

Prescott Dog

November/December 2023 • PrescottDog.com magazine



**DOGtoberfest
Event
Wrap-Up!**

Walking the Dog: 10 Tips

The Miracles & Wonders of Dog-Human Communication

Growing Up RODEO

Desert Delight: Patagonia Lake State Park

Introducing Our Cover Dog – Captain Cooper

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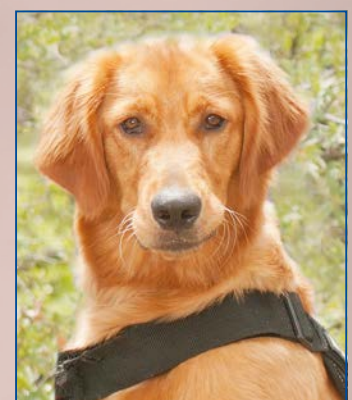
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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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Serving Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and The Highway 69 Corridor for 16 Years

The Prescott Dog Magazine is published bimonthly in Jan/Feb; Mar/Apr; May/Jun; Jul/Aug; Sep/Oct; Nov/Dec by Red Dog Publishing, PO Box 11868, Prescott AZ 86304. Copyright © 2016-2023 by The Prescott Dog Magazine. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. The Prescott Dog Magazine reserves the right to edit all material and assumes no responsibility for errors. The views presented in this publication do not necessarily represent the policies of The Prescott Dog Magazine and should not be construed as endorsements. Layout and design by Kim Prosser, Graphics Manager.



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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:

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



Captain Cooper, Our Cover Dog

Name: Captain Cooper

Hometown: Prescott, Arizona. But I was born on July 4th on a reservation north of Flagstaff. I have six siblings, and they named us after the seven dwarfs.

Age: I am two years old and learning so much from my Mom and her friends and neighbors.

Favorite brand of kibble: My Mom feeds me Blue Buffalo, dry and wet, but my favorite treats are Broth Bones! I love my kibble but now I have my Mom sprinkle some cheese on it. If she doesn't, I sniff and walk away or wait patiently for the cheese. I have trained my human very well.

Favorite people food: Potato chips and grilled cheese sandwich!

Favorite toy: Anything that squeaks and crunches. I grab one and run out to the back yard and throw it in the air and then pounce on it to make noises. I love antlers and BulliBones.

Favorite outdoor activity: Hiking in the forest (chasing lizards, squirrels, and anything that moves) with my Mom and her best friend, Sue, and her dog Mozy. I also love my evening walks in my Astoria Community as I get to see all the neighbors and they pet me and give me treats. Sometimes my Mom's friend Marcia and Scott take me for walks around the Astoria Community in Prescott Lakes with their grand-baby Marissa. She gives me lots of love and treats. I like all the humans where I live.

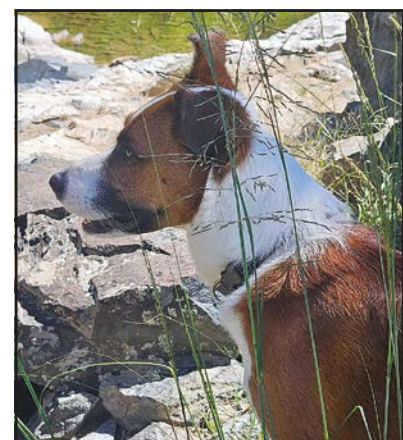
Favorite indoor activity: Playing laser-chase with my Mom or harassing Sadie Lou the cat. I also like when my Mom has me play Find It or dog puzzles, lots of snacks are involved in this activity.

Favorite nap spot: Backyard in the sun, of course

Fitness regimen: Hiking, snacks, sleep, repeat!

Describe your perfect canine pal: I have some great canine playmates. Rocky is fun. He has a big back yard, and I can run in crazy circles, getting him to chase me while his Mom and my Mom drink wine. Shelby is a blast, she has a great yard too, and her Dad, John, gives us lots of treats and we play all afternoon. And of course my cousins Dino, Pebbles, and Bernie are fun, and my hiking pal Mozy is the best.

Describe your perfect day: Snuggles with Mom on the bed in the morning. Catching lizards on our walks around the Prescott Lakes Community. Going on long mile hikes (five and ten miles) with my Mom and her best friend, Sue, and her dog, Mozy. And snuggling with my Mom at night after a long day of hiking. I love to go on walks and hikes.



HAZEL HOWLS

A Pru By Any Other Name

The seniors (Hazel and Tucker), both curled up on the big bed, have finished their afternoon biscuits and are content to leave the youngsters (Keira and Prudence) to wander in and out of the back door. Pack Mom, while working in the garden will probably entertain them for a while.

Through the master bedroom window a light autumn breeze brings a refreshing chill to the room. The sounds of Keira, Pru, and Mom wafted into the room from outside. A perfect time, as Hazel tightened her body's circle to bring up a serious matter with her pack brother.

Hazel: Hey Tuck, what's Pru's proper name?

Tucker: Prudence... I think, why?

Hazel: Well, Dad keeps calling her by different names.

Tucker: Like Prudential?

Hazel: And Zaa-Pruder.

Tucker: Pruisse Missile.

Hazel: Pru-desance.

Tucker: Pru-Doo, Pru-Bear.

Hazel: Pru-DON'T!

Tucker: Pru-rassic Park

Hazel: That's a new one. This morning he called her Pepper and later Corporal Pepper. So what is her proper name?

Tucker: What's yours Haze?

Hazel: Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog. Didn't you know that Tuck?

Tucker: Not really. I've heard Dad use several names for you. Mom has a couple of choice ones for you when you won't stop barking. Other than my full name, Tucker Oso, I've got a couple nicknames that Dad uses for me, and Keira has some too.

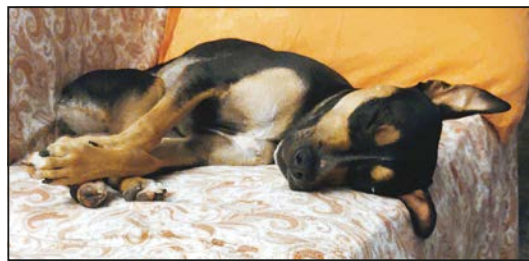
Aside from that, I think I've known you long enough, Haze, to guess that Pru's name or names isn't what's really bothering you.

Hazel: What on earth is an Oso?

Tucker: I'll tell you if you can tell me what a Bazel is?

Hazel: I have no idea.

Tucker: Oso is bear in Spanish, Bazel is a town in Belgium. With that settled, are you going to answer my question?



Pru, recharging from...working...in the garden.

Hazel: What question?

The sound of some sort of commotion outdoors halted the conversation for a moment. Suddenly, Pack Mom's voice filled the room, even though she was outside.

"Promise Prudence Pepper! What on earth are you doing tromping around in the bed I just planted? What were you thinking?"

Since thinking was the farthest thing from her mind, Promise Prudence Pepper thought it best to retreat back into the house. After a quick scouting of every room, Pru settled on hanging with the seniors in the bedroom.

Prudence: Hey Old Timers. Make room.

Neither senior moved for her as she sprang up and settled between them.

Tucker: How's the gardening going?

Prudence: Oh, it's a very arduous process fraught with many difficulties and hardships.

Hazel: Did Mom call you Promise?

Prudence: That was my other home-name. Dad changed it 'cuz he said the first syllable was too soft.

Hazel: Soft?

Prudence: Yep! Promise would sound like Pra, and that is too soft a syllable. Pack Dad thinks we-on-four react to the very first syllable of our names. If there's a lot of noise, or our attention is locked on something, Dad likes a hard sound, as it carries farther, and he thinks it gets our attention a split second sooner.

Hazel: A... hard sound?

Prudence: Pru, Keer, Haze, Tuck, are all hard sounds.

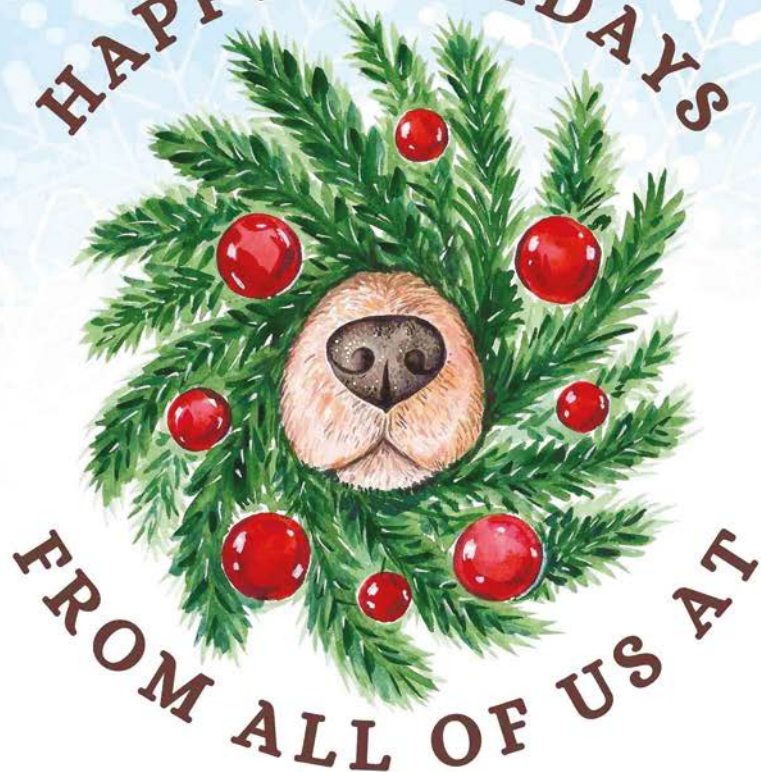
Tucker: Did he tell you how he settled on Prudence?

Prudence: He said it was something I didn't have enough of and carrying that name might help me acquire some.

Hazel: What about Pepper? Where'd that come from?

Prudence: Dad said I'm a bit on the

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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spicy side of attitude, and sometimes he calls me Corporal Pepper because he's pretty sure I'll never make Sergeant.

Dad: (Calling from the kitchen) Tyrannosaurus-P...P-Rex... Tena-cious-P...

Hazel: Who's he calling?

Tucker: I think He's calling you, Pru.

Prudence leaps in a lofty arc and exits the bedroom in missile-like fashion.

Tucker: Air-Prudence.

Hazel: I can't keep up with all this. (Under her breath) Please, Creator of all things good, let this multi-

named Chee-Weiler be a foster dog... Please, please, please.

Prudence reappears in the doorway with a new plush toy in her mouth.

Prudence: Come chase me! Try to take my toy away Come on!

Hazel & Tucker: No!

Deciding that the seniors needed some encouragement, Prudence begins a campaign of harassment by repeatedly leaping onto the bed and then kicking the pillows to the floor. She exits at full throttle, hoping to be pursued.

Hazel: Tasmanian-Pru, that should be her name.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog

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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.

BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY
Shows adoptable dogs at Prescott Petco, 1:30p Saturdays. More info: blackhathumane.org or 928-899-3942.

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
For an up-to-date list of our dog & cat adoption sites, locations, and times, please visit: unitedanimalfriends.org/adoption-events/. To volunteer or learn more about us: unitedanimalfriends.org or 928-778-2924.

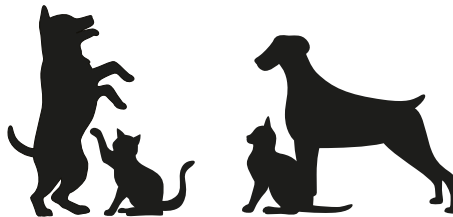
YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY
• Onsite Adoptions: M, T, TH, F Noon-5:30p by appt. Sat-Sun 11:30-4:30pm by appt. 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd., Prescott, 928-445-2666
• Lost Pet Center by appt: M, T, TH, F 12p-5:30p, and by appt. Sat-Sun 11:30a-4:30p.

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.

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.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

HERITAGE PARK ZOO
• Nov 4-5: Dollar Days
• Nov 11: Veterans Day
• Nov 23: Thanksgiving w/the Lemurs
• Nov 24-25: Opening WildLights
• Nov 26: Members Only WildLights
• Dec 1-2,8-9,15-16,22-23,29-30: WildLights
• Dec 10: Santa w/the Animals
• Dec 25-29: Kids Week Free

ART FOR ANIMALS SILENT AUCTION
Nov 5, 2p-5p, Willow Creek Inn, 2516 Willow Creek Rd, Prescott. Silent auction of art, pottery, handcrafted jewelry, gourd art & more. Refreshments available.

HORSES WITH HEART SEQUINS & SADDLES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Nov. 11, 4:30p, Embry Riddle, 3700 Willow Creek Rd, Prescott. Dinner, entertainment & auctions. Info: horseswithheartaz.org

WILD ROSE HORSE OBSTACLE CONTESTS
Nov. 17-19, Bumble Bee Ranch, Bumble Bee, AZ. Info: bethanysgait.org

CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK
A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
Dec. 2. Festive activities, including games with our Reindeer Miniature Horses. Info: cvequestrianpark.org



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, circlerl.org</p>	<p>DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Prescott, Arizona 520-965-4968, DLRRAZ.com</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>

<p>IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</p>	<p>ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICES Shelter for animals in the event of a disaster. PO Box 10793, Prescott • 928-642-0758 AnimalDisasterServices.com</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>LARGE ANIMAL SHELTERS & EMERGENCY READINESS (LASER) Shelter for barn animals in the event of a disaster P.O. Box 12782, Prescott • 928-713-1331 Laser-shelter.org</p>
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2023 Walk for the Animals

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Prescott Dog magazine

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EL GATO AZUL WORLD BISTRO PRESCOTT, AZ

WALKING THE DOG: 10 TIPS TO MAKE YOUR OUTING SAFE AND FUN

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Walking is a wonderful way to get some fresh air and exercise for both you and your dog. Before you head out, attention to these 10 tips can make your treks - long or short - enjoyable, and safe.

1. Know your leash laws. Leash laws are there for the protection of your dog and others' dogs. A sturdy collar and strong six-foot leash are necessary equipment. It's great to think that Rover will enjoy off-leash time and will stay with you or come immediately when called, but there's always the "Oh look, a squirrel!" moment, which can end with your dog lost, in a fight with another dog, or in trouble with other wildlife. Your off-leash dog may also cost you a ticket if Animal Control is out and about. If your community has a leash law, obey it, for your safety and others'. If you hike in areas where snakes are a problem, a strong leash and perhaps some snake avoidance training could save your dog's life.

2. Leave the retractable leashes at home. Retractable leashes might seem like the best of both worlds - freedom while still technically tethered - but they are fraught with danger. If your dog is at the end of one of these leashes, reeling him in quickly in an emergency can be nearly impossible. An excited or agitated dog can wrap the lead around your legs, causing a fall or the inability to control him. The thin lead can also cause a nasty friction burn or cut if you become entangled in one when your dog is running headlong in another direction. Letting your dog approach another while on one of these leashes can quickly escalate into a dog fight before you can control either dog.

3. Carry your phone and accessible identification for you and your dog. There are many ways to carry ID, and this information can hasten help if you need it in case of injury. If you are conscious, you can call for help. If you suffer a medical emergency or a fall that leaves you unconscious, carrying accessible and visible identification, such as a lanyard or ID in a tag holder, will help the person who finds you quickly obtain care for you. If your dog has medical or other needs, put that



information with your ID. If you must go to the hospital, you'll want to know your pet is safe, too, so be sure contact information is included for emergencies so someone can pick up your dog.

4. Wear comfortable, safe shoes, and layered clothing. If you walk in the dusk or dark, wear reflective clothing and carry a bright flashlight. Your dog should wear a reflective collar or coat. Always wear shoes that you can comfortably walk in over any kind of terrain. Layer your clothing if you'll be out in changing weather, and if rain is threatening, you might consider tucking a rain poncho in your pocket. If your dog is sensitive to cold, such as short haired breeds, bring a coat for him. If the weather will be hot, especially pay attention to brachycephalic, or short-nosed breeds that find it more difficult to regulate their temperature through breathing.

5. Be aware of your surroundings and pick your route carefully. If you can walk in areas that have sidewalks or enough room to stay well out of the roadway, choose those routes. Don't let distractions keep you from noticing the dangers of loose or reactive dogs, approaching vehicles or people. Being aware is being safe. It's a good time to take out the earphones and enjoy your surroundings and the time with your dog.

6. Train your dog. A dog that walks politely on a leash and pays attention to basic commands in any situation is a pleasure to spend time with, and much safer to walk with. Invest time in training your dog to walk on a leash, sit or lie down on command, and come without fail. A basic obedience class, especially in a group with other dogs, is a great investment that will teach your dog to obey despite distractions. Having your dog trip you up or get loose while chasing an animal could cause injury or loss of your pet. Trying to control a dog that is walking you is exhausting. It just takes a few minutes a day to prepare you and your dog for a great walking experience.

7. Practice pet etiquette. Not everyone wants to greet your dog, and not every dog is amenable to greeting other dogs. Many dog owners have had to protect themselves and their dog from people who insist "My dog is friendly; he just wants to play!" This is a dangerous practice for anyone walking a dog, whether you are the "friendly" dog own-

er or the person trying to fend off such an animal. Some dogs are reactive, some are protective, and some are fearful. All have the potential to be an issue if suddenly approached by an eager, unknown dog. Don't be that person.

8. Take care for those paws! You may have heard that if you wouldn't walk on hot pavement, your dog shouldn't either. Hot pavement can cause painful burns to a dog's paws. Be aware of climate and realize that even on a mild day for you, the pavement may still be too warm for your dog. If you know heat may be a problem, pet supply outlets have many bootie options for dogs.

9. Carry water for you and your pet. Hydration is important for you and your pet. Dogs cool themselves by panting because they don't sweat like humans. Panting can make your dog thirsty and dehydrated, so be sure to carry water for both of you. Again, dog suppliers carry many water bottle/bowl combinations that are easy to carry.

10. Know what to do if another animal approaches you. Hopefully, you'll enjoy many wonderful walks with your dog. However, it's always best to be prepared for the dog that gets loose from his yard, strays, or a dog that gets away from its owner. If not reactive, at the least an excited dog can rapidly escalate a confrontation. Most meetings between dogs are reasonably friendly, but it's best to be prepared. If approached by a loose dog, stand your ground, stay calm and command it to back off. This is where your obedience training will pay off, so your own dog doesn't make the situation worse. Carry something you can use as a barrier between you and the approaching dog, such as a backpack, jacket, cane or umbrella. A loud noise such as a whistle or air horn can sometimes deter an aggressive dog. In the worst-case scenario, pepper spray can deter an aggressive dog.

Proper preparation, awareness, and training will ensure many hours of great exercise and time with your dog.

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Help A Dog Out (HADO) had the pleasure of being able to join this event at Dogtoberfest! We had a great time, and best yet, we had three adoptions!

One long-timer, Gucci (who had been saved from being killed as a puppy with her siblings), found a forever home, and two other babies, Mary and Matthew, were adopted.

We saved our Dogtoberfest adoptees from being euthanized. Mama and six babies were saved by our making the long drive to Houston and back because transportation would have been over \$2,000. As a rescue that saves hundreds of dogs every year, that was something

we couldn't afford. So we made the drive ourselves, so Gucci, Mary, and Matthew wouldn't die.

We're huge on helping our community and donating dogs to local veterans, and to children with life-threatening illnesses. We've worked with domestic violence victims and addicts trying to clean up, and take pride in our humanitarian efforts. It's a struggle mentally, physically, and financially, but some of us are made to handle it all like champs and do it. We're so happy to have done this.

tally, physically, and financially, but some of us are made to handle it all like champs and do it. We're so happy to have done this.

HADO is located in the valley. We took twelve dogs from our rescue and fosters up to Dogtoberfest. Our supporters Angela, Lisa, Marsha, Karla, and Chris covered all our expenses, including gas and supplies. We're thankful for them, and for our village: Dawn, Nicole, and Ben! This couldn't have happened without them and they're HADO's true heroes.

HADO is a nonprofit rescue that's been saving lives for more than eight years, and we always appreciate it when someone chips in to help us

help a dog out. If you'd like to make a donation, we have Zelle at 480-280-5765; Paypal.me/hado2015; and Venmo @hado2015. We also have a Chewy's wish list at tinyurl.com/HelpDogOut. Any help is always appreciated.

Please Adopt Don't Shop

We help so many shelters throughout the state, and have many furr-babies up for adoption. Please, even donating adoption fees is a great help if you can't adopt! Our fees are \$300 to \$500, which includes vaccines and exams by our vet, spay or neuter once of age, a rabies vaccine, the last booster on puppies, and microchipping.

We don't get paid for the countless hours put into helping animals, and barely cover the cost most times. But the smiles and happiness we spread makes our hearts happy! It's great to be a rescue when we have these moments.



Yavapai Humane Society is embracing the spirit of the holidays with a heart full of gratitude. We want to express our thanks for the incredible support and generosity we receive from our compassionate community, dedicated staff, and passionate volunteers.

Our journey towards providing loving care and homes for our furry friends would not be possible without you. You continue to show a remarkable commitment to Yavapai Humane Society and our cause, demonstrating the true meaning of coming together for the greater good.

Your generous donations have allowed us to continue our mission and provide a safe haven for animals in need. It's these contributions that enable us to care for our animals and provide essential medical attention, along with a loving environment until they find their forever homes.

The outpouring of love and dedication from our community is invaluable. Our Community Pet Food Pantry, made possible through your donations of food and supplies, provides dog and cat food for those who need assistance feeding their pets, which allows them to keep their beloved pets at home and not have to surrender them.

We also want to thank you all for your generous donations of towels and other supplies needed for the shelter. We're also so grateful for the kids in our community.

- **Alexa and Jacelyn** both asked their friends to bring donations for YHS *instead* of birthday presents to their birthday parties this year.
- **Harper Ann and Holly** donated \$293 from sales at their lemonade stand, along with making our animals dog and cat treats.

- **Wyatt and Winnie, along with their Sunday School Class at First Congregational Church of Prescott**, donated \$230.76 from collections they'd taken.



- **The kids from one of the 5th-grade classes at Coyote Springs Elementary School** donated over 50 bags of cat and dog food, as well as treats and toys from a pet food drive they had.

These are just a few examples of the acts of kindness that make a difference every day and exemplify the compassion and care our community offers.

Findlay Subaru is an *amazing* community partner to Yavapai Humane Society, allowing us to have dogs available for adoption at their location on various days throughout each month and donating \$35,000 to us through their Subaru Share the Love Event last year.

Thank you to Pickle For the Pets—a charity pickleball tournament that was held in mid-October. **Antelope Hill's Golf Course** also put on their 5th Annual Barktoberfest Golf Tournament to benefit YHS at the end of October.

We're also grateful to **Candy McLeod and her annual Mah Jongg for Mutts fundraising event** in August, which raised over \$23,000 for YHS this year. We also can't forget **Dutch Bros. Coffee**, who held a one-day Dutch Bros. Love event for us, donating over \$9,000 to YHS through *your* support!

Listing what we're grateful for wouldn't be complete without thanking **Cherie Drevs, owner of Prescott Dog Magazine and Flagstaff/Sedona Dog Magazine**—and also the person who puts Woofstock and DOGtoberfest together every year. We are so blessed/grateful to be

able to partner with Cherie for our **Walk For the Animals**, which took place October 1st. We come together for our common mission: finding all of these animals the purr-fect, most paw-some home! Cherie is a true advocate for all the homeless animals in our community, and YHS is *honored* to partner with

her and our shared passion.

Also, I couldn't write about things we're grateful for without a shout out to **our dedicated staff members** who are the backbone of YHS. Their commitment to the well-being of our animals is truly awesome. Day in and day out, they work to ensure the comfort and happiness of our four-legged friends. From feeding and walking dogs or cuddling cats. to providing medical care and emotional support, our staff goes above and beyond to create a loving and nurturing environment. Each animal is cared for and loved as if it were our own.

This holiday season, we have countless stories of animals finding their forever homes, being loved and kept safe, and making our world a better place. Each of these stories is a testament to the power of community support and the dedication of our staff. Please follow us on our social media pages to see all the happily-ever-after's that you have helped make happen, and to see all that we're doing for the animals.

With the warmth embrace of our community, we find a reason to give thanks every day and hope this holiday season brings joy and happiness to your homes. From all of us at Yavapai Humane Society, thank you for being a part of our extended family. We look forward to continuing this incredible journey together. Happy Holidays!



PUPS ASSISTING WITH SUPPORT

The Relay for Life of the Quad Cities is proud to announce that the American Cancer Society (ACS) has expanded its impact on pediatric cancer through the launch of ACS's Pups Assisting with Support (PAWS)—a pilot grant program aiming to improve the quality of life for hospitalized children with cancer through support from specially trained therapy dogs!



Lois, a four-year-old Golden Retriever/Yellow Lab mix from Children's Hospital Orange County

The program awarded \$8,000 to support existing therapy-dog programs across the country.

Funding during the twelve-month grant period will supplement veterinary costs, adoption, training for the handler and staff members, food, grooming, beds, toys, and improving or maintaining dog facilities. Collectively, the projects are estimated to impact more than 10,000 children and families affected by cancer.

From birth, therapy dogs who work full-time in children's hospitals receive extensive and specialized training to provide goal-oriented, therapeutic interventions and emotional support. The ACS PAWS grant program fills a critical gap for institutions since animal-assisted therapy programs are primarily supported through philanthropic and local fundraising efforts.

Widely considered a safe and desirable intervention for children with cancer, animal-assisted therapy for hospitalized children has been shown to decrease symptoms like anxiety, stress, depression, and pain while increasing quality of life indicators like feelings of joy and calmness, improved sense of well-being, and positive memories from hospitalization.

You can support amazing efforts like the PAWS program by supporting our local Relay for Life of the Quad Cities on May 31, 2024 at the Prescott Valley Civic Center. Please visit RelayForLife.org/quadcitiesAZ for more information.



DOGGIE SUPPLIES... SUPPLIED

By Linda Brecher

Yes, Every Dog Matters, and for the second year

I have been able to supply needed doggy supplies to clients of the foodbank, campers, and homeless pet parents who have read my flyer around Sedona.

Two tables were laden with everything a dog may need: collars, leashes, harnesses, brushes, collapsible bowls, treats, chew toys, stuffed animal toys, beds, and doggy doors.

The Humane Society of Sedona provided most of these items, and our local non-profit, Sedona Kind, gave me a large grant for additional necessities. Nylabone sent me a huge box of Nylabones, Golden Bone gave certificates for a free engraved nametag, and Bark and Purr donated certificates for toenail trims.

Although I did not supply dog or cat food, homeless pet parents were informed that food is always available at the Humane Society of Sedona. I also gave them information about upcoming low-cost vaccines and chipping on October 7th at the Humane Society.

About sixty people were overwhelmed that they could select what they needed and voiced their gratitude again and again. We supplied everything but love, which was already present.



DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE

LOCAL DOG RESCUE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue (DLRR) is getting ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary in Arizona. The local non-profit is dedicated to finding loving, life-long homes for displaced Labrador Retrievers, which happens to be one of the top dog breeds in the United States.

Since the beginning in 1999, DLRR has saved more than 6,000 displaced Labs throughout Arizona. The organization's rescue work relies solely on fundraising, donations, and volunteer work. As a non-profit, all funds help the dogs directly or fund the operations of the organization. The rescue also provides Labrador Retriever breed and training information on request. Through public education, they strive to help eliminate animal overpopulation by requiring the spaying and neutering of pets.

DLRR takes in dogs from the pound, other animal shelters, strays, and from owners who no longer want them or are unable to provide them with a home. Once the dog is in DLRR's care, they will provide vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchip, and any other medical care the dog needs, as well as a behavioral assessment if required. The dog is then typically placed in a foster home. Sometimes, however, a dog will be placed in an approved boarding kennel to decompress for a couple of days.



Bruno

The foster home provides temporary care for the dog until a new family adopts him or her. The foster home evaluates the dog's temperament and behavior so that the organization can find the right family for each dog.

If you'd like to adopt a dog from DLRR, go online and fill out an application, which has a one-time fee of \$15. Once you're approved, DLRR will send a volunteer to visit your home and determine if the environment is safe for the dog. Next, you'll receive the Dog-a-long that will give you all the information on our dogs available for adoption.

After selecting the dog of your dreams, you must wait 24 hours before bringing home your new furry friend. The last step in this process is to pay an adoption fee that varies according to the age of your new friend.

What makes DLRR unique is its fully run by a group of volunteers who have firsthand knowledge and experience to make sure every Lab goes to a caring, lifelong home. Many of the workers understand the love and enjoyment Labs can bring into a new home. The rescue is actively seeking more foster parents for their dogs as they approach their 25th year.

For more information on Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue and their dogs, or to donate, please visit dlrraz.org.

(Rescue Tales continued page 23)



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PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK IS A DESERT DELIGHT

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz

Patagonia Lake State Park was opened and dedicated on April 1, 1975, but it is anything but an April Fool's Day joke.

Most folks visiting Arizona – and many who live here – don't expect to see a permanent large lake in its southernmost desert. But that's just what you'll find at this state park at an elevation of 3,750 feet.

An incorporated group of citizens, the Lake Patagonia Recreation Association, constructed the lake in the 1960s. (Historical footnote: beneath the lake lie the tracks of the New Mexico/Arizona railroad.)

With the area's mild climate and the scenic Sonoita Creek watershed, the lake attracted way more recreational users than the Association could handle, so they eventually sold it to the State Parks.

November and December daytime high temperatures range in the low 60s to low 70s, with nighttime lows hovering around freezing. So while you probably won't want to swim or water ski, the opportunities for hiking, boating and wildlife spotting are abundant.

The park's mild winter begins in mid-December and ends in mid-March. Snow might fall a couple of times, but it melts quickly. This is a popular bird-watching time with numerous species overwintering here.

A half-mile hiking trail leads to Sonoita Creek. More trails are accessible in the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area. Whitetail deer are abundant.

As for hiking around the lake, a high arched bridge over a cove provides a bonus aerobic workout to its apex where you'll have a terrific view of the lake and distant mountains.



An arched bridge allows for spectacular views and an aerobic workout.



Distant mountains beckon from the lake.

Fisher folk can catch catfish, crappie, bass, bluegill, and trout. Great blue herons and cormorants enjoy fishing Patagonia Lake, as well. Curious coots paddle around the lake edges, sometimes waddling on shore to check out humans at the lower campsites.

A vermilion flycatcher kept attacking himself in our truck side mirrors. A woodpecker tried to steal sips from the hummingbird feeder when the tiny guardian wasn't there.

Some parks post signs that feeding wildlife, even putting up bird feeders, is a felony. We didn't see any notices about that here. Other campers wanted to ensure our feathered friends had sustenance, too. Plus, birds are just fun to observe!

The drive to secluded Patagonia Lake State Park is well worth the effort.

Happy mild winter camping, hiking, and boating!



A trio of cormorants fish from a convenient buoy.



Free food attracts a hummingbird.



This curious coot hoped for handouts.



A woodpecker tried to steal hummingbird nectar, but had more luck on tree branches.



EASTWOOD: A most handsome 2-year-old male Doberman Pincer. He is affectionate, super smart, and intensely loyal.
Yavapai Humane Society
928-445-2666



BRUTUS: A Shar-pei mix male puppy. Sweet, gets along with everyone. Even the cats like him.
Yavapai Humane Trappers
928-899-3942



COMET: A 2-year-old female Shih Tzu/pug mix. She is hoping to be adopted with her almost identical sister Kaya. For more information, please contact the Yavapai County Humane Society.
928-445-2666



HUCKLEBERRY: A young Staffordshire terrier mix. He is an energetic young man who would thrive in an active household. He will go to great lengths to be with his people.
Chino Valley Animal Shelter
928-636-4223 ext. 7



BIRDIE: A teeny tiny 7 pound terrier mix female. A perfect blend of soft and sassy. Great with other dogs.
Petey's Playground
peteysplayground@gmail.com



COUNT DOGULA: A 1-2-year-old Pitt mix. He is sweet, but a bit shy and would benefit from experienced owners.
Chino Valley Animal Shelter
928-636-4223 ext. 7



ZEUS: A Mastiff cross. He is a big, friendly goofball. Good with people, kids, and cats. Selective about dogs.
Petey's Playground
peteysplaground@gmail.com



SALEM: A young female Cattle-dog/Blue Heeler mix, a lanky golliwog who loves to run circles around everything. She is very affectionate and will make a great hiking/jogging companion.
Black Hat Humane at
blackhathumane@gmail.com



TOBY: A 1-year-old red border collie mix. He is a big buoyant puppy who loves to snuggle, do laps around the yard, and go on walks.
United Animal Friends
928-778-2924



ZERO: A 10-week-old male Chihuahua/Cattle dog mix. He is sweet and rambunctious. He was found in a box on the Navajo Nation. Call Maureen at 818-359-1366 to meet this lucky little guy.
Black Hat Humane at
blackhathumane@gmail.com



HARPER: A 6-month-old female Cattle Dog mix. She is almost pure white. She thrives on attention and loves being with people. Loves other dogs.
United Animal Friends
928-778-4924



DELTA DAWN: A 3-year-old female Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix, former Rez dog. She is smart and athletic, but shy.
AARF
928- 925-7219



BABY GIRL: A 2-year-old female Chihuahua mix. She is a love but prefers women to men.
Yavapai Humane Trappers
928-899-3942



DUSTY: A 6-year-old female French Bulldog/Chihuahua mix. Likes to go on walks and play with her ball. She wants to be the only dog in the house.
AARF
928-925-7219



LOCAL FELINE GREETER WILL BE MISSED

By Cameron Dexter

Have you ever thought about the story behind a shop cat?

I have, and that's part of the reason I sat down with Keith Kendall, store owner of the Art Store here in Prescott to talk about his wonderful kitty, Bobo, a stellar sort of cat. Though now laid to rest, I thought it would be a good opportunity to get the behind-the-scenes of the wonderfully affectionate, and entirely personable, cat!

Bobo, the sweet Maine Coon and Ragdoll mix, was named after the artist David Bowie, a mutually appreciated artist that both Keith and his (now-ex) wife enjoyed the day that his wife drove down to Phoenix to pick up Bobo. It was also the same day that David Bowie had passed away.

It was exciting to learn that Bobo was adopted back in Spring of 2016 at the age of 5-years-old. I asked Keith if Bobo was always as affectionate as I had known him to be, when I met the lovely sweetheart in early 2021. Keith told me that he was sure it was the ragdoll in Bobo; the kitty wanted to be held all the time and was immediately cuddly upon being brought home from the adoption center down in Phoenix.

Bobo was always a very vocal cat, and personable with a big sense for compassion and empathy. He would often spend Keith's worst days beside him, licking his face and would, as Keith said, "encour-



age me." Bobo wasn't much of a biscuit-maker; he just wanted to be held or petted.

The owners prior to Keith's ownership had had a baby that was allergic to Bobo. They tried everything to keep Bobo, going as far as to keep the cat's natural dander down, allergy treatments, and so forth, but the baby's allergy was too severe, and they had to relinquish ownership. The Kendalls were then able to obtain him.

One of the stories Keith fondly reminisced with me over was when he and his ex-wife first got Bobo, they had a friend visit that was pretty severely allergic, but continued to suffer through it to lavish and give love to Bobo because the kitty was so friendly. They simply couldn't resist his loving charm.

Keith felt that Bobo was a good assistant helping to greet the customers at the store when it was changing hands through the divorce proceedings, and with the eventual transfer of ownership. Bobo would draw customers in with his sweetness and meows.

I personally had only gotten to see the kitty a couple of times. Each time that I came into the store I was greeted with a chorus of meows and purring as the loveable floofball dropped himself at my feet expecting belly rubs and affection. It was a great welcoming tool, having at the time just moved to Prescott, and a moment that I hope many others share with me.

I was drawn in by the excellent quality art supplies, and encouraged to return by such a friendly cat that imbued the Art Store with such a positive energy.

Sadly, Bobo passed away prior to the writing of this article. But be not afraid, time heals most wounds, and there's more meows to be heard in the Art Store of Prescott with the addition of a sweet grey tabby ragdoll by the name of Tomas.

Tomas is a little shy if you move too fast, but he's certainly just as cuddly and affectionate as Bobo. You can find him wandering the aisles or lying in the sun most days in the Art Store!



FIFI LA FUME: A 10-month-old male sweetheart. His adoption fees have been paid by a generous donor in memory of her cats, Callie and Spice.
Yavapai Humane Society
928-445-2666



JOLIE: A beautiful tuxedo lady with deep copper eyes and magnificent whiskers! She is a kitten, funny and affectionate.
Miss Kitty's Cat House
928-445-5411



PIXIE: A charming 5-month-old petite female. She loves being held and just being near people. Love Bug Lap Kitty. Loves toys, playing, and windows.
Catty Shack
eajoannes@gmail.com



GIZMO: A magnificent female house panther kitten with deep copper-colored eyes. She has a wonderful personality. She is adventurous, brave, silly, playful, affectionate, and so sweet! Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavapaihumanetrappers.org



PICKLE: A beautiful young dilute tortoiseshell lady. She is friendly, affectionate, gentle, playful, smart, funny, curious, and brave.
Miss Kitty's Cat House
928-445-5411



POWDER: A blue-eyed white male, a most unusual color. He is a sweet, quiet, and gentle kitten. For more information please contact Petey's Playground at peteysplayground@gmail.com.



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The UAF Snip n' Go Clinic is limited to spay/neuter and vaccine services and is open by appointment only. Visit www.unitedanimalfriends.org for details and appointment availability.

The UAF Snip n' Go Clinic is made possible through donations, fundraisers, and grants. To donate, please go to our donation page and select the UAF Snip n' Go Clinic or mail a check to PO Box 11133, Prescott, AZ, 86304. We appreciate your support!

Spay/Neuter Prices

Pet Type	Regular Price	Low-Income Price*
Cat - Female	\$100	\$70
Cat - Male	\$70	\$40
Dog - Female	\$200	\$150
Dog - Male	\$180	\$130

Vaccine Prices

Rabies	\$15
Dog Distemper	\$15
Cat Distemper	\$15
Microchip	\$20



The Snip n' Go clinic is open to all income levels, with discounted spay/neuter prices for those who meet AZ low-income household guidelines. To see if you qualify for low-income prices, complete and submit the online form at unitedanimalfriends.org/spay-and-neuter-program or call 928-778-2924 and leave a message on Line One with your contact information. A volunteer will call you about the program. Proof of low income will be required.

POLICE HELPED HER, SO NOW MALI IS HELPING THEM AS PVPD'S NEW THERAPY DOG

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Prescott Valley Police officers and community crime victims now have a comforter. She comes in a warm, energetic body with big brown eyes and a big personality.

Mali is a Belgian Malinois who came to Prescott Valley Animal Control as a stray. She was not microchipped and for months, no one claimed her. Prescott Valley has a holding kennel for strays, and while Mali was in residence, she quickly began to win the hearts of officers and staff alike.

"I was responding to a barking complaint, and Mali just ran up," said Animal Services Supervisor Tim Yogerst. "She interrupted the complaint. She wanted to go along with me. It was kind of strange, that's the first time a dog has come up like, 'Hey, I'm loose!' She jumped in the front seat of my truck – that's where she decided she needed to be. We posted her but no one came to get her."

Prescott Valley Police Administrative Specialist Amy Stone said the department had begun looking into a therapy dog two years ago, and will join Prescott and Chino PDs as area agencies reaping the benefits of these animals. Mali has already started to make an impact at the Prescott Valley PD. "We researched and found how beneficial the dogs are for officers to have breaks from the mental state they go through coming from a bad scene. The dog can help them work through those emotions, so they don't them home," Stone said.



person in a room that is dealing with stress or emotions and will go right to that person. At one time, four officers were in the report writing area, Lemons said, and it was known one of them was going through a tough time. "Mali went right to him and would not leave his side. She sat there and was glued to him. She knows your personality and she gets the vibes from each person and just melts into them. She's such a good girl."

"It seems like she knows when people are not having good day," Yogerst said. "She'll go through a crowd just to that person. When I come in and I'm having a hard day, she comes over and puts her head on my lap, or nudges my elbow. She makes you stop working, like she's saying, 'It's time to stop,'" Yogerst said.

Several officers were interested in adopting Mali, but she found her home with Animal Services Officer Sarah Lemons, who is now in training with Debbie Lipeley at Pawsitively Awesome Dog Training, who also works with Chino Valley PD's therapy dog.

"Sarah's doing a good job with Mali," Yogerst said. "She takes her to training, and you

can tell Sarah is Mali's human. Wherever Sarah goes Mali goes."

In fact, it was Lemons' five-year-old who named the dog because he couldn't pronounce "Malinois."

Malinois are known for their high play drive and usually are not recommended as household pets. Lemons said Mali definitely has over-the-top energy, loving to play ball with her kids, but in the station, she is calm, laying on her bed in Lemons' office. The officer who interacted with Mali in the kennels, familiar with the department's K9s, later called Lemons and told her this dog was special, and spending time with her was the best way to decompress after the difficult call.

Because Lemons often responds to animal services calls, Mali has an assistant handler in the department in Police Specialist Kaycee Graber, who is more than thrilled to spend time with her. "If I'm on calls and I don't know how long it will be, Mali hangs out with 'Aunt Kaycee' in her office," Lemons said.

The young Mali has a lot of training ahead of her, so for now she spends a lot of time at the police department and with Lemons' family and at places where she meets people and gains new experiences. "She's in her element at home around my kids, and she absolutely loves my husband. She curls on the couch with him until

he gets up and then she follows him around," Lemons said.

The Prescott Valley Police Department is grateful to Olsen's Grain, which is donating Mali's food. The department appreciates any donations that will help with her training and any equipment she needs. Donations may be sent or brought to the Prescott Valley Police Department, 7601 E. Skoog Blvd., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. Please designate your donation for "Mali."



The approximately one-and-a-half-year-old Mali worked her therapy magic even before she officially joined the police department. During one police incident in which an officer spent an entire day at a particularly harrowing scene, he returned to the station and saw Mali in the kennels. He entered and spent nearly a half hour with her, and she was more than willing to offer her calm personality to soothe him.

Mali has shown she has an uncanny ability to single out the



Adopt a Horse from Yavapai Humane Society



TUESDAY

A Quarter Horse grade mare, 5 years old and 15 hands. Project horse who just started training last week. Can be haltered and leads.



ALLIE CAT

Arabian Quarter Horse grade filly, 6 months old. Currently being handled everyday and learning to halter and lead.



ROSEMARY

Quarter Horse paint grade filly, 6 mos. Can halter, lead, step over multiple obstacles, loads in stock type trailer, loves to be groomed & is learning to pick up her feet.



MIRANDA

Belgian draft mare, mid 20s, 17 hands. Just started professional training last week, but most likely needs to be just a companion horse. Can be haltered & leads.



APACHE

Paint grade mare, 6 years old, 15 hands. Project horse. Just started training. Can be haltered and leads.



VAL

Palomino Quarter Horse mare, 10 years old, 15 hands. Just started training. Project horse. Can be haltered and leads.

THE JOURNEY OF A SERVICE DOG

By Monty E. Hutson, president/founder of For Veteran's Sake Foundation

For Veteran's Sake Foundation participated in its first DOGtoberfest event in Prescott, Arizona on October 1, 2023. Wow, what an event.

We rolled up in our bus named Ruger's Ride. Spread out all over the grassy area was tent after tent of dog-related vendors that made treats, clothes, and leashes. There were rescue groups, trainers, and veterinarians. I believe there was a dog walk going on with Yavapai Humane Society.

On board our bus, we had our crew of service dogs that couldn't wait to dismount and go see all the other dogs. They must have thought they were in heaven. We thought this was going to be a great day. With so many dogs walking their humans around, how could it be any different?

For Veteran's Sake (FVS) was there to share what we do and how we provide services to Veterans and First Responders. Our mission is to help the veterans and first responders that are dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). FVS provides service dogs and PTSD coaching to help relieve many of the issues tied to PTSD.

One of the most effective ways to help is through a service dog. At FVS we do things a bit differently when it comes to the training of a service dog. Once we have a veteran/first responder interested in the program, we start asking questions to discover what kind of help we can provide for them.

If we can help, we start our search. For Veterans Sake is very proud to say that 98% of all the dogs we train are rescue dogs.

I said earlier that this was our first DOGtoberfest in Prescott. We heard about this event from one of the students in our program. Kevin is an Army veteran for whom we provided a service dog. Kevin not only is dealing with PTSD, but he also has seizures. We paired him with his dog Sachi, a black German Shepherd that stays by his side no matter what.

Kevin told us about DOGtoberfest, so we contacted Cherie Dreves, the event organizer and owner of Flagstaff Dog Magazine and Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine. She explained what the event was about and how it worked. We were in, and we were excited to be there.



Hudson training with Marilyn. His new owner named him Anubis.

During the next couple of weeks, we were contacted by a veteran. He met us at another event in Prescott that we participated in the previous month.

The veteran made an appointment with us. We talked for over two hours about how the program works and answered any questions he had. From that point I talked with my wife, Carol, about the new veteran, and that we need to search for the perfect dog for Ahmed, the new veteran to the program.

Our first choice for potential service dogs is usually Yavapai Humane Society in Prescott. The people there are amazing and truly care for the animals that come through their doors.

We arrived and met a worker by the name of Brandon. I explained what we were looking for and what we do for veterans, and wouldn't you know it, he was a veteran, too.

We walked through the kennels, and the first dog I saw was Hudson, a shepherd mix. He just sat there and looked at me. After a minute or two he placed his paw on the gate as if to shake my hand. I really liked him, but was looking for something else. I told Hudson that I'd be back.

As we walked further through the facility we came upon Twinkle-Toes, who was very shy and scared. Brandon brought her out to the area where I could evaluate her. She was indeed very shy, but curious.

I had Carol bring our dog, Ike, into the area where we were evaluating. Ike is trained to help me evaluate

dogs, to test their behavior and reaction to other dogs. I really liked Twinkle-Toes and decided to take her home.

That night, we talked about Hudson and how much we liked him. The next day we went back to Yavapai Humane Society to get him and take him home.

One of our volunteers started working with Hudson, putting him through some drills, and he did great. The decision was made that Hudson would be the dog for Ahmed.

The big day came for DOGtoberfest, and we were ready and excited to be there. We told Cherie that we'd be presenting Hudson to Ahmed and would love for her to be part of it.

Ahmed showed up, and I handed him Hudson's leash. I explained that I wanted him to walk around with Hudson to get used to each other. His eyes lit up and his smile was huge as they set off on their first adventure together.

Every time I saw them, they were both smiling. At one point they were sitting down together, and it looked like they were having a conversation. Hudson was playing his favorite game of, "How many times can I lick your face in one minute?"

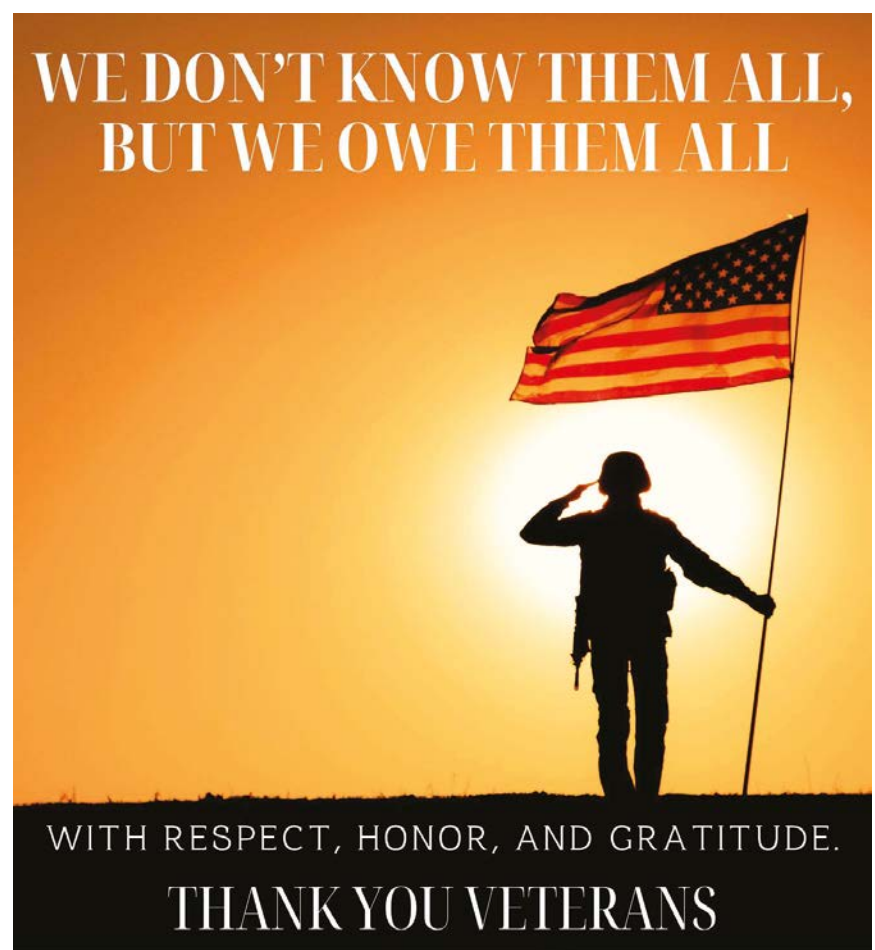
The proudest moment we can experience here at FVS is seeing the expression on the face of a veteran who receives his service dog. That's what happened at DOGtoberfest that day. We were able to share that moment with everyone there as we handed off Hudson as Ahmed's official service-dog-in-training.

I thought it would be great if For Veteran's Sake started a new tradition: let another veteran in the program present a new veteran's dog to them. Kevin was the veteran who presented Hudson to Ahmed.

Ahmed's training began that day, and it will continue for the next two years. He has so much to learn about himself and Hudson—whose name has been changed to Anubis! Their journey has begun, and new adventures await them.

In conclusion, we want to say that rescue dogs are real heroes, too. They go through so much, never understanding why they are in the position they're in. They give so much love and attention, so please give them a chance. The payoff is much greater than the expense. Our motto is a life for a life!

Rescue dogs make some of the best service dogs ever. We salute them, and the volunteers that care for them. Thank you!



GROWING UP RODEO

Story by Rita Thompson-Tinsley. Photos by Tanner Photography.

The Yavapai County Junior Rodeo Association didn't just roll out a plan for the youth of their community, they busted open the gates wide for a path to adventure, learning, challenges designed for every young age, and good clean (well, dirt is involved) physical fun, rodeo style. And the results have been resoundingly victorious.

It takes a village of passionate parents who want the best for their kids without driving extensive distances all over the big state of Arizona. So, this smart and savvy squad of Verde Valley Arizonians, remembering their own rodeo roots, rankings, and even ruckuses, created a junior rodeo to fill that void and greatly benefit their community.

This junior rodeo runs for six months, one weekend a month, beginning at the end of April to mid-September. Each rodeo begins with a grand entry and the presentation of colors. With classes for every young age group, you'll find the Pee Wee Division for ages 7 and under, the Junior Division for ages 8-12, and the Senior Division for ages 13-18.



Young cowboy Howdy Haught.

As with every junior rodeo, barrel racing and pole bending are staples. At the YCJRA in Camp Verde, the methods are designed for safety without sacrificing great fun and excitement. The younger contestants make their way around each barrel or pole while an adult, usually Mom or Dad, is in control of the lead rope attached to the horse's halter. The adult's role is to guide the young rider safely through the barrel or pole pattern until the competitor advances to the age where they will handle the horse solo, using reins.

In my visit to the final weekend rodeo event in September, I noticed that these very young contestants were riding some giant, yet gentle horses. Commonly, these are the family senior rodeo horses that have 'been there, done that'; super safe for kids on-the-job training.

Kelcy Lyons, YCJRA Secretary, award-winning local educator at Mingus Union High School, and mother of 3 junior rodeo contestants, delivers the board and event directors rodeo resumes: "Husband and Executive Board President Travis Lyons competed in AZ Junior Ro-



Kendal Frost in the grand entry, presenting colors.

deo and AZ High School Rodeo. Board VP Todd Howell grew up ranching and competing in local rodeo since childhood. Treasurer Lindsey Crockett grew up ranching and competing in rodeo."

And the list goes on and on, including Kelcy herself who competed from 1997-2005 in the AZ Junior Rodeo Association and the AZ High School Rodeo Assoc. Lyons says, "All of us still enjoy roping and competing in rodeos. However, our primary focus is now our children and instilling in them the same morals and values that we were raised with."

Just as the Yavapai County Junior Rodeo Association was developed by passion-minded, community-loving parents, the same is true for the Camp Verde Equestrian Center, piloted by Camp Verde Arena Association president, Mary Phelps. "It took the whole community, a lot of volunteer work, to create the Equestrian Center," claims Phelps.

The 39-acre multi-use facility didn't happen overnight. This project was a huge endeavor undertaken by Phelps who was determined to bring back ranch and rodeo traditions to Camp Verde. She has been successful in starting the Camp Verde Youth Rodeo and Livestock Club in efforts to give rodeo kids "...the opportunity to be part of something big, something great," says Mary Phelps who has competed in rodeos most of her life, including the High School Rodeo Association and Womens Professional Rodeo Assoc.

It is truly enriching to experience the fun and

camaraderie, the learning, and the confidence building, the personal and the inspirational connections that are undeniably witnessed in our hometown community rodeos.

According to YCJRA Kelcy Lyons, "Our association's mission is to develop skills in each rodeo event starting at a young age, in a safe and controlled environment, and then progressing in skill and speed, as they grow. We love this association and are so proud of its members, families, volunteers, and sponsors that have stepped up in a big way to support our mission. We can't wait to see where this association goes, and the legacy it will leave in our community."



Tasha Harrison pole bending.



Family audience support.



Dad Tyler Baxter with rider Brilee Baxter.

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WAG MORE, BARK LESS: THE MIRACLES AND WONDERS OF DOG-HUMAN COMMUNICATION

By Solana Kline—A lifelong dog-rescue advocate and avid back-country motorcycle adventure rider.

If your family looks like mine, it is 2/3 furry canine and 1/3 relatively hairless human. We are a dogpack. I joke that we are feral and too wild for the city, spending most of our time out-side, away from the confines of human social rules.

They know what each of the 5 or so different whistles I belt out mean. If I giggle behind them on the trail, their tails waggle faster and faster the more I laugh, responding in their own physical form of laughter. I read their body language on the trail and from this can tell if there is a person, a dog, or another animal ahead based on how they hold their head, ears, tails, bodies. I know the difference between their happy-rough-play growls and their there's-a-bear-up-there snarls.

We communicate with one another with relative ease, even though they don't speak to me in human English, and I don't speak to them in rear end sniffs. How the heck do we do this?



How does my terrier, Betty, know to come lick my face and snuggle if I am crying or hurt? How does my wiggly pitbull/boxer, Mickey, know to walk to me, boop my leg with his nose, then walk to the empty water bowl and boop it with his nose, then walk over to the water jug and boop it with his nose when he is thirsty? It is way more than me attributing human qualities to my dog's behavior, it boils down to co-evolutions between our species for thousands of years!

Dog-human communication is complex and incredible! If you spend as much time with your dog pack as I do, the ways that dogs communicate with one another and with us humanoids is absolutely amazing. This might come as no surprise to those of you that know just how long humans and dogs have been co-evolving in their day-to-day livelihoods. We (and they!) have been lucky enough to be working together symbiotically as species for roughly 10,000 years! Remains were even found of humans interred with dogs 14,000 years ago.

Dogs and humans figured out pretty quickly that they could really scratch each other's backs for survival if they worked together. The common theory is that about 10,000 years ago, humans in some areas around the world began to become more sedentary due to the transition from hunting and gathering to dependence on year-round agriculture.

While it seems humans and wolves did interact off and on before this, the relatively more



permanent agricultural communities meant more refuse and longer exposure to specific animals inhabiting the same territories. The braver wolves would scavenge from human food scrap piles and would even be rewarded with food for their work guarding the humans and their stock from other animals. Eventually, the lives of dogs and humans became so intertwined that it goes beyond transactional symbiosis, dog-human relationships in many cultures are rooted in tight knit social bonds, with humans even including dogs in their cultural myths!

Like any good relationship, communication is key. Recognizing hints of communication of others is essential for cooperation within species and across them. This level of cross-species communication is rare in the animal kingdoms, and if we pay attention, our furry friends are in constant communication with us, and us with them! Humans and dogs intuitively and actively communicate with each other through a lot of different channels such as eye contact and other senses, body language/positioning, vocal tone, and pheromones/chemical expression. Dogs are even able to translate what they are seeing and doing into communication types that humans can understand.

Working dogs and human scientists are now experimenting with various types of wearable technologies such as vests that contain sensors that the dogs can activate to communicate messages to humans. These sensors activate actions and messages, including a service dog's vest where the pup can bite a sensor that calls 911 for their



owner, or search and rescue dogs that can choose various sensors on their vests to send messages to their human searchers such as "I found the person and they are alive", "I found the person and they are deceased", "I found a trail/clothing", etc. It is clear that dogs are adept at dog-human communication and now new technologies to translate their experiences to us!

In our everyday lives, dogs read our facial and body cues, listen to our voices, and have a working database of our language and commands. As anthropocentric (human-centered) humans, we may be less adept at reading their communication strategies, but with a little more attention, we can reciprocate attentive communication with our pups to improve our relationships and interactions!



Our pups will look to us as their pack leader for communication leads. Eye contact has become a big one here! Dogs are actually naturally much more rooted in smells to "see" the world, they even have a whole chamber within their sinuses to hold smells in place so that they can continuously smell them while circular breathing through those little tear drops in their nostrils. But eye contact is one of the main

ways that humans and dogs have learned to connect with one another.

Have you ever noticed your dog's eyes and surrounding features telling you exactly what they want or need? How their eyes open wider than you ever thought possible if you feed them the most delicious treat? Or how they actually look worried when they are sick or hurt? These are very real communication strategies, just as they are for humans.



Dogs communicate with us through their tail positioning and movement, their facial expressions and head carry, body positioning, vocalizations, ear positioning, and their senses. Next time you are out with your 4 leggers, see if you can pick out their communication clues. You might notice affectionate and social bonding licking, nervous or happy smiles, a worried tail wag versus a happy one.

How many different vocal "words" does your dog have and what do they mean? What does your dog's whole body do when they want to play? How do they talk and move when they play, and how does this look different than when they are afraid/avoidant, or when they are aggressive or frustrated?

Our pups put a lot of time and attention into noticing our behaviors to make our social interactions more smooth and healthy, what if we paid them the same respect and attention? There would be a lot less confusion and uncomfortable or dangerous interactions in our cross-species interactions! Until next time, happy tails!

Editor's note: You can find extensive references and resources for Solana's article at PrescottDog.com.



From everyone at
Yavapai Humane Society,
 we extend our heartfelt
 gratitude to Cherie Dreves,
 Prescott Dog Magazine, and
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(Rescue Tales continued from page 13)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We held our first in-person adoption event in three years, and it was easier to get drivers for transports. Our Prescott contingent has since organized a weekly adoption day at Petco and registered us for several fun events in that area.

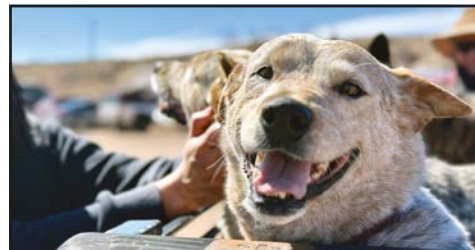


On the minus side, a lot of people had adopted pets during the pandemic, so adoptions were down (about 150 as of late September compared to 175 at this time last year). The year 2023 also marked 20 years since Blackhat was registered as a 501(c)3 nonprofit on the Navajo Nation. A lot has changed over the years, but I think the biggest thing was the advent of social media, which has helped tremendously in raising funds and placing our animals.

Opportunities for low-cost spay-neuter on the reservation have also increased considerably. At least five non-profits come to various parts of the reservation regularly to conduct spay-neuter and vaccination clinics.

Unfortunately, we're still not keeping up with the demand. Animals are still regularly dumped at windmills and gas stations, and the tribal shelters still euthanize excess animals daily. Pet owners on the Rez were recently dealt a big blow when the tribal vet clinics stopped treating small animals. There are no more tribal vets, although the last holdout, Dr. Kelly Upshaw-Bia, has started a non-profit practice specializing in spay-neuter and wellness.

Thanks to Best Friends (a large non-profit shelter and animal advocacy program in Kanab, Utah), rescue groups Navajo Nation Animal Control, and the Navajo Nation Veterinary and Livestock Program are meeting regularly and coordinating efforts. Best Friends recently set up a website at NavajoNationPets.com, that includes a calendar of all the spay-neuter clinics and acts as a clearinghouse for information.



Best Friends has dedicated new a Navajo Nation Pets website (NavajoNationPets.com) and a Facebook page (BestFriendsAnimalSociety) that act as clearinghouses for information, spay/neuter and vaccination clinic dates, and education/resources.

Fiscally, donations remained about the same while vet bills skyrocketed. Fortunately, Dr. Cat Roberts in Flagstaff offered to coordinate our fundraising activities. She has already brought in thousands of dollars in small grants as well as developed an ongoing relationship with Purina to supply our foster volunteers with dog food.

As we welcome 2024, our work is cut out for us. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

EXCITING CHANGES FOR REZ DOGS AND CATS

Blackhat Humane Society was one of the important involved reservation rescues that attended the Nihik'is Conference for Rescues on the Navajo Reservation in late August. Nihik'is is "our friends" in Navajo which conveys such a powerful message.

conference was sponsored by Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

The plight of over 300,000 street animals on Navajo Lands may feel daunting, but the exciting news is that people who can shift a change are coming together to do just that.

One big plan is for the new Western Agency Spay/Neuter Clinic and Pet Resource Center that's opening in Kayenta, thanks to another Best Friends grant. Veterinary services, pet-care information, a pet foodbank, and resources for pet issues are also offered. The big bump in the road is finding licensed vets who are able to get involved since the current providers are limited to vet technicians, who are indeed performing vital and great work for the pets in need.

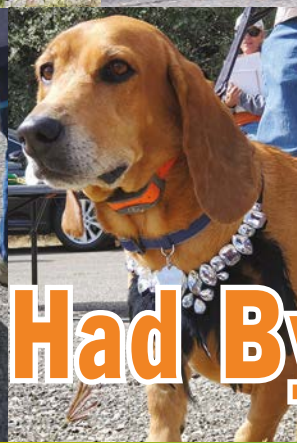
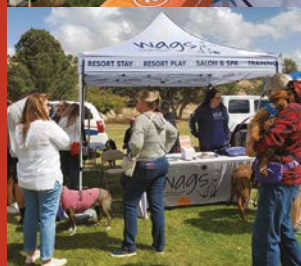
Currently, there are only four small holding buildings and four animal control officers to cover the entire four-state Navajo Nation. With assurances from Best Friends and other invested rescues, the staff at these holding buildings are trying to keep adoptable pets long enough to let them be retrieved for rehoming to other areas.

Staff are also opening up days for animal surrenders so the pets are not abandoned on the street. This makes rescue-group involvement critical and

(Rescue Tales continued page 26)

Photos by Pilar Henry

16th Annual



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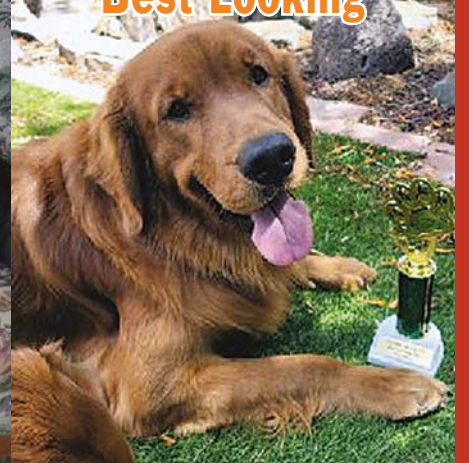
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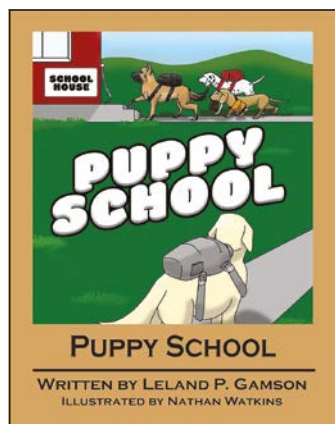
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LELAND GAMSON PUBLISHES TWO COLORFULLY ILLUSTRATED BOOKS FOR LITTLEST READERS

By Heidi Dahms Foster



Leland Gamson has put out two more of his entertaining dog books for tiny readers. The books explain different elements of dog behavior and dog wisdom in fun ways the youngest readers, (or listeners) can understand.

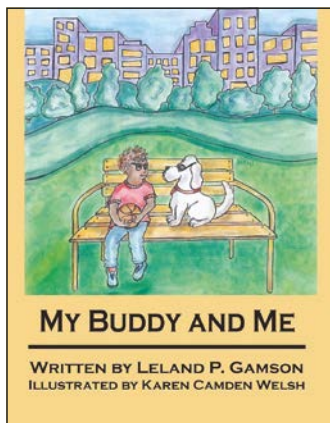
In *My Buddy and Me*, illustrated by Karen Camden Welsh, Gamson talks to youngsters about the 24 ways dogs are the same as humans, and five ways they are not. How can that be? Gamson explains: Dogs have one nose, and so do we. Both like to hike and play ball. The differences? Well, you'll have to read the book to a youngster you love to find out together.

In *Puppy School*, illustrated by Nathan Watkins, Gamson takes young readers through obedience training through the

eyes of the student pup. What will he learn? What won't he learn? Will it be like people who sometimes wonder if they'll ever use mathematics after school is out? Find out in this engaging read.

If you're looking for fun and wholesome stocking stuffers this holiday season, Leland Gamson's books are educational and fun for little readers and those who love to read to them.

Gamson, a retired U.S. Army veteran and retired Veterans Administration employee, enjoys telling animal stories to children. You can find his books through Rain Gardens Publishing in Cottonwood, Arizona or on Amazon.com. Visit the website at www.lelandgamson.com.



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FOSTER 02

VOLUNTEER 03

Time spent with a displaced pet is extremely beneficial to their well being while awaiting a new home

(Rescue Tales continued from page 23)

necessary to saving lives! If the shelters know they have prompt back-up support, it means many adoptable pets no longer need to be euthanized, which is a huge step forward for saving lives.

Best Friends is also going to collect and analyze data from the Navajo Chapters including numbers of strays, financial needs, number of dog bites, animal injuries and altercations, so priorities can be established. Again, rescues with available resources are a very important player in achieving resolution for so many animals without homes or options.

Now is the time to get involved with BlackHat Humane Society. We provide an easy way for you to help make the dire changes we need to improve animal lives for the better. Please join us to make our efforts all the more powerful. For more information, visit our website at BlackHatHumaneSociety.org.

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