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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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*Serving Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley,
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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

Please include your name, dog's name, address and phone with your entry. Entries without owners info will not be accepted.

Winner will receive:

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- 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 - 12/1, 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 8/1, and 10/1



Willow, Our Cover Dog

Name: Willow

Hometown: Prescott

Age: Two years old

Favorite brand of kibble: Zignature

Favorite people food: Carrots, broccoli, or whatever Mom & Dad are currently eating.

Favorite toy: My green, fuzzy, stuffed Duck named Doug.

Favorite outdoor activity: It's a three-way tie for hiking, swimming, & paddleboarding with Mom.

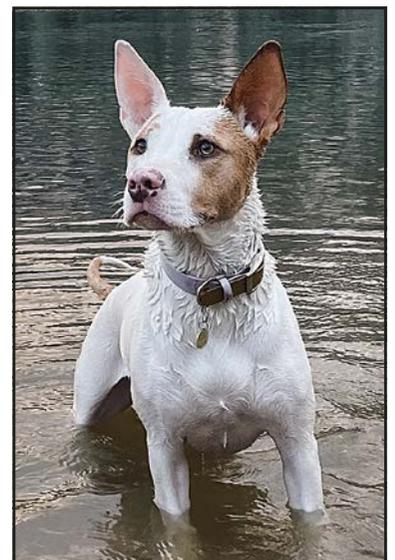
Favorite indoor activity: Snuggling with Mom & Dad.

Favorite nap spot: Dad's spot on the couch.

Fitness regimen: Daily walks around Willow Lake, and weekly hikes in the forest.

Describe your perfect canine pal: My perfect fur friend is anyone who is as goofy and lovable as I am and will play or hike with me all day long!

Describe your perfect day: My perfect day would start by sleeping in with Mom & Dad, then we get up, eat some delicious breakfast, and then we'd go hiking with my best friend Roxy. After a day spent running and playing in the forest, we'd head to Lazy G's dog-friendly patio for the humans to get some food and beer while I people watch. Finally, we'd head home to cuddle on the couch and watch a movie about dogs.



HAZEL HOWLS

Absence of Thought Leads A Heart to Laundry

"What on earth are you thinking, Hazel?"

I looked up from my absentminded task at hand (which was the repeated licking of a couch cushion) and replied to Dad, "Well...OBVIOUSLY, I wasn't...thinking."

Dad wrangled the zipper on the aforementioned pillow and took the cover to the laundry room. I wondered what made me keep licking the pillow, anyway. Was it the faint taste of dryer sheet? The texture of the fabric? I don't know. I wasn't really paying attention to what I was doing.

Dad went past me while trying to remember what other items were allowed in the washer with a couch-cushion cover. I don't think he was quite confident of his remembering the rules clearly, as he returned to the living room deciding to strip all the couch cushions of their covers to make a proper "full load".

Both hands were now full of fabric and all zippers were subdued, having yielded to muttered curses and the application of scissors to errant threads of defiance. I had a suspicion that I was about to see a third act in Dad's unfolding dilemma.

He only made it halfway to the laundry room before he stopped and considered the wrangled wads of various colored materials that filled his hands. I could sense the wheels turning slowly as he asked himself a very key question. One, I've been told, has plagued many men over the centuries: is there any reason (that I had been previously told) that all these covers couldn't be washed together?

I leaned slightly forward from my sitting position. I knew that when Dad stood that still, thinking that hard, he would eventually vocalize from the pressure of whatever he was struggling with.

Sometimes at great length, and occasionally in a dramatic fashion, but this time in a very quiet voice, I heard him say just three words.

"Hot...or cold?"

With a long sigh of defeat, and ditching the idea of washing all the covers, Dad turned back to the living room and laid out all the different size cushions, and their diverse covers, and killed a half-hour playing "Does it fit or not?" while trying to recall their original places.

If there was anytime I wished I could imitate Mom's voice it would have been right then while Dad was deeply focused on his task. I just would have simply asked him, "What were you thinking?"

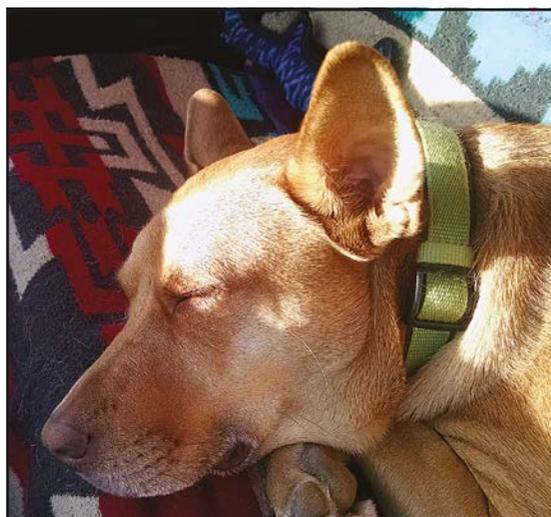
Until now, the morning had dragged along. It was dark, blustery, and the outdoor air was rich with the scent of moisture. Keira and Tucker had taken the opportunity to return to bedroom after breakfast and were lulled to sleep by the intermittent singing of the eaves in the wind.

I, on the other hand, was somehow energized and bored at the same time. Watching Dad and chuckling (on the inside, mind you) while he blamed me for all his current laundry troubles did help pass the time for a bit.

Keira and Tucker, awakened by the washer thumping from spinning a single item, came into living room all yawns and stretches. Tucker looked around at the couches to see that things were slightly askew, and looked up at Dad waiting for an explanation.

"I couldn't remember which ones go where, Tucker."

Tucker then turned to me to enlist my help, but then remembered that I would



just tell him that Dad has to learn these kinds of lessons on his own.

Between you and me though, the main reason I won't immediately race in to help is, first and foremost, I am not a two-legged. Therefore, I won't always know exactly what the right approach is. Also, over time I've learned to enjoy watching the two-legged dynamics of how they solve problems.

Most of the time, I have no four-legged concept of what the actual problem is, but observing the energy, motion, vocalizations, and manifestations of relief, and seeing "things set right" is almost like going for a ride. You start in one place, and end up in another. I think it's better than the scentless flat moving-picture screen in the living room. The pictures may move, but I never feel I went anywhere.

Living with two-leggeds...you're always going somewhere, even sitting at home.

Dad hustled us outside to let us do our business and quickly enacted his idea that if he vacuumed the living room, and did a quick dusting with the compressed can of air, then the living room wouldn't look so much out of sorts.

Did I mention that Mom was out running errands? I'm pretty sure most of Dad's activities wouldn't have unfolded in the way that they did if Mom had been home. I'm sure you figured

that out.

While we three-on-four waited patiently, watching through the patio door, Dad race around tidying up in his own special way. As he let us back in, Mom came in the front door with full bags of her hunting and gathering. Four-legged celebrations ensued at Mom's appearance with prancing, barking, and wagging. Passing the nearest couch and pointing to the naked pillow on the end, she asked, "Where's the cushion cover?"

Three pairs of knee-high-eyes looked up at Dad.

"Uh, it's in the dryer, I didn't hear it stop and forgot about it."

Mom looked us all over for a moment, and decided she really didn't need to know anymore. She had something else on her mind.

"Have you been outside?"

We three wagged at the magic word "outside".

"No, Why?," Dad answered.

Mom headed outside through the patio doors and stood where she could see the eastern mountains. All of us followed. When we had been waiting at the patio door as Dad vacuumed, we were acutely aware of the cold and the wind. Now, as the five of us watched, a wild, giant white curtain of snow hid all traces of the mountains and was moving quickly towards us. For a moment, we forgot about the cold.

Mom and Dad headed back inside to begin searching the garage for the elusive snow shovels. We-on-four waited outside just long enough to be properly dusted by the falling flakes.

The pack was all together at home. The home front was mostly, in order. And...we were probably going to wake up in a white playground of a landscape.

Boredom gone.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog



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HAZEL HOWLS

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SHAYLA AND FRIENDS

By Barchelle (Chelly) Bolger Wathen



A transplant from San Diego (and originally from Ukraine!), Shayla is happy to be a Prescott dog now. People often say what a pretty dog she is, but they are amazed at her from-rags-to-riches life story.

Shayla grew up as a shunned and abandoned, scared and lonely Shepherd stray puppy on the streets of Ukraine. One day she befriended a young orphan and went to live at Father's House, a Christian orphanage near Kiev. Together with her new friends, she found her inner courage and learned to trust and love people, especially kids. But like the orphans, she yearned for her own loving family and home.

One day her life changed forever when the orphanage leaders and supporters in San Diego brought her, and some other dogs, to

America to be adopted by their own families. Alone again, how did Shayla adapt to an entirely new life?

We were the lucky couple blessed to become Shayla's forever family. We lived in San Diego at the time, with our older dog Juneau, who needed a companion. From the moment we met, it was a great match for all of us.

When I retired in 2021, we moved to Prescott and LOVE it here! My husband George started Wathen Custom Woodcrafts, I started working again for two great Prescott attorneys (short-lived retirement), and volunteered with local dog rescue groups.

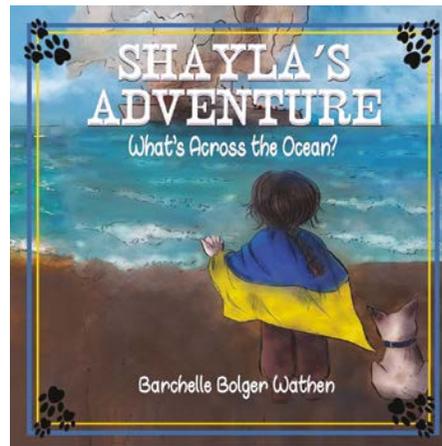
Shayla is now trained as a CGC certified dog and was a hit at the Prescott Ukrainian Festival. One day, she will hopefully get to spend time helping kids again. Until then, she

is my hiking partner throughout Prescott, Juneau's best friend, and the star of two recently published books. She enjoys meeting new friends and making people smile. And yes, she still remembers a couple of Ukrainian training words!

The first book is Shayla's Adventure: *What's Across the Ocean?*—a children's adventure tale of Shayla and young orphan Ashok pretending to be pirates as they share invaluable life lessons.

The book for adult readers, *Shayla and Friends*, tells the true story of Shayla's life, Father's House and its faithful leaders, and the wartime exodus of the orphanage from Ukraine to Germany, celebrating the courage of the Ukrainian people.

You can find my books on Amazon under Barchelle Bolger Wathen, and follow Shayla on Instagram at [wjuneaushayla](#).



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS

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

DOG TRAINING GROUP CLASSES. \$10/class with Sammi Maon. 50% donated to United Animal Friends. Level 1: Sundays 9:30a-10:30a. Level 2: Sundays 11a-12p. UAF Rescue Ranch, 2600 Heckethorn Road, Prescott. Register: www.meetup.com/UnitedAnimalFriends.

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

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.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY EVENTS

HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- Jan 16, MLK 1/2-Price Admission
- Feb 14, Valentine's day, BOGO Admission

JORDAN'S WAY - LIVE FUNDRAISER HELPING ANIMALS IN NEED

Jan 23, 10a - 1pm, United Animal Friends Rescue Ranch, 2600 Heckethorn Road, Prescott. Jordan's Way travels the US to bring awareness to outstanding rescues and the animals in their care. Through a series of challenges, UAF volunteers will raise funds to help animals in need. Live broadcast: www.facebook.com/unitedanimalfriends.



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 cattyshackrescue.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 misskittyscathouse.com</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 YavapaiHumaneTrappers.org</p>

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICES
Shelter for animals in the event of a disaster.
PO Box 10793, Prescott • 928-642-0758
AnimalDisasterServices.com

EQUINE EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF YAVAPAI COUNTY
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THREE LOCAL WOMEN REACH NEW HEIGHTS IN CYNOSPORT® DOG AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIP WORLD GAMES

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Three local women have taken their relationship with their dogs to new heights with national level agility competition.

Veterinarian Dr. Leonda Armstrong of Prescott; Emily Ingersoll of Dewey; and Jennifer Coleman of Chino Valley competed in the United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA®) 2022 Cynosport® Dog Agility Championship World Games November 30 through December 4 at WestWorld in Scottsdale.

The three had to achieve entry into the event by qualifying in trials through the year, with varied classes of competition. They joined 500 winning dogs for the championship, which returned to WestWorld for the first time since 2018.

Armstrong, Ingersoll and Coleman had all qualified into semi-final events, and so had high expectations going into the championships. They didn't disappoint – when the exhausting five days of competition was over, Coleman and her dog Ruckus placed 8th in the Overall Team Individuals in the five days of varied competition classes.

Ingersoll and her dog Phyllis Dill-

er won Masters Challenge Biathlon Champion; Masters Challenge Biathlon Jumpers 2nd Place; and Masters Challenge Biathlon Standard 1st Place; Grand Prix Silver Medal with Grand Prix Semi Finals 1st Place; and 2-Dog Team Overall 10th Place with 2-Dog Team Relay 4th Place; and Team Standard 2nd Place. Her dog Fang placed 7th in the Masters Challenge Biathlon.

Armstrong with Tawnie made it to semifinals in Grand Prix and Steeplechase, advanced to finals in Steeplechase and placed 5th. Tawnie was 5th high individual dog at 12 inches for games (Gamblers and Snooker) awards out of 23. She won team jumpers out of the 23 and was 2nd in team snooker. She was 6th in team gamblers.

The team, The Golden Girls, made up of Armstrong, Coleman and Cindy Perry of Phoenix was 26th out of 56 teams from all over the world.

Dr. Armstrong got her start in agility when she was at the point of burnout after 15 years of veterinary work. "I was struggling with working more and more with no outside outlet. It got to the point that I didn't know if I could do it anymore," she said.

That's when Armstrong's husband, Jim David, contacted local trainer Kathy Bryan, who taught agility lessons in Williamson Valley. Armstrong took her quick little dog Tawnie to see if they'd like the sport. They clicked, and the two have become a formidable team.

Tawnie is a border collie, aussie, corgi mix. Her owner had brought Tawnie's mother in to be spayed, and that's when her pregnancy was discovered. A week later, she had



Leonda Armstrong and Tawnie

seven pups. Armstrong adopted the little fawn-colored Tawnie, and that was the beginning of the story.

Armstrong fell in love with the sport, and knew, "This is what I need." Tawnie is now nine and a half, and still not only going strong, but strong

enough to be competitive at the highest level.

Armstrong has also added three more dogs to her agility team, border collies 4-year-old Simi, 15-month-old Tallie, and puppy Rhys.

Agility has given Armstrong the outlet she needed. "If it hadn't been for this sport, I'm not sure I would even still be in veterinary practice," she said. "This allowed me to find my passion again and regenerate the reason I became a vet. That's why I also started rehabilitation, sports medicine and acupuncture in my practice. It opened one door after another to refocus my life."

After achieving success in Australian Shepherd Club of America-sanctioned agility events with Tawnie (she has two ASCA Agility Championships), Armstrong was looking for something more challenging from a handler standpoint, and switched to the highly competitive USDAA events.

The development of an agility dog doesn't start with jumps, tunnels and weaves. Armstrong spent a lot of time developing her relationship with Tawnie as a pup through obedience training. "Obedience teaches the basics of movements, motion and focus. Focus is the key in agility. If you don't have it, you can't go as far."

Because Tawnie is small and extremely quick, Armstrong

taught her to respond from a distance, and focused on her own running. "The biggest challenge is making sure my timing is appropriate. If I'm behind she's getting late information. I work to make sure we're on time and in sync." Amusingly, Armstrong once timed a knee replacement around her agility trial schedules.

Being competitive and winning are always exciting, but it's the relationship she has developed with Tawnie that gives Armstrong the most satisfaction. "When she looks at me with the passion and joy for the game, and is always willing to go play, that gives me the ultimate joy," she said, adding that until a handler competes in dog sport at a high level, they don't experience the bond that comes from working together toward a common goal.

Jennifer Coleman of Chino Valley competes with her sport mix, Ruckus, who is border terrier, border collie, belgian malinois and whippet. Coleman asserts, "All of them are there!"

The 2022 Cynosport competition was Coleman's first and she was beyond excited. She got started in agility while living in California. "I



Emily Ingersoll and Phyllis Diller



Jennifer Coleman and Ruckus

was driving home one day, and took a different route. I saw a field with agility equipment, and someone out there running. I found an instructor and started lessons with the border terrier I had at the time. My dog



Ruckus

was naturally great at it and that got me started," she said.

Coleman said after she moved to Arizona it took her awhile to find another instructor, but once she started lessons again in 2005, she was hooked and never looked back. Armstrong, Coleman and Ingersoll all train with Stacy Goudy of C Spot Win in Phoenix.

Ruckus is Coleman's third agility dog. She is 11-1/2 years old, and still running competitively. "I've had her for nine years, so I'm doing something right!" she said. "When I first got to Arizona, I was still just beginning to watch Cynosport, and I was in awe. It was like the Olympics for dog agility. I was so excited, and now I'm finally going and running with my dog – it has been a dream of mine to compete there with Ruckus. It's super special to make that accomplishment."

Coleman, along with Armstrong and Ingersoll, all pre-qualified for the semi-finals so they had a leg up going into this year's Cynosport. "We all train together, we're all friends, and we compete together. When you are out there on the course, you run against each other, trying to be your best. But it's amazing to go with friends," she said.

Coleman overcame health issues this past year to compete in Cynosport. She works out with an on-line program of Yoga and Crossfit to keep herself fit. "Ruckus is one of a kind, an incredible dog. These dogs give ev-

erything, and you want to give all you've got. Agility keeps getting

faster and more competitive, and we have to keep bettering ourselves."

The connection that comes from training and competing with her dog is something special, she said. "It feels like a dance, like having the perfect dance partner."

Emily Ingersoll competes primarily with her miniature poodle, Phyllis Diller, and her border collie/papillon Fang. Phyllis is eight, and Ingersoll adopted her from Arizona Poodle Rescue. She saw Phyllis at a rescue event and fell in love. A friend saw Phyllis's photo on Facebook and said she looked like Phyllis Diller, and the name stuck.

Fang is a three-year-old border collie mix. Ingersoll had started agility with shih tzus and poodles, so she hadn't worked with herding breeds.

"He's teaching me a lot, and he's larger so I'm learning how to run a big dog. It's different, they land in different spots than a small dog. He's very agile and very smart."

Ingersoll got her start in agility with a poodle mix named "Fozzie Bear." "He was a handful, and I needed to do something, so I took him to obedience class. They suggested flyball and agility. I tried agility and fell in love with the sport."

Ingersoll is another agility enthusiast who loves the bond she develops with her dogs through the sport. "I didn't know what kind of bond I could have with my dog until agility. It changed my relationship. I

got started in lessons locally, and then after a year entered my first competition with my shih tzu, Suki. She was first in the nation for a couple of years, which was unusual for a shih tzu. Ingersoll

still fun to run."

When Ingersoll first began training Phyllis, the dog was nervous and unsure. But as her confidence kicked in, she started running, "Really fast!" She continued to gain confidence, and when the team was invited to the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge, complete with cameras and all of the other happenings of a big event, Phyllis handled it with calm and focus. "She just ate it up, she was great!" Ingersoll said.

Ingersoll said now that she's in her 50s, she works harder than ever to keep in shape. She focuses on injury prevention with a trainer who designed a program for agility handlers. Agility is not only a highly athletic sport for the dogs but for the handlers, too. "I did so much to keep the dogs in good condition, I want to also be the best part of the team I can be."

United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA) is the world's largest independent authority for the sport of dog agility, with more than 50,000 registered competitors and more than 200 different breeds of dogs, including mixed breeds. USDAA is dedicated to promoting dog agility as a recreational family sport that fosters responsible pet ownership. For more information, visit usdaa.com.



Tawnie. Photo by Ronald Boe.

was running Fozzie at the same time, but Suki caught on more quickly.

"Fozzie eventually figured it out. He was hard to beat, he was so fast. When he ran clean, we usually won. I took them both to the Westminster Kennel Club show in New York City, and Fozzie made it to finals. It was very exciting, a big deal. He was wild, but it didn't matter if he was eliminated, he was



Phyllis. Photo by Ronald Boe.



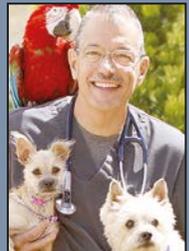
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Dr. Gordon Vergason, DVM
Owner

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS ON A RESCUE MISSION

Are you finding it hard to commit to a worthy New Year's Resolution? Having trouble identifying a meaningful challenge, rather than a lofty wish? Well, United Animal Friends can help!

Our team wants to remind you that the best resolutions are those that improve the lives of others, and 2023 is no different. If you're looking to support a local cause and boost your resolution record, please remember United Animal Friends is always in need. Be it



in the form of donations, volunteering, or contributions for supplies, every bit of help makes a difference for the animals we rescue.

Please visit us at UnitedAnimalFriends.org to learn about the many

ways you can aid in rescuing, feeding, housing, and caring for the animals in our area. We have partnered with local and national organizations to ensure everyone can contribute in their own way.

You can sign up on Chewy.com or Smile.Amazon.com to shop for us directly or tag us as your organization of choice. Our local community partner,

Fry's Grocery Store, offers an online option to select UAF to receive an annual donation from Fry's based on your purchases, and contributions are now available via Facebook, too!

With so many ways to make a real difference, supporting United Animal Friends is one resolution that isn't hard to achieve. Plus, you'll be delighted at how good it feels to start your new year with intention, compassion, and generosity! So, as you look to the year ahead and set your 2023 goals, consider putting the animals of United Animal Friends on that list. Happy New Year!



The requests for helping abandoned, stray, and lost animals are constant and never ending. Sometimes it helps to see the upside to our demanding world and

know that dreams do come true for many of those in need. Two such stories exemplify Yavapai Humane Trappers unique services that combine our skilled experienced trapping team with our dedicated caring foster-adopt team.

The call came in last year about this time. Seven cats were seen being tossed from a vehicle in Seligman. They were dazed and



confused, and our trapping team jumped into action. All were safely secured and taken to PAH for temporary housing, sterilizing, and medical evaluation.

Sadly, one beautiful cat had sustained severe damage to his spinal cord and did not make it, but the rest found fantastic homes. Two of the cats were lucky to be adopted by the Connollys and their kids. One year later, Rosie is absolute besties with their dog and their daughters, and Bo has announced himself as the official door greeter and lap warmer. When they are not tearing up the house together, they are busy doing what cats do best, which is getting loving from their family.

A few months ago, our trapping team was in Northern Arizona to track down an injured stray dog where people were asking for help. As the YHT team was setting traps, one beautiful and friendly heeler kept hanging around and would not leave. YHT was told she had been dumped

there and sadly was waiting for her people to come back, but they never did. She was begging for help, and finally, with the other dog safely secured, she became a stow-away with everyone's blessing.

Being a bit picky about her doggie company, we wondered about the prospects. Then came the Rinkels and it was love at first sight. Miss Zippy Tess, now officially Tessa Mae, rules their house and patrols their large yard in zippy fashion and fills their home with her happy antics. She has finally learned that the coo-coo clocks hourly announcement is not an invitation to search and find. She has melded with her new family beautifully, and we are so happy as she is such a delightful girl and deserves a home where she can thrive.

YHT is the only search and rescue group in the quad-city area, and we are proud of the many success stories that our dedicated combined services achieve in offering another chance to deserving animals. We always welcome volunteers who would enjoy learning searching skills, assisting with fundraising/grants, or fostering and adoptions. Visit us on yavapaihumanetrappers.org to learn more about this dynamic charity.



Dogtoberfest 2022 is in the books. The two adoption events sponsored by The Prescott Dog Magazine are always so much fun for us. We see rescue people we rarely see and usually find homes for all the dogs we bring. This year Andy, Nikki and Bernie were the lucky ones.

Here is a picture of Andy and his new people. They are thrilled with their new companion. Buzz was another dog looking for a new home. He found one even before Dogtoberfest and here is what his new owner had to say.

Hi Kim! I hope this finds you doing well. I just wanted to give you an update on Buzz.

He is adjusting well and is quite the little man! He and Oliver are enjoying each other immensely, chasing after each other and playing for hours at a time, both inside and outside. He quickly learned how to use the



doggy door and has been snuggling up in bed with us each night. It is wonderful to see Oliver once again excited and full of life. Buzz was truly a good fit.

I was worried he might be a bit too small, but he is giving Oliver a run for this money! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to add Mr. Buzz to our family. One of these days I may decide three is the way to go! If so, I will surely give you a call. Take care! Again, thank you and bless you for the work you do!

We are pretty excited about our first ever, adoption event partnering with K9 Konnections this fall. It will be held Friday November 25th at Tractor Supply in Wickenburg. Mark your calendars for this big adoption event.



Donna Gordon, a long time Yarnell resident was struck and killed in September crossing a street in Yarnell.

I knew Donna for about 10 years. Donna boarded other people's dogs often. When she was looking for a dog of her own, she let me know and at that time a

special plea came out from Maricopa County Animal Control for a big black lab/pit mix with a weird name who was in the shelter way too long. I shared that with Donna and she was drawn to him.

He came to her home and became Manny. He was a hard to handle dog sometimes with lots of energy and a mind of his own. He explored town on his own often enough that when Manny was seen without an owner they knew to call Donna to come and get him.

Manny passed away after Donna's house burned down. when she finally moved into her new house, she decided a cat would be a more appropriate companion for her, and she came to the Resource Center and chose Angel, who became Lizzy.

Lizzy and Donna adored each other. Lizzie was shy and Donna worked her magic and helped her come out of her shell.

The night Donna died, even through the shock of it all, at least a dozen people called me with their concerns about making sure Lizzy was not forgotten. The kindness and compassion of this community becomes even more profound in situations like this.

We are so happy to report that Lizzie has gone to a new home with a person who knew and loved Donna and was in a position to make her part of their family.

**HAPPY
ENDINGS &
NEW
BEGINNINGS**



Potential pet adopters frequently ask about the breed of the cat or dog. The reality is, the Verde Valley Humane Society seldom knows these precious animals' parentage. With some, previous mistreatment manifests as aggression or fear. The staff works tirelessly to socialize and train these dogs, yet potential for adoption is slim.

That's why some recent messages were so heartwarming. Proud pet owner, Gerard, wrote, "Thank you so much for Issy, the world's best dog. I keep telling everyone how lucky I am to have adopted her."

"She has been with me two weeks now and we are in love. She walks perfectly on a leash, house-trained, the smartest dog I have ever had, and I've had dogs all my life. How this wonderful dog wasn't claimed is beyond my understanding. She has filled my life with companionship and love and has made



the loss of my wife less painful. Thank you so much."

Another happy dog parent, Spencer, wrote, "I'm sure you don't remember me, but I came in 4 years ago to find a dog and I left with Caleverra, a 2-year-old 85 lbs. Staffy who was under quarantine."

"We had a rough first few months with (now Calian) attacking other dogs. But over time he learned to socialize and now has many dog friends and goes to the dog park without incident for over 2 years."

I wanted to reach out and tell you, thank you so much for keeping him in your shelter prior to us meeting and keeping him alive. He has changed my life, I truly can't imagine where I would be without him. Thank you again :)"

Challenges continue into the New Year: scores of abandoned animals and fewer adoptions, rising costs of pet food, medical treatment, and supplies. Still, when I learn of happy endings and new beginnings, I am grateful that together, we help to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for these cherished animals until they find their way into the loving hearts of their forever families.



**A TIME FOR
GRATITUDE
&
REFLECTION**

As we enter our fifth year, we cannot say thank you enough times to everyone that has supported us and helped us grow. With special thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the hearts and hands of AARF, who spend time and give love to our residents until they leave to bring joy to someone else's life!

We always have plans and they include many more lives to save! There is an open invitation to come and tour our "Out of the Shelters" western-themed



property and see how differently our dogs live. Watch us on Facebook or check our website aarfrescue.org. to sign up for our newsletters. We welcome new friends of AARF! Our volunteers love our puppies, our seniors and creating new homes to welcome new doggie friends! COME JOIN US!

**MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE
CELEBRATED OUR 20-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY IN 2022!**



We are a non-profit 501c3 cat rescue located at 302 N. Alarcon Street, Prescott. Our dedicated volunteers care for up to 20 cats at the house and up to 40 kittens in foster homes.

We rely on donations and volunteers. Our cats roam free at the house. Through the generosity of our community, we have rehomed 110 cats and 118 kittens making this an all-time record number, and the year isn't over yet!

Visit us at MissKittysCatHouse.com to meet our cats and learn more about us. We desperately need cat and kitten foster homes!



Midwestern University & Humane Society of Wickenburg Join Forces to Help the Community

In the early morning hours of October 18th, Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine along with their Mobile Clinic collaborated with The Humane Society of Wickenburg to offer residents of Wickenburg and surrounding communities low-cost companion animal spay and neuter services, free wellness exams, and hosted a free vaccination clinic for feline and canine companions.

Backed by the generosity of Phoenix-based PetSmart Charities, the Midwestern University Mobile Clinic was designed to provide hands-on shelter medicine experience for Midwestern's students while performing surgical services and providing basic medical



care to animals in more rural locations and shelters.

Lead by Professor Dr. Nancy Bradley DVM, MS, DABVP-SMP and associate Professor Dr. Hillary Herendeen VMD; 8 Junior and Senior veterinary students successfully completed 22 spay and neuter surgeries. In addition, they administered 35 sets of vaccinations, including rabies, to pets in need.

The partnership between Humane Society of Wickenburg and Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine proved to be successful for residents of Wickenburg. This collaboration allowed an opportunity for local residents to have their pets

spayed or neutered and vaccinated who otherwise may not be able to afford these services for their four-legged family members. Spay and neuter is not only effective in eliminating accidental and unwanted litters, it also drastically slashes the chance of a female dog or cat developing mammary cancer and a male dog or cat developing prostatic hyperplasia and testicular cancer.

For the veterinary students, this event provided experience working off-campus in a mobile setting with animals of different personalities, size and circumstance, while gaining exposure to shelter medicine that otherwise would only be reviewable in abstract textbook examples and classroom lectures.

Looking ahead to 2023, HSW and Midwestern University CVM will continue to join forces and offer these services to our community. As dates for upcoming clinics are confirmed, information will be posted to the HSW website and on all HSW social media platforms.

(Rescue Tales continued on page 15)



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DOMINO AND BONZI: They are Chinese crested powder puff (with hair), 8 and 3 years of age. These two sweet boys have had their world turned upside-down; their owner has been tragically taken from them in an automobile accident. We will be adopting them together as they are very bonded with each other. AARF 928-925-7219.



WINSTON: A young male Schnauzer mix (maybe). He is a ball of energy and fun. He gets along with other dogs. A great pup for an active family. Yavapai Humane Trappers at 4lvdch@gmail.com



ZORRO: A 4-year-old terrier mix with border collie, maybe husky. He is very social, rides well in the car, and loves to meet new people. He is crate trained, walks well on leash. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



LEONARD: A 4-month-old Great Pyrenees cross, Leonard is as precocious as he is precious. He is affectionate, intelligent, and will be protective, charming, and friendly. Yavapai Humane Trappers at 4lvdch@gmail.com



DAISY: A 1-year-old Great Pyrenees (looks to be purebred). She loves people and walks nicely on leash. She is a gentle dog looking for a wonderful home. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



GOLIATH: A white 3-year-old Great Dane mix. For more information please call Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666.



KINGSTON: A Corgi mix about a year old, weighs 20-25 pounds. Kingston is learning how to walk on a leash, and he loves to play with toys. House trained. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



RED CLOVER: An 8-year-old black and silver Husky mix. He's a high energy guy and loves to hang out with his people. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



ROMY: A 1-year-old Husky/Cattle Dog/? mix. Female, white with brown ears. Good with other dogs, social with people, loves toys and fetching. Very smart. Active, but quiet when hanging out with people. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



MADDIE: A 5-year-old black and sable German Shepherd female. She is gentle, intelligent, and loves to explore. Would be a great hiking companion. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



MOKI: A 1-year-old male who looks to be a mix of Australian Shepherd and cattle dog with a gorgeous coat. He loves people and is very friendly. He is going to make someone a wonderful companion. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



BOWSER: A 2-year-old white and brown Pit Bull. He is highly energetic and loves balls and the dog park. He would love an active family. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



CHANCE: A charming tan senior terrier mix who weighs about 25 pounds. He is happy and affectionate and super lovable. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



Stuby Bear

Michael adopted Stuby Bear from YHS on September 22, 2017. At the time, he was 15 years old, weighed 57.6 Pounds, and had a large mass on his right ribcage.



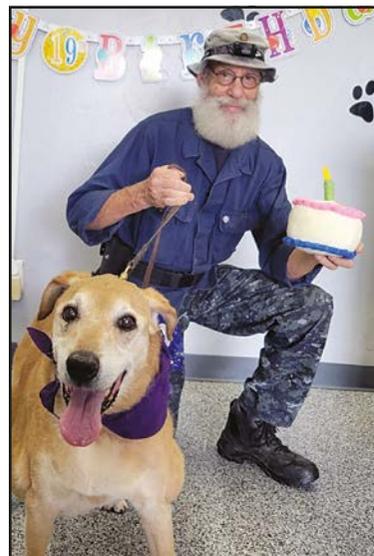
Bear immediately started going on mile long walks with Michael and eventually worked up to walking alongside Michael while he rode his bike. With time, he got his weight up to about 90 pounds, and the mass on the right side of his body reduced.

Stuby Bear turned 19 years old on August 4, 2022, and we threw him a big birthday party complete with decorations, a birthday card signed by the entire staff, birthday hats, and his own special cake and treats. Sadly, Stuby Bear crossed The Rainbow Bridge on October 3, 2022. We've

been in contact with Michael, and he's been sharing memories which we want to share with you.

"Thank you sincerely, I'm going to always remember what you did for Bear on his 19th Birthday, he had a great time. On his B-day we first walked around the corner and down the street at 7:00am. We later came there for the party and afterwards went to Granite Creek Park Prescott where Bear walked over a mile taking the time to smell everything. And that night he wanted to go out around the corner again, so we did, three walks that day and the party.

"I knew this day was coming but Bear never really missed a step or showed any indication he was having trouble. At 88 lbs., he had some difficulty getting up off the floor (mainly on tile), but with assistance he was up and on his way to sit at the open front door, go for water, or go outside. One thing I do believe gave Bear more time was I only walked him after dark, so no sunlight/heat for the mile up and down hill. When we did walk in the



day it was in rain, snow, or very cloudy days.

"Walking is what I believe extended his life keeping his organs working like a normal dog. Bear was a wise old dog and he made it clear to me to continue walking the block, walking in the parks and the forest; to just keep walking and bike riding. And I have, as if Bear was still on the walk with me.

"Amazingly, Bear walked every day of his life, he walked miles in the month of August and walked over a mile on his birthday after his party. I wanted so much to

get him to the end of his life, and we truly accomplished that. Yavapai Humane Society thank you so very much for having the party for Bear on his 19th Birthday, my first dog party and I will always remember it. Bear was very excited to be there and excited for all the attention he got, since at home it's just me. Thank you for being so good to us."

Thank you, Michael, for sharing your memories and for giving Bear the greatest gift...love!



Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary is a new non-profit based in Prescott, committed to rescuing high risk senior dogs in need of a forever home, medical, hospice and end of life care. Their mission is to rescue, provide medical care, nutritious homemade food, and superior love & care in an amazing sanctuary setting to hospice and senior large dogs that are located in Arizona and surrounding areas.



made nutritious food, supplements & medications as needed. Any veterinary care that is beneficial is scheduled. They are introduced into the pack and shown the "ropes" by the other dogs. It's amazing how well all these dogs do together. Even dogs that have never been in a house before quickly learn how to assimilate into the pack. Some have freedom for the first time in their lives. Their transformation is miraculous in most cases.

The seniors live out their life on a fully-fenced three acres with full access to the house and front wrap-around deck for deer and javelina viewing. They even have a heated therapy pool to ease pain in their old joints. Most of these dogs are happy, healthy, safe & loved for the first time in their life. Every dog that comes through these doors are treated

like personal pets, provided everything they need, and loved unconditionally!

Why seniors? They are the sweetest, most appreciate dogs! Almost all the dogs we rescue have been rescued from horrible circumstances. Some were once somebody's dog and knew a better life, but for circumstances we will never know or understand, have ended up homeless, lost, sick, injured, neglected, ignored, or on the euthanasia list with no hope of rescue. They deserve better than that and they know better. "No dog deserves to die alone in a cage on a cold concrete floor, certainly not seniors that have given their entire lives to us!"

Seniors are being dropped at shelters, dumped and euthanized in record numbers right now. Seniors are especially hard to adopt out because they have limited time left and unusually large vet bills. Very few people go to a shelter looking to adopt an old broken dog that they will only have for a very short

time. In addition, rescues face the same challenges. Seniors cost more, require more time and effort and they cannot recoup an adoption fee in most cases. These old guys usually sit at the shelter, uncomfortable and in pain, until eventually they are euthanized. Dogtree Pines gives these dogs the joy, love and health that they deserve and when it comes time, a loving passing.

Dogtree Pines is now welcoming volunteers and fosters to the sanctuary. We currently have several dogs awaiting space or fosters to be able to intake:

- Petey and Sadie are 14 years old and recently lost their owner. Sadie is a female black lab and a Petey is male hound mix. These two have lost everything and are just looking for a comfortable place to live out the remainder of their lives. They are dog friendly. Petey and Sadie will steal your heart! All food and medical is covered by the rescue. You just feed and love.
- Sally is a petite lab/shepherd/who knows what mix also looking for her forever home. She is the biggest lover ever but is dog selective and would require an intro. She's approx. 10 years old and just wants to be your forever companion.

If you have space and would like to open your doors to a senior companion, please give me a call.

It is an unbelievable amount of work to take care of these senior dogs and manage the sanctuary and the help is always welcomed. Donations of any size are always welcome and will be utilized to cover vet bills and food. You can reach us at 928-273-2228 or dogtreepines@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

See our website at DogtreePines.com or follow us on Facebook. Paypal: dogtreepines@gmail.com. Venmo: @dogtreepines

(Rescue Tales continued on page 23)



JASMINE: A black and white mid-aged lover girl once she gets to know you. She loves attention and lap time.
Yavapai Humane Trappers at 4lvdch@gmail.com



SWARLEY: A 2-year-old red tabby (house tiger) who is laid back, very sweet, and affectionate. He loves sitting on laps and hanging out with people.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



LADYBUG: A beautiful, friendly, happy young adult calico. She loves attention and her play time, and she enjoys other friendly cats and calm polite dogs.
Yavapai Humane Trappers at 4lvdch@gmail.com



CHUNK: An orange long-haired cat about 2 1/2 years old. His fur is luxuriously silky and soft. He is a very friendly lap cat and is sweet as can be. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



UXIE: A lovely, sweet little gray female with white trim and green eyes. She is very affectionate, but a bit shy with new people.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



DOLLY: A sweet long-haired tortoiseshell lady, about 18 months old, with big green eyes. She is friendly, gentle, loves pets and being brushed. She is learning to be playful. Catty Shack at eajournals@gmail.com



Adopt a Horse from Yavapai Humane Society



MIRANDA: A sweet older chestnut Belgian mare who is looking for her forever home. She is partially blind in her left eye as well as being underweight and needing some TLC.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-515-4947



ANNIE OAKLEY: A beautiful Percheron mare who is currently in training to be haltered and handled. She is very leery of new people, and we are working on gaining her trust.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-515-4947



DAZZLE: A beautiful 21-year-old red roan gelding who is very sweet. He loads easily into the trailer and stands for the farrier.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-515-4947



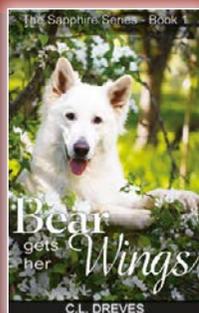
ROSLYN: A beautiful dun mule. She is sweet and curious, but a bit timid, and her training level is unknown at this time.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-515-4947



DALLAS: A sweet chestnut gelding whose personality is an "in your pocket" type and loves to be brushed. He is currently in training for groundwork until he gains more weight.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-515-4947



SHANGO: A 22-year-old Mustang/QH that is very sweet. He loves people and wants to be in your pocket. Suitable for a beginner rider in the arena.
Yavapai Humane Society 928-515-4947



Bear Gets Her Wings

by C.L. Dreves

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NEW YEAR'S PET PARENT CHECKLIST

RENEW LICENSE

All dogs are required to be licensed. It might be time to renew your pup's license. Now's a good time to check!

ANNUAL VET CHECK UP



Make an appointment with your veterinarian to get a wellness check and make sure they are up to date on all vaccinations and flea/tick treatments.

MAKE SURE ID & MICROCHIP INFO IS CURRENT



Have you moved or changed your phone number? Call your microchip company and make sure all info is current and treat your dog or cat to a new tag with up-to-date identification.

EVALUATE THIER DIET



We humans start the new year with weight loss goals and better eating habits. If your pet is overweight put them on a new diet and exercise plan. Get healthy together!

CLEAN OUT & DONATE



Do you have extra stuff hanging around? Donate to our Thrift Store and help support YHS! We also need pet food donations for our Community Pet Food Pantry.

928-445-2666



Yavapai Humane Society

yavapaihumane.org



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WHITewater DRAW GIVES TRUE MEANING TO 'SNOWBIRDS'

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz



Even if you never have aspired to birdwatching, once a winged one grabs your attention, I'm afraid you are hooked.

Pretty much any trail or outdoor activity anywhere, any time of the year, will feature our feathered friends. You start to notice and look for them. You might even seek out special sites for the best opportunities to add to your life list, if you are so inclined to keep one.

I haven't actually made a list, but I certainly like to spot different species of birds. In March, 2022, while camping at Roper Lake, my husband and I made a special trip to Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area in southeastern Arizona, about 2 hours away. If you haven't heard of it, it's the Arizona Game and Fish Department-owned property near Bisbee where 20,000 sandhill cranes migrate for the winter.



One crane takes away his fish to eat away from the others.

They are true Arizona snowbirds. And they've been coming here for centuries. Native people etched petroglyphs of the cranes along the lower Gila River.

The shallow waters and surrounding cornfields attract the cranes from as far as Siberia. The monster combined flock, or sedge, stands in the Draw's water each night, safe from predators, and flies out en masse each morning to socialize and graze the harvested cornfields.

The gray bodies aren't so eye-catching on their own, but the red top knots can catch the sunlight and the sheer scope of them flying together is like nothing I've seen before. They constantly vocalize as well, so you're hearing them even before seeing them.

Joining them for the winter is a variety of water birds, including great numbers of snow geese, with their distinctive white bodies and black wing tips. Observing all of these large avians in the air is amazing. The cranes soar so high they look like tiny dots and even can ascend completely out of human eye range, while flying in V formations.



Sandhill cranes roost close together. Their red heads are visible.



The cranes seem to take off just for the fun of it.



Birders and their dog watch cranes and snow geese.

Sandhill cranes start their migration in September and head back to their breeding grounds in mid-to-late March. The best time to view them is from November to the end of February. A trail circles the area and has benches and viewing platforms.

Dogs are welcome at Whitewater Draw, but must be leashed and picked up after, as usual.

Check out the azgfd.com website for Whitewater Draw and take a look at the live Crane Cam. Also visit the site for the annual Bird & Nature Festival in Willcox Jan. 12-15, 2023, Wings Over Willcox: wingsoverwillcox.com. I haven't yet attended this event, which is in its 30th year, but it's on my list now that I know about it.

Happy Birding!



Snow geese flock in flight.



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MONTY HUTSON TURNS PASSION FOR SERVICE AND DOGS INTO HELPING FELLOW VETERANS

By Heidi Dahms Foster

A Northern Arizona man with a passion for veterans and dogs has found a way to help both.

Monty Hutson served in the Army in Germany for six years, in the 101st Airborne and 8th Infantry. When he returned to the U.S., he started a successful company in Los Angeles. He always had a passion for helping veterans, however, so he eventually sold the company and founded the For Veterans Sake Foundation, pairing rescued dogs with veterans and first responders with PTSD.

Hutson spent more than 30 years counseling veterans, and saw the benefits service dogs provided. He was a skilled dog trainer, working with hunting, tracking, and search and rescue dogs. He became frustrated with the money it cost and the time it took to provide a dog to a veteran or first responder, so he began pulling dogs from shelters and training them as service animals. For Veterans Sake Foundation, a 501c3 organization, has been in operation since 2014, and has trained and placed more than 250 dogs with veterans and first responders.

"We always seek our dogs from the shelters, a 'life for a life,'" Hutson said. "We go and look for a dog of the same character to pair with the person we are working with. We look at their demeanor in the runs, to see how they respond to other dogs around them, and test them. Then we take them out of the run and work one-on-one. The veterans get the dogs almost immediately, and we start working with them. The veteran has to come to training with the dog every week.

"There are too many good dogs sitting on death row waiting to be part of someone's life. Some veterans and first responders with PTSD are waiting to re-engage in life. It's no problem to go to shelters and work with them to pull dogs. It's very simple and direct, and our services are absolutely free," Hutson said.

He said the Foundation pairs the dogs with veterans depending on their needs. Many veterans, he said, isolate themselves and never want to be seen or heard. "We push them a bit, make them do things to care for the dogs. If the dogs' natural ability works with the veteran's needs, that's the one we'll pull.

"(Placement) depends on the situation," Hutson said. "We listen to the vets. We have to be able to place a dog with them that will help them progress in their situation, or we won't provide the dog," he said. "We're here for people who are serious about continuing to train for the rest of their lives. There are always new situations and new adventures."

Other requirements for the service dogs are that they are more than 20 pounds, and must have the ability to pass a Good Citizen test. Hutson has found that the smaller dogs sometimes



Monty Hutson & Friend

don't have the needed attention span. The breed or mix of the dog doesn't matter, but Hutson steers clear of dogs with aggressive temperaments.

The For Veterans Sake facilities used to be in Texas, but Hutson did not find enough support there for the organization. He is now based with his crew in Williams. "We worked with a lot of people in Texas, and we still stay in touch and work together."

For Veterans Sake is supported by private donations and fundraisers. The organization operates with a minimal staff and dedicated volunteers. "Our staff and volunteers will go through hell and back for me. When they see what we're doing with the veterans and dogs, the outcomes motivate them more," Hutson said. "It's a great team, and no one is above anyone else."

They just like the dogs and they want to work together."

Hutson has several of his own dogs that are important to his work – three German Shepherds named Ruger, Lilly and Saxon, and a full white wolf named Sheba. Lilly is trained to identify when another dog in training is having issues. "She'll move off that sideline and correct the dog and go back. Ruger just likes to play around and strut his stuff. Sheba likes to sit on the sidelines, but she'll stir things up with her wolf smell. Some other dogs see her as a predator animal, and it's a good way to test them and see how they will respond."

While he was in the military, Hutson had a program training wolfes. He worked to show that the animals have a sense of smell so accurate that there is great use for them. He obtained Sheba in northern Arizona. She is now trained to detect seven different cancers with 93 percent accuracy. Lilly is also trained in cancer detection, heart and thyroid issues. In Texas during a fundraiser, Lilly was fast asleep. A woman walked up and Lilly alerted. Hutson spoke with her and told her that the dog was trained to detect those health issues. The woman told him that she had just left the doctor's office and had been scheduled for bypass surgery.

For Veterans Sake has a donated tour bus and a motor home that are used to take the program to veterans that cannot come to them. Appointments can be scheduled in the Phoenix area, Nevada or Utah. "We just set up for a long weekend and bring our volunteers," Hutson said. "If they can't make it to us, we can show them how to train



For Veterans Sake training session. All of these dogs have been rescued from shelters.

their dogs and get on the right path. That way we can reach more vets.

"We've had so many great stories," he said. "One lady in Texas had seizures and she didn't know what to do. She had lost everything. Her partner came to see what we were about, and I said, 'bring her over here and we'll talk.'" We decided we could help her, and found her a dog at the Marshall, Texas shelter. It was the perfect dog for her. She came out to meet us, because I needed to see how she would work with the dog. The dog, Rimshot, got so good at detecting seizures he would give her a five-minute head start."

The next time Hutson saw the woman and her dog, she told him she had not had a seizure in four months. "It has changed her whole life. She has re-engaged in life."

Hutson's passion for dogs and what they can do for veterans and first responders with PTSD shows through in everything he says and does. "Animals are just amazing, if we just listen to them. They are a lot more intelligent than we are."

For Veterans Sake is a small organization with a big heart, Hutson said. "Our mission is to provide PTSD service dogs, and we're very good at what we do. It's one of the best jobs, to work with dogs day in and day out. We tell those who receive our dogs that training is every day for the rest of your life while you have the dog. When the dog gets older, you get another one and start all over – it's a whole new thing. We work through the issues with each dog, and

what you put in is what you get out."

The more than 250 people who have received a For Veterans Sake dog still call to share their experiences and adventures. "They are engaging in society and producing, becoming a part of something again. It's always good news to hear that," Hutson said.

For more information about For Veterans Sake or to donate, visit their website at ForVeteransSake.org, or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/www.forveteranssake.org.



For Veterans Sake tour bus and volunteers.

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ANIMAL GUARDIAN NETWORK AT HEALING RIVER RANCH

By Rita Thompson-Tinsley

Animal Guardian Network (AGN) is not a rescue, although they do rescue animals in need. They are specifically an animal sanctuary that tend to 'the ones no one would save'.

As you drive through the gate at Healing River Ranch, located along the Verde River in Camp Verde, your eyes take in a widespread area with meticulously placed fencing and cross fencing, livestock shelters and paddocks; each area specified for the special-needs residents.

Two great Pyrenees peruse nearby, well trained by AGN founder Carrie Singer for guarding and protecting the farm animals, as well as being just good friendly gentle dogs. Nonetheless, they know their job and perform well daily.

There is a Steer Barn, a Farm Barn, there is also Burro Canyon. There is a Canine Unit with round the clock care especially for those in hospice care.

This is not your average sanctuary. This is an extraordinary animal care facility that extends lifesaving care and rehabilitation for animals who are elderly, neglected, abused, or with special needs. From frolicking goats to grazing sheep, steers, whimsical burros and donkeys, miniature horses and full-size equines, you will find many different personalities and species at this special Camp Verde site. There is even the unlikely rescued bull, Salty, and a longhorn.

Carrie Singer, who was a well established professional, left a successful career for a mission she deemed far more rewarding. Founded in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, AGN at Healing River Ranch in Camp Verde was the place that Singer desired to be, where she could do the most good for those who need it the most.



Molly was found alongside the road, left under a tree to die, abandoned, neglected and picked up by Animal Control. They called AGN, Carrie Singer, who immediately took her to the vet. The dog could not walk, nor barely lift her head. Her skin was literally flaking off in places and her eyes would not focus.

A thorough exam revealed that the dog was severely dehydrated, and her organs had already begun to shut down. They said there was no hope for this dog.

In Carrie Singer's eyes, all dogs have hope and deserve loving comfort even if their days are short. Decency was shown to this suffering pup, newly named Molly Bear. Under Singer's care, the best vet care and medications were given. Molly could not walk so Singer carried her everywhere and even hand fed her every nutritious meal. Special therapies were added to Molly's treatment and Carrie shared the progress daily in Facebook posts.

The world was watching, and Molly's audience and their prayers were growing. Eventually, Molly rallied and miraculously began to move her legs. Then one day she stood, and then she began to walk on her own. All of this was caught on video and shared with the world. Somehow, her neurological disease that caused her head tilt and eye issues was gone!



Pepe, happy and healing.
Photo by Dee Dee Purcell.

Molly quickly became a beacon of hope for those forgotten, abused, neglected and abandoned.

When Molly's time came, she left this world with dignity, grace, and the love of thousands as her final post was read by over 45,000 people worldwide. She shall never be forgotten.

This is only one story. Many of the animals at Healing River Ranch are untouchable, and there are special rules and guidelines for their care so that their lives will not feel threatened, honoring their 'comfort zones'. The stories are very real, and some are brutal and beyond comprehension, but one thing is for sure, these animals and their needs, their safety and comfort, come first at this animal sanctuary at Healing River Ranch.



Pasture pals Buster and Shooter.
Photo by Dee Dee Purcell.

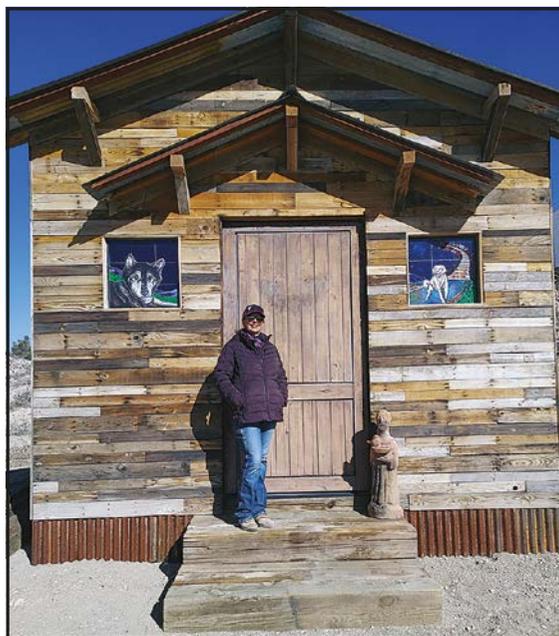
Another feature you will find on your extensive tour of the ranch is the beautiful, yet concise, Healing Heart Chapel, designed expressly as a place of peace where comfort and support can be found throughout your grieving process. Carrie Singer believes that "The process of grieving for a pet should be no different than mourning the death of a human being."

A philosophy that Singer emphasizes and that truly defines the sanctuary is that Animal Guardian Network at Healing River Ranch is "where a long life is not always possible, but a full one absolutely is."



The happy hee haw crew. Photo by Carrie Singer.

In the beginning, Carrie started out helping dogs in every bad situation you could imagine. Then one day, during one of those life changing moments, Carrie realized the magical effect of her own extraordinary gift. It was partly from this true incident, Molly's Story, as told from a condensed excerpt of the writing of Michelle Chadek.



AGN Founder Carrie Singer at Healing Heart Chapel.



Salt showing off his GOATee.
Photo by Dee Dee Purcell.



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(Rescue Tales continued from page 15)

HORSE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS MOURN THE LOSS OF A TRUE CLASSIC: KIRSTEN KUZMANIC

Kirsten may perhaps be best remembered for her love, passion, learning, and teaching of all things equestrian and especially dressage. She was a friend, trainer, coach, and sounding board for her students and friends. She loved to share her knowledge. She was very patient, even with beginner dressage students and horses. She loved to have fun. She loved her many horses and other four-legged pets, especially Lakota, her German Shephard.



Europe. No matter what was happening in her life, she always wanted to know, "How was your ride, what are you working on, you need to read this article, this is what you need to do."

Kirsten worked tirelessly to promote the sport of dressage through her involvement in the Northern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Dressage Association. Kirsten most recently held the position of board president for the last several years. Her knowledge, support, and enthusiasm for dressage will be greatly missed.

Kirsten was loved and will be remembered and missed by many.

While largely known in the Prescott area as a dressage instructor, Kirsten was an accomplished dressage rider showing at the upper levels in both California and in

WILD ROSE CO-FOUNDER LEAVES A LEGACY OF HORSEMANSHIP, LOVE, AND LAUGHTER

GARY WILDER
July 3, 1946 - October 1, 2022

The Arizona horse world lost a dear friend and horseman in Gary Wilder. He and wife Carole faithfully produced quality, professional, well organized, safe, and fun competitive trail rides in Arizona through Wild Rose, their own creation and ministry.



During Wild Rose trail events, Gary will be remembered for his outstanding sense of humor, telling silly jokes, and even teaching some Japanese (uma means horse).

'Garyizing' (intensifying) obstacles or challenges was his hallmark. More importantly, he will be remembered for his dedication to horsemanship,

The proceeds from the events went to Bethany's Gait, a nonprofit therapeutic program for veterans, first responders, and their families using rescued horses. The Wild Rose trail competitions are slated to continue.

Gary loved to ride, and the Wilders organized trips all over the US, exploring by horseback and camping out with close friends they had developed.

horses and their relationship with their humans and vice versa.

Gary left an incredible legacy and impact in the horse world. Those involved were inspired by his philosophies and have special memories that will be cherished always. If there are horses in Heaven, rest assured, Gary will be saddled up.



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Did Dogs Evolve from Wolves?

By Sandy Haffner

A genetic study using the DNA of ancient wolves shows two different wolf populations that share DNA with modern dogs. Researchers have mapped the grey wolf by analyzing genomes from Europe, North America and Siberia. They found that dogs derive ancestry from two separate wolf populations. An eastern source contributed to all dogs. A western source contributed to some dogs.

Ancient wolves in Asia are suggested to be more genetically similar to modern dogs than wolves in Europe. All dogs descend from wild, ancestral wolves. Canis Lupus, or the grey wolf, scientists found to be where the dogs evolved from around 100,000 years ago.

Humans formed a partnership with the grey wolf in ancient western and ancient Eastern Asia about 33,000 years ago. It's believed to be started by the wolves that showed less aggression. They could come close to human camps and be fed leftovers. They became less fearful. They gained a docile disposition. Their bodies changed in size and shape. As more less aggressive wolves caught on, slowly over time their pack started joining in.

Somewhere along the bronze age, the dogs met from both sides of Asia. They mated, some were inbred, and therefore today's western dogs trace their ancestry to the ancient eastern migrants. Less than 10% traced back to the now extinct western dogs. Evolution asserts that animals did change through gradual accumulation of mutations. Evidence shows that the transition from wolf to dog happened rapidly according to predesigned genetic potential & not mutations.

Wolves were the humans number one rivals at the top of the food chain. They can smell prey more than a mile away and crushed their prey with an extensive force. They hunt in large packs and kill large creatures. They pursue their prey to the point of exhaustion.

Wolves found themselves at a crossroad with humans being a threat to their territories. After a period of time with the wolves joining the humans, they found several uses for the docile wolves. Like helping to track and hunt prey. Wolves warn of approaching enemies.



As their social structure made it easy to integrate with the human, they learned to understand their commands. Their genetic traits were passed on by breeding tamer wolves in human areas. Eventually wolves moved into the homes, becoming the first domesticated animal.

Over the years, dog breeds became the products of artificial selection. Some are healthy, and some are predisposed to health issues. Thousands of years of co-evolution have created canines and humans who understand body language and emotions. When dogs and humans interact, a hormone called oxytocin gets released. Both have feelings of love and protection.

Every breed of domesticated dog today came from the fierce grey wolf. They now solely rely on humans to feed and care for them. As scavenging carnivores, they still have the strong instinct to hunt and eat a carnivorous diet. Looking closely at the wolves life and diet, we see them hunting their hooved prey of deer, moose, boar, as well as small animals, like rabbits, rodents, beavers, and even birds.

They have canines and triangular sharp shaped teeth for the shredding and tearing of flesh and crushing of bone. They will open the stomach first, eating the contents of plant and fruit matter plus the stomach lining. They will continue to the fat and organs as they are very nutritious and required to survive. They move on to muscle meat and bones as they contain essential vitamins and minerals.

Carnivores need a protein, meat-based diet, to supply essential amino acids they can't

synthesize. They require 22 amino acids, but we know dogs can only synthesize 12 on their own. Without the supply of enough protein, it forces their body to break down muscles to fill the gap of their needed amino acids.

Protein is made of amino acids. It supports the muscles, skin health, nails, coat, and is essential to supporting a strong immune system. Plus, it's the main source of energy.

Wolves might have to travel up to 50 miles in a day to find their next meal. Their sense of smell is so strong they can recognize the scent of an animal over a mile away. Their hearing is relied on, and they can hear up to 10 miles away.

The wolves can run up to 35 miles per hour.

Their jaw has a crushing power of 1500 pounds per square inch. For comparison a German Shepherd has crushing power of about 750 pounds per square inch & can run about 30 miles per hour.

There is clear evidence in the diets of dogs and their wolf ancestors that they are carnivores. Their teeth, gut and digestive physiology support this. They don't have the typical molars for the grinding of plant material or a four chamber stomach for the slow digestion and fermentation of complex carbohydrates (starches from plants and grains).

Historically, cooked foods have never been a part of the canine and feline diet; rather they have survived and thrived off live animals, carcasses, and they scavenge for any scraps they could find. They have only been introduced to cooked and processed foods within the last 80 years.

There's so much more we can learn about the wolves & their ancestors to benefit our evolved canines. But with the studies we have accessible, we can mimic the diets of the wolves for our dogs, supplying them with the nutrients needed to thrive.

We can mimic the exercise needed by walking them every day, like the wolves have to do in the wild. They appreciate the den we supply them by having them live with us in our warm homes. And when we do what nature intended for our dogs, they will live their best life!

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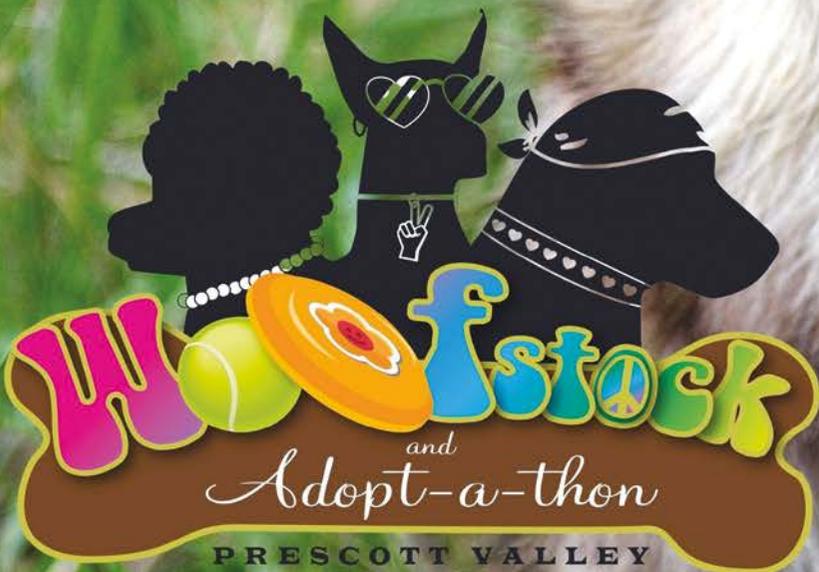
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By Chase & Jan Tomlinson

The Chase Project on Steroids

You will not believe what just happened! The UPS truck arrived at our door with four big boxes. I immediately became very suspicious because my mom never orders anything that comes in four big boxes.

I looked on as she started to open one of them. To my horror, it was filled with those little stuffed Shelties that she calls Chase Junior. They all had on red vests that said Therapy Dog, and they were really stuffed into the box. I can't even imagine how many there are in four boxes! And, I hear her say that three more boxes were still to be delivered! Now, that is the craziest idea I have ever heard.

This job of keeping them all in line and training them is getting way too big for me. Since I AM the Prince, I shouldn't have to work that hard. That's why I have servants to do my work.

Now I had to find out what was going on. A fleet of groomers arrived at our house as those Chase Juniors looked pretty messy from their trip. Of course, I never look that messy! I am going to have to hang around to find out where they are all going. Hmm...maybe she will tell the groomers where they are going.

YES! Something was said about the Verde Valley Senior Center and Meals on Wheels. They are all going to be delivered with the meals. I hope they don't eat too much or there won't be any food left for the seniors!

We have boxes and boxes and boxes of Chase Juniors in our Arizona room, so I hope they don't all escape at night. I will have to keep an eye on them. Sigh! Now it's just wait to see what will happen next.

You've got to be kidding! Four more boxes of those Chase Juniors arrived today. My mom promised me that they were all going away soon. I guess this is just the last 45 of the 150 to be delivered. But that still leaves 15 of them. I am really good at math.

Oh Boy! Two friends arrived today with their truck and SUV. I think that means that the boxes of Chase Juniors are finally going away. Yep. We're loading them all up, and my mom tells me that I also have to go and help deliver them to the senior center. I have to put on my vest to look official.

When we get there, we start unloading the boxes and take them inside. Since I am the honorable Chase, I don't have to carry any. There were lots of important people there, and of course, I was the main attraction. There were people from the Cottonwood City Council, the Supervisor of Yavapai County, and especially the reporter from the local newspaper. That meant I might become famous by having my picture in the paper. He took lots of pictures and interviewed my mom. I



think he should have interviewed me! We were in the Sunday edition with a BIG article.

Now we still have 15 more of them to take somewhere, so I can get some rest. Then my mom told me we were taking them to Dr. Kara, the pediatrician at the Yavapai Health Service. Hopefully, they will help the kids feel better and bring some smiles to their faces. I am so glad that I got to make so many people happy.

Now my mom says we may need more to deliver to Meals on Wheels. Maybe you can do something good for your community today.

A New Therapy Organization

Just when I thought my mom had run out of new ideas, she came up with another one! This time she had help from her student and friend, Pat. Since my therapy organization that I belonged to folded after CoVid, they decided I needed a new organization so I could continue my therapy dog work.

Let's see. The first thing I'm going to have to do is get a handbook on how to start a therapy organization. It says the first thing I have to do is apply to be a corporation in the State of Arizona. There is so much paperwork for me to fill out! I am going to be very busy and won't have time to train with my mom.

I filled out the forms and then discovered that we needed officers and a board of directors. Okay, who should I pick? I finally decided on a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. To make things easy, they will also be the Board of Directors. Whew! That part is done. Now, just sit and wait to hear from the State of Arizona.

Finally! We are now a corporation, but have to have a constitution and by-laws. Oh, I forgot to tell you the name of our new organization. It is Verde Valley Paws For A Cause. I was pretty smart to think of this name. But, now we needed a logo to go with the name. I know an artist. so

I will ask her to design one. Then I asked my mom if she would make the therapy evaluation test. This is really a big job for a little Sheltie to do!

After consulting my handbook again, it said the next step I had to do was put our corporation by-laws in the Verde newspaper for three weeks, so people could read them. I really don't think many people read those pages! If this costs money, I hope it doesn't come out of my dog food account.

Three weeks went by, and now I have to apply for our non-profit status and get an ID number. This means I have to send the information to the Federal Government. I think they live in Washington, D.C.. My mom says that is a long way from Arizona.

Yay! I got a letter in the mail saying we are now a non-profit, and we even have a number to prove it. I wonder what I can use this number for. Maybe when I buy my new therapy dog vest, I won't have to pay tax?

My next job is looking into getting insurance, so when my mom and I go on our therapy visits, we have insurance in case anything happens. I am an expert at therapy work, so I'm not too worried about that. These insurance companies are really slow in getting back to me, so I am still waiting on this last thing to do.

My mom just finished teaching a therapy dog class, and now they will be able to take their therapy dog evaluation. I will have to do it too. If they pass, then they will have to see their vet and get a clean bill of health before they can visit.

Everyone will be wearing a vest for their visits, so we need to decide on a color and what we want to have embroidered on it. I think teal is really a nice color, and it will look good on any color dog. I decided to have our new logo on one side of it and then my name and the words, "Pet Me, I'm Friendly" on the other side. That will help everyone know I am a friendly dog whose job is to make people feel better.

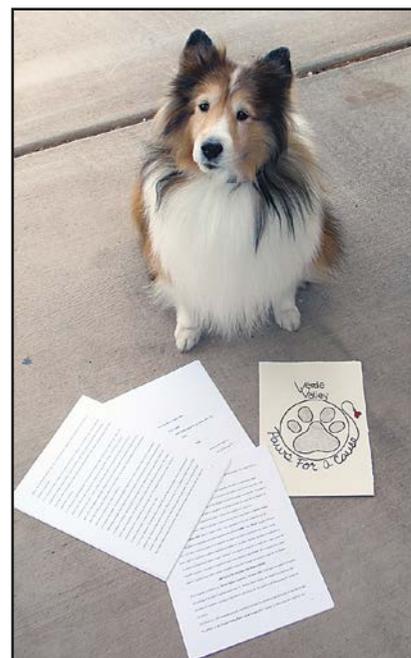
Maybe you would like to become a therapy dog some

day. So, keep us in mind, and if you would like to join our group, just email me. You can check out the club web site at:

verdevalleyagilityclub.com, and my mom's email address is there.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2023!

~Sir Chase



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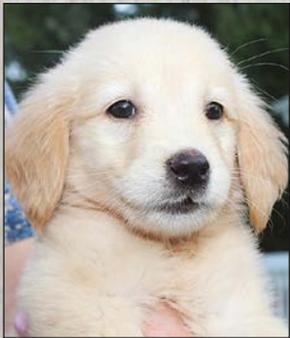
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