Should you be interested in becoming a volunteer or have any ques-



tions, please contact us at: (928) 499-8857 (cell/text) or lynn@animaldisasterservices.com

Thank you for your support!

Pawz-N-Clawz 911

Pawz-N-Clawz 911 is a Pet Emergency response training class. All training materials, are from our corporate organization Pet Tech. You will learn over 50 skills to help be prepared in the event of a pet emergency. Every student receives a Pet-Saver™ 40-page handbook and a 2-year certificate.

This hands-on class includes basic restraint & muzzling, what is normal for your cat or dog, how to identify an emergency, rescue breathing & CPR for dogs & cats, choking issues, learn what shock is, splinting & bandaging, insect & snake bites, hypothermia, heat stroke, and more. There are classes each month. Call Lynn to register today at 928-499-8857

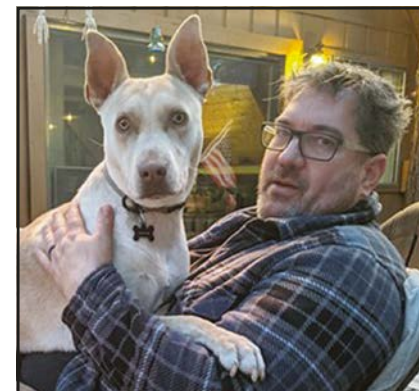


Taking this opportunity to once again thank our amazing volunteers for their commitment. Often it has been bad weather and long commutes, but each day, six days a week, our dogs get attention whether being walked or just getting lots of love!

They have so much fun in our exercise/training park burning off lots of energy! And we all love Happy Tails!

Blueberry's story begins with her arrival at AARF in 2020. Two years old and pregnant, she blessed us with 8 babies. We named them all for muffins! She was a great mama and soon all the muffins were adopted.

We learned Blueberry had no training, perhaps she was an outside dog. To give her the best chance, we took her to a trainer for several weeks and she excelled! We knew her adopter



would have to have patience, be active, and continue her training.

Finally, someone came to meet Blueberry and fit the bill. She went to an amazing couple and has an amazing life with everything we hoped for her. Here is what they say about her:

Blueberry is doing really really well! We actually call her B-Bo....short for Blueberry Bolender. She gets lots of exercise and is so happy. She likes the dog park but likes people even better, and we take her with us almost everywhere!

We feel there is a home for every dog, some just take more time, like Blueberry, Lacie, and Kimmie. Never give up! If we can help you find your best friend, call us at 928-925-7219.



It seems that animals are in dire straits everywhere we turn, but beyond our own backyard to the north on Arizona's reservation lands, with the vast open ranges, the need is ever more eminent then can be imagined. Rescue groups from Utah and Colorado are trying to provide regular spay/neuter clinics, and those of us more south are trying to pull where we can, and the tribal occupants are reaching out when they see injured animals, but it feels overwhelming.

YHT has made solid contacts and has trusted relationships with many of the caring people living on the reservation, but the calls are regular and concerning. Our trapping side is kept hopping locating injured, preg-



nant, and stray dogs and some cats at an unceasing pace.

Of the 40 dogs and cats brought into our rescue before January has even closed out, 17 have arrived from our Northern Arizona neighbors. We have brought in two very pregnant stray mamas whose babies would have had a bleak future at best, and both are doing beautifully with 14 new babies that will be offered locally with spay/neuter contracts in place.

Our team helped with five dogs that sustained injuries; two that were old

breaks already healed, but three were closer calls.

A beautiful friendly cattle dog girl got her foot caught in a live bear trap, and it was too mangled to save. Now a happy tripod, she will have a good future. Two different calls concerned young puppies being bullied by a pack of dogs, and one sustained fractured ribs which punctured a lung. She was touch and go briefly, but she is now a happy, delightful, bouncy puppy.

The other male pup had puncture wounds to his face that required medical attention and staples. He is recovering well. If someone had not stepped in and then called us, the outcome would have been too sad to think about.

One rambunctious black lab boy, whom we call Knight, found himself on a cliff ledge that had no safe exit. After a week of cries, a local good Samaritan set out with a plan using a ladder and hoist equipment. But after dropping the ladder down to him, and before rigging the hoist, Knight

took it upon himself to climb up the ladder to personally lick the face of his kind rescuer.

Having no outlets there, YHT took him in to our system where he is being offered for adoption (picture attached). He is friendly and adventurous and will make a great partner for an active household.

Another, Buttercup, a fawn shepherd mix, offered up her sick babies to be saved. When all four got parvo, they were rushed to Prescott Animal Hospital for expert care. They are now doing beautifully, but they would never have survived the ordeal if still at large. Not willing to leave mom behind, a second trip was made to capture her, and she is now fully vetted and waiting her turn at a great home.

Every one of these dogs and cats have a tragic story, but at YHT our focus is to insert a happy outcome and an opportunity for a good life and secure home. We welcome other animal lovers to join our effort and see the rewarding benefits for themselves.



If Wishes Were Horses....

So you wished for a horse and now you've got one! Or...would LIKE one? Where do you do start!? Come check out Chino Valley Equestrian Park! The Park is located in northeast Chino Valley east of State Highway 89 off of Perkinsville Road - it is a planned 80 acre Community Equestrian facility. It currently has two large arenas (a main arena and a warm-up arena), two acres dedicated to an outside obstacle course, and plenty of land for trail rides.

The Main arena is where our horse shows and play days are held. Our warm up arena is just as large, used to warm up before a class, or for demonstrations that don't require a deep sandy base. The Chino Valley Equestrian Association, the governing body of the Park, is looking to expand into a multi-use facility for a wide variety of disciplines, including just the trail rider, and we need your support.

The future expansion of the Park relies on getting the word out that we are:

1) available; and, 2) excited to expand and build. Did we mention the Park has EIGHTY ACRES?? Come join us to expand this facility to host family friendly events, and bring exhibitor business to town! Donations and sponsorships are a key source of our expansion.

Our trail course is the focus of our volunteer efforts at the moment. Visit our website cvequestrianpark.org for the Park's location, to meet our team, and to see photos of what the vision for the Park includes! This year we have a wide variety of events scheduled at the Park including clinics, horse shows, and demonstrations of cowboy dressage, jumping, liberty training, acupuncture, safety on horseback, and more. You can participate in the various events, or just come watch.

Be sure to check in at the gate for a mini tour! Open riding at the Park gives the opportunity for horse owners to have safe footing to ride in when our local trails are too wet. We strongly believe in staying off the trails when they are compromised, for our safety as well as not creating ruts in the trails.

Check out the Park website or our Facebook page to see the full calendar of events and days/times for Open Riding. Become a member today! Your horses will thank you!

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Rescue Tales



GINGER: A sweet adult red American Staffordshire female. She loves all people, other dogs, and even gets on well with cats. She loves playing and being a couch potato. Yavapai Humane Trappers 4lvdch@bullerinetworks.net



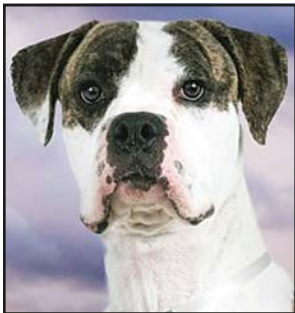
SANDY: A sweet tan and white senior Chihuahua/??? mix. He thrives on affection and attention, riding in cars, and napping in the sun. Yavapai Humane Trappers 4lvdch@bullerinetworks.net



BASIL: A very sweet and playful female 1-year-old Pyrenean shepherd mix. She loves receiving lots of attention from her people. She is smart and would enjoy training. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



ONION: A 2-month-old male Rat terrier mix. He is black and white, and he's a very sweet baby. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



MIKLO: A 2-year-old brindle Boxer mix. He is a typical Boxer, very smart, active, and bouncy. He is a happy, affectionate boy who would love to be somebody's hiking buddy. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



SMUDGE: A 1-year-old male German Shepherd mix. He is a happy and active boy, who would love training and using his very smart mind. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



LADDIE: A male Chihuahua/Shiba Inu mix, 2 years old and 28 pounds. Laddie is very sociable, likes other dogs and cats, loves his humans and bonds very quickly. United Animal Friends uafdogs20@gmail.com



PRINCESS: A 6-month-old female Shih Tzu/Dachshund/Chihuahua mix. Princess is an active and energetic pup that loves everyone she meets. Loves playing fetch and snuggling on the couch. United Animal Friends at doxiemama4@gmail.com



SADIE: A 2-year-old, 29 pound Queensland Blue Heeler mix. She loves everyone she meets and has a mellow, laid back personality. She loves to cuddle and hang out on the couch. United Animal Friends uafdogs20@gmail.com



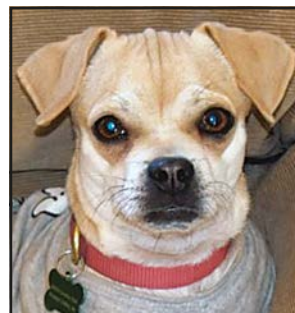
RYDER: A 7-year-old male Coonhound. He is a very active and affectionate boy who loves his people. He knows basic commands and is a good running or hiking buddy. United Animal Friends uafdogs20@gmail.com

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CARMEN: An adult Chihuahua/Pug mix. This little girl is pretty close to perfect. She is friendly with all dogs, affectionate and cuddly toward people, housetrained and not an excessive barker. Petey's Playground 928-713-1375



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~coleandmarmalade.com

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A New Offering By Pamela J. Brink

My Love Affair

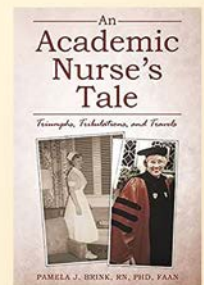
with



German Shepherd Dogs

Following in the footsteps of James Herriot, Pamela Brink chronicles her life with German Shepherd Dogs. The stories are warm, tragic, funny and loving. A life with dogs is a full life. The undying love and devotion of these dogs is heartwarming.

Now Available



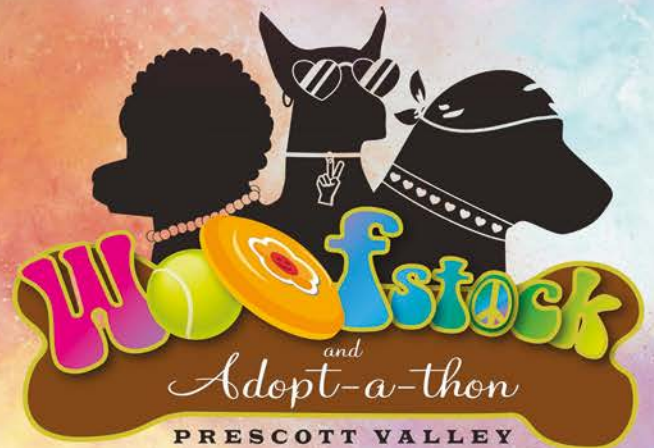
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CARLOS

A pony-sized grey Appaloosa gelding. He is 6 years old. More info: Yavapai Humane Society Equine Center, 928-515-4947.



ARROW

An 18-year-old gray Quarter Horse gelding. He stands 15.2 hands. More info: Yavapai Humane Society Equine Center, 928-515-4947.



JJ

An 11-year-old rose gray Arabian gelding. He stands at 15 hands. More info: Yavapai Humane Society Equine Center, 928-515-4947.



KOKO

A 14-year-old gray Arabian/Quarter Horse cross mare. She is 14.2 hands. More info: Yavapai Humane Society Equine Center, 928-515-4947.



MAC and CHEESE: Mac is a 1-1/2-year-old lighter orange tabby boy. He came in with his brother, Cheese, who is a darker orange. They are both very sweet, but shy, and will warm up after a bit. They are a bonded pair and need to be adopted together.

Miss Kitty's Cat House
928-445-5411



BELLA: A beautiful 1-year-old Siamese mix. She is affectionate and playful and will make a loving companion. She is an indoor kitty only to keep her safe.

Yavapai Humane Trappers
4lvdch@bullerinetworks.net



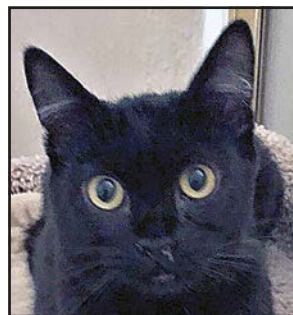
EVE: A young beautiful silver tabby with green eyes. She is very affectionate and enjoys lap time with her sweet purr.

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK FEATURES MODERN AND ANCIENT HISTORY

Story and Photos by Cheryl Hartz



Just like all national parks, the two separate sections of Saguaro National Park near Tucson mostly are closed to pets. Roadways, parking lots, picnic areas and a couple of paved trails are OK for leashed dogs and bicycles. Otherwise you have to hike or horseback ride alone on the trails.

National Park Service reasoning behind this is mostly protection of humans and wildlife from pets, of pets from wildlife and trail conditions (heat, prickly things, poisonous snakes, abandoned mine shafts). Service animals performing a vital life function are exempt, of course.

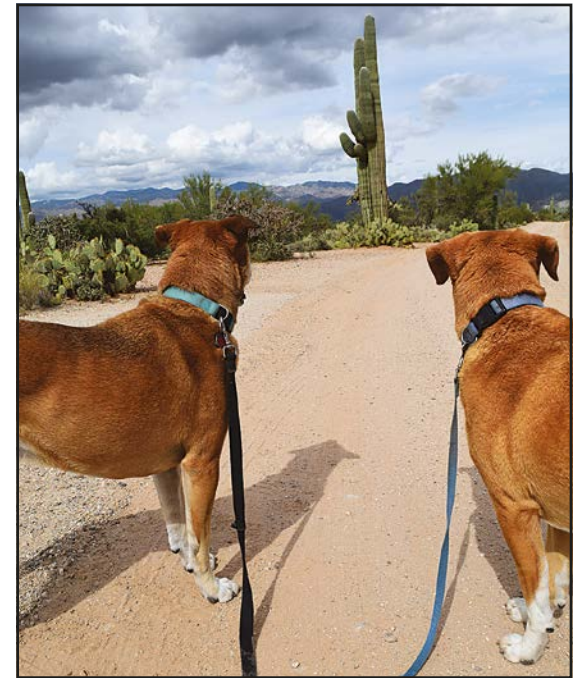
Saguaro National Park's western section is the Tucson Mountain District. Rincon Mountain District is the eastern allotment. Each has its appeal.

You can read more about the park's trails on its website, but here's the condensed version.

TANQUE VERDE TRAIL	
JUNIPER BASIN	6.9 MI.
TANQUE VERDE PEAK	9.0 MI.
COWHEAD SADDLE	11.5 MI.
MANNING CAMP	16.0 MI.

- Saguaro East Rincon Mountain District: Homestead, 1 mile
- Loma Verde Loop, 3.8 miles
- Hope Camp and Ridgeview, 2 miles
- Garwood Tank and Wildhorse Tank, 6.4 miles
- Tanque Verde Ridge, up to 8.7 miles
- Saguaro West Tucson Mountain District: Wild Dog Trail, 1.8 miles
- King Canyon/Gould Mine Loop, 2.4 miles
- Sendero Esperanza Trail to the Ridge/ to Wasson Peak, 3.4 to 8 miles

Bird species abound, from large hawks to tiny hummingbirds, along with others common to the desert, such as quail and roadrunners. Some are rare in the U.S. – vermilion flycatchers and whiskered screech owls, in particular. Owls, woodpeckers and songbirds nest in holes in the giant cactus for which the park is named, either excavating their own or acting as opportunists in existing holes.



"Can't go there."
"Why can't we explore out there?"
Read the sign."



Welcome!



Nothing lasts forever

Among larger mammals present in Saguaro are black bear, coyote, bobcat, mule deer, javelina, coati, badger, skunk, and mountain lion. If fact, Grass Shack campground reopened recently after a short closure because of a mountain lion activity this winter. Stay alert wherever you hike.

The west side has the Signal Hill Petroglyph site, with more than 200 petroglyphs, representing some of the Southwest's extensive ancient histo-

ry. Along more modern lines, young men of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) built dams and roads in the area between 1934 and 1936.

Most of the dams, to stop erosion and provide water for wildlife, are gone. The main road, Cactus Forest Drive, still maintains the original road alignment and serves its purpose of providing park visitors an unobstructed view of the Sonoran Desert landscape.

As of early February, both park visitor centers were limited to 10 people at a time. Masks are required inside. Museums, exhibits and theaters are closed. For more information, visit the National Park service website at: tinyurl.com/2p8e9b7t.

Happy Sonoran Desert Hiking!



Bear Gets Her Wings

by C.L. Dreves

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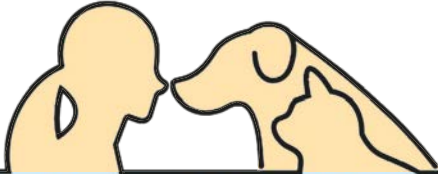
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PRESCOTT AUDUBON SOCIETY HAS MUCH TO OFFER FOR BIRDERS AND NATURE LOVERS ALIKE

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Not only will people who visit the Prescott Audubon Society's new website see a whole new look, but they'll see some new members with an updated focus.

The entire Quad Cities and surrounding areas are a treasure trove of birding opportunities and include two of Arizona's 28 designated Important Birding Areas. These are the Upper Verde River Wildlife Area, located approximately eight miles north of Chino Valley, consisting of 2145 acres located along the upper Verde River and lower Granite Creek; and the Watson and Willow Lakes Ecosystem, located within the city limits of Prescott.

This IBA occurs in two sections, Watson Lake east of Highway 89 and Willow Lake west of Highway 89, the immediate surrounding uplands, and two miles of Granite Creek flowing into Watson Lake. Prescott Audubon Society is the steward for this IBA.

Ryan Krouse has served on the board of the Prescott Audubon Society for the past five years. He has been a birder from a young age, growing up in Flagstaff. He moved to Prescott about 10 years ago, and his interest in birds has since become more than a hobby. He currently manages Jay's Bird Barn in Prescott, where he can share his knowledge with a wide customer base.

It was through Jay's owner Eric Moore that Krouse learned about the local Audubon Society. He began to attend meetings, and as he puts it "someone wrangled me onto the board!"

He said the board has seen a lot of turnover in the past five years, including, sadly, much of the "old guard." However, new members have pitched in and are working to set up the organization for the next generation.

The Prescott Audubon Society primarily focuses on the hobby of birding, getting people birding, and fostering education, appreciation and curiosity about the nature in the greater Prescott area.

"We're getting an influx of new people and we're trying to educate them. With the growth we want to foster that appreciation as to what we have here, and that we want to maintain it," Krouse said.

He acknowledges that growth in the area will most definitely continue, but he believes that doesn't have to stand in the way of protecting what makes the greater Prescott area unique.

The area is interlaced and surrounded by the largest Ponderosa Pine Forest in the world, and boasts such treasures as the Willow and Watson Ecosystem, Goldwater, Granite Basin, Sullivan and Fain Lakes, Granite and Lynx Creeks, the Thumb Butte and Mings Mountain areas, and the Upper Verde ecosystem, among others. This allows for an amazing array of birding habitats, and lakes provide some wonder-



A Sharp Shinned Hawk on a backyard birdbath.

ful surprises during migration season. Backyard birding is successful in most areas, with the right habitat, and it's easy to get hooked on the hobby.

"We have so much nature and natural habitat interlaced throughout the just the City of Prescott. You don't have to go far to see birds. Some of the best birding is in parking lots!" Krouse said.

"There is great birding in Arizona in general. Within an hour of my house in downtown Prescott I can be in five to six distinct habitats, and in a couple hours, in the low desert. Lake areas have deciduous trees, riparian areas, grassland, and high desert. It's all there with subsets of birds in

the same spot, often separated by just a trail."

And speaking of nearby habitat, residents can learn about how to create a great habitat in their yards, attracting a wide variety of birds. Local businesses such as Jay's Bird Barn and several area nurseries can offer great advice on how to create a habitat.



Yellow Rumped Warbler.

Generally, a good backyard habitat requires sheltering trees and shrubs, a water source, and good seeds and suet without waste filler. Krouse said native, drought tolerant plants in the landscape will help to protect water sources and attract local birds.

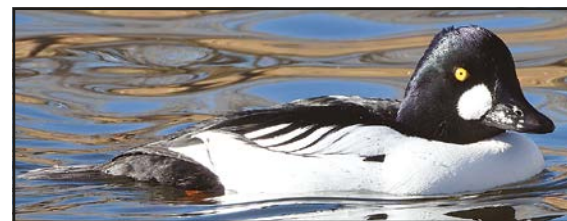
Prescott Audubon has an amazing array of activities and information to offer, although some gatherings are a bit limited currently due to ongoing COVID concerns.

"As we emerge from COVID (we'll have more activities). In

the past we had a Window on Nature event monthly where we have an outside speaker on a multitude of nature topics – my dad did one on fire science ecology, and a friend did one on bird photography. We cover a lot of topics. We have been talking about getting those fired up again in the evenings, but we haven't set a date yet," Krouse said.



A good backyard habitat will draw an array of birds.



This Goldeneye is just one kind of duck that can be found at local lakes.

The Prescott organization is still doing monthly bird walks throughout the area. Krouse said there is no better way to foster appreciation of birds than getting out and seeing them.



Loggerhead Shrike.

"A bird walk is different than hiking," Krouse said. "You can spend four hours and not go a quarter mile. It's leisurely, relaxing and quiet. A knowledgeable leader heads up the walk, and the birders follow. We find birds, talk about them and answer questions."

It's always good to bring comfortable shoes, and dress appropriately for the weather. Snacks and water for several

hours, and a pair of binoculars are necessary.

If a walk is more difficult, or requires more technical skill, the leader will know, so it's always good to ask in advance about accessibility.

When COVID allows, the Society plans to kick off regular activities again such as participation in Prescott's Earth Day and others.

Krouse said children's activities are important. "If the kids are introduced early, you don't have to teach them to appreciate nature. They love it, it's a natural fascination with most kids that I don't see in adults."



Surprises await at local lakes, like this American White Pelican at Watson Lake in 2021 and 2022. It was banded at Minidoka Wildlife Refuge in Utah as a juvenile in 2019.

The Prescott Audubon Society website at prescottaudubon.org, which is currently in the process of being updated, still contains a reservoir of information and photos, including articles written by Krouse in the "Senses Magazine."

A collection of archived articles offers more information on birding and conservation topics. The site also features local bird photos, information about where to find local birds, and membership information.

Contact the Prescott Audubon Society at 928-300-9075 or email contact@prescottaudubon.org.

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HORSES WITH HEART: BEATING STRONGER THAN EVER

by Rita Thompson-Tinsley

Close to thirty years ago, Horses with Heart founder, Vickie Stuart, put a dream into motion. The painstaking progress and fruition of this endeavor she could never have imagined. Stuart's determination to give her community this unique opportunity to enjoy the gift of therapeutic and recreational horsemanship began with one horse donated from local S Bar & J Ranch. Today, Horses with Heart operates this phenomenal organization with somewhere around a dozen equines, made to order for these special folk.

Trudy Chapman-Radley is described as a 'whirlwind in western boots.' That she is. She became the very first Executive Director of Horses with Heart in 1996, and continues her service as a substitute certified instructor and Horses with Heart board member. Trudy's knowledge of the horse, and her compassion for, is undeniably evoked in her philosophy stating, "No wheelchairs or walkers are needed when you're on the back of a horse."

Horses with Heart has so much for so many. The well-developed programs at Horses with Heart were designed to bring therapeutic horsemanship expressly to the special needs and veteran com-



Young student with instructor Mickey Kissell.

munities here in Northern Arizona. They offer private and group lessons for special needs ages 4 to over 80. Sometimes a lesson can become more and more uniquely structured, such as the case with veteran instructor and Operations Director Pam Berry.

Pam began working with a 4-year-old girl who had cerebral palsy. The little girl wasn't comfortable with anyone but her family, so when Pam attempted to work with her on a horse, the girl would become unglued and just scream. She was clearly out of her comfort zone, and, like some of the young special needs students, was non-verbal. She would scream but not speak.

Pam, noting that the girl was extremely fond of books and being read to, devised a plan. She rode with the little girl on the horse bare-back, carried a book, and read to her as the horse moved out. The little girl became calmer and calmer. With each session, Pam asked her to tell the horse to whoa. Eventually, she said "Whoa." Progress, indeed.

All of the riding instructors at Horses with Heart are certified by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH).

Horses with Heart has a competition team that goes to events such as Chino Valley Equestrian Park's Open Breed Horse Show. The team has excellent riding instructors working with them.

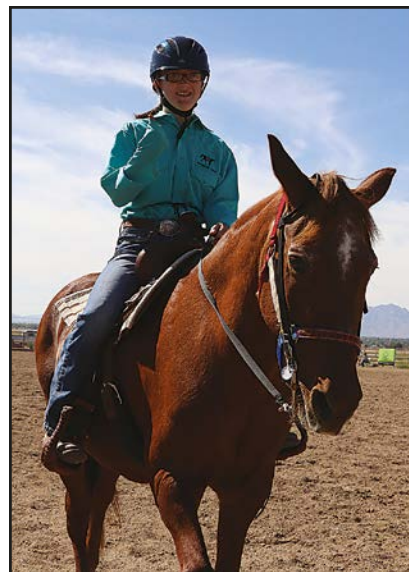


Competing at Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Photo courtesy Patti Morabito.

The show offers competition classes designed for special needs riders under the division Equestrians with Disabilities. These kids train hard to compete in English and Western classes, and the results speak for themselves by way of applause, shouts of joy, and the coveted ribbons.

If you're over the age of 55 and have always loved horses but don't own one, Horses with Heart has a program called Silver Saddle just for you. Their certified instructors teach a group lesson in four six-week sessions each year. You are never too old to appreciate your time on or around a horse.

Horses with Heart began the program Heroes & Horses in 2010. The agenda is specifically laid out to benefit our local veterans and first responders, many who suffer from PTSD, and the participant is not necessarily riding in the saddle. Many choose to have ground time, just utilizing time being with



Open Horse Show at Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Photo courtesy Patti Morabito.

the horse. This can be when most horses work their magic spiritually.

For the first time in Arizona, NSBA Heroes ON Horses will be appearing at WestWorld in Scottsdale, a spectacular event. Seven of the veterans in the Horses with Heart Heroes & Horses program are planning to attend.

You might wonder how Horses with Hearts acquire their therapeutic equine friends and just what characteristics are important on their shopping list. Executive Director Angelique LeVell is generally the shopper, and the qualifications she is looking for include: 1) must be a saint; 2) extremely tolerant; 3) kind and gentle; 4) willing to allow a variety of riders to hop on board (at different sessions); 5) consistent; and, 6) not spooky or reactive.

The horses at the HWH barn vary in height because there are different horses for different needs. Independent riders, like the competition team, can have taller horses, whereas riders needing support on one or both sides would fare better with a horse of shorter stature. Clearly, there is a horse for all needs.

Now approaching the 30-year milestone of their founding, this fine equestrian crew and all those involved in the Horses with Heart mission have proven to have their finger on the pulse of a community.

These selfless souls, including parents and families of the riders that partake, have bestowed a true labor of love that only comes from the heart.



Blue Ribbon Winner at Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Photo courtesy Patti Morabito.

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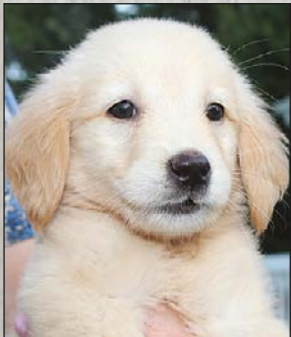
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