

Prescott Dog

March/April 2024 • PrescottDog.com magazine



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Utah's Dazzling Gem

Mighty Mystical Ministering Minis

Paws for the Planet

Introducing Our Cover Dog – Elke

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Photo of Mitchell,
now Mickey,
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December 2023,
by Candi Carroll.

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Prescott Dog magazine

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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

Cherie L. Dreves – Publisher/Owner
PO Box 11868, Prescott AZ 86304 • (928) 445-4811
Cherie@reddogpublishing.net
Website: PrescottDog.com • Facebook:
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PUBLISHER/OWNER

Cherie L Dreves

ADVERTISING

(928) 445-4811

Cherie@reddogpublishing.net

CONTRIBUTORS

Cover Photo by Judith Dawson



Heidi Dahms Foster
Feature Writer



Cheryl Hartz
Outdoor Writer



Solana Kline
Feature Writer



Skye Lyons
Rescue Editor



Rita Thompson-Tinsley
Equestrian Writer



Elke, Our Cover Dog

My name is Dawson's Fraulein Elke. I will turn 11 on July 21, 2024.

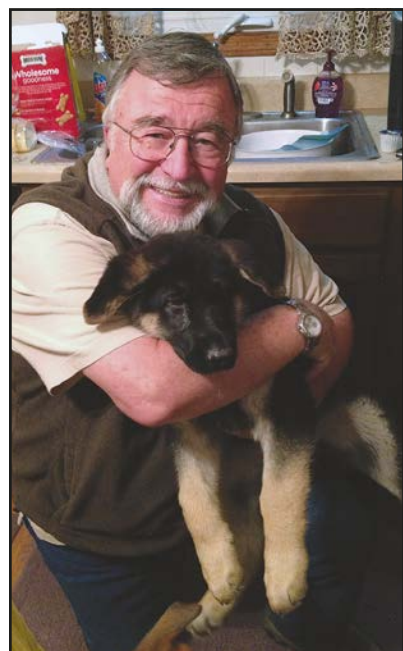
I'm from a small town outside of Buffalo, New York but moved to Arizona with my Mom and Dad eight years ago. Sometimes we drive back to New York, and we stay in hotels. Desk clerks are usually pretty surprised when they see how big I am, but I'm a good girl and don't cause any problems.

Mom and Dad wanted a puppy and drove to a farm to see my brother when I was three months old. I have a birth defect in my left front leg, and no one wanted me.

Some big kids were playing really rough with me, chasing and tackling me and I cried. So Mom picked me up and talked to the lady on the farm about me, and Mom and Dad paid money for me (and I don't think Dad even asked how much—they were going to take me) and Dad drove us home. I had an older brother waiting at home and he loved me the first time he saw me. I loved him, too. We were together over ten years.

My Mom and Dad took me for special testing (x-rays and an MRI) before I turned one, and after I was spayed to diagnose the problem with my left leg. It's a malformed joint, a birth defect.

Mom called my birth Mom to tell her and see if my brothers and sisters have the same problem. My



birth Mom said she didn't know, but Mom and Dad could bring me back to her and get another puppy. Mom said, no, Elke is our dog, but why would my birth Mom want me back. My birth Mom said she could breed me.

My Mom was pretty angry that my birth Mom would even consider breeding a dog with a birth defect, and my birth Mom hung up on her! I thought it was sort of stupid because I was spayed.

Mom hopes my birth Mom was just ill advised and not breeding dogs like me that maybe nobody will want.

When we first moved to Arizona we went for a walk—me on lead, then Mom, my brother on lead, and Dad—when an unleashed dog came out from behind some bushes and attacked my Mom and me. Mom fell and cut her forehead, knee and finger, and dislocated/broke a finger which cannot be repaired.



I stood over her until the dog's owner ran up, leashed the dog, and ran away. The attack changed the way I feel about other dogs and a lot of people. I trust very few people around my family.

My favorite toy is called Red Ball because it's a big red ball! I also have a collection of stuffed toys which I pretty much ignore now that I'm older. I like toys that have treats inside. I like standing in my wading pool.

My older brother died last July, and it was a really sad time. I still look for him. I now have a younger brother, and we mouth-wrestle. I was always called the puppy because I was the younger dog, so it's confusing when Mom and Dad talk about us: I'm older, but I'm still the puppy.

I like my new brother and we sometimes nap together. My favorite past time is taking naps. Long naps, sometimes in the sunshine.

I can't get up on furniture any more, but I like to be on a quilt at Mom's



feet or sleeping next to her side of the bed. I like to sit out and watch people when it's dark and they can't see me.

My Mom had surgery two years ago, and we spent three weeks together. Napping, watching television, sitting outside. Mom read to me. Books, magazines, anything she could get her hands on. It was really nice spending time together, although sometimes I fell asleep during the reading part.

My favorite food is steamed chicken-breast meat. I eat some of my brother's kibble now and then, but I don't really like it and only eat it to annoy him. I like to eat outside.

I used to weigh over 150 pounds, but I've slimmed down to about 125 pounds. I just don't have the big appetite I used to have. I've out-weighted Mom since I was about two years old!

Every night at bedtime, I get a doggie vanilla ice cream treat cup. I don't like chocolate and strawberry. I take a MilkBone biscuit to bed with me every night, just in case I need a snack during the night.

It's pretty amazing to me that I was born on a farm, was never inside a house until I was adopted, kids played too rough with me and hurt me, my sisters and all of my brothers except one were adopted, no one wanted me... and now I'm part of a family, living the good life in Arizona with my Mom, Dad and brother.



HAZEL HOWLS

Impending Adjustments

January was mild. February became wild and woolly and the whole family pack have their attention and longings for warm breezes and the greening of our world. Especially Pru, who is what we call fur challenged. Her short, sleek coat doesn't keep her warm very long while she's outside.

She spent a lot of time curled up against Mom or Dad whenever they sat down, and Keira started to act out a bit for consistently losing out on prime seating spots.

Mom and Dad (with some success), shopped for apparel for Pru's long, thin body to help keep her warm in travel and at daycare. Of course Keira found more reasons to be put out while watching Mom and Dad try various outfits on a squirming Pru.

What really got to Keira was Pru's excursions to daycare. It really stirs up her jealous side. There's no subtle way to hustle Pru out the door to ease Keira's feelings when getting Pru ready is a spectacle worthy of Barnum & Bailey's consideration.

Imagine, if you will: "Ladies... AND... Gentlemen! Dogs of all breeds, and children of every age! Please turn your attention to our center ring and witness a wrestling conflagration unmatched by any human's imagination! A mere mortal man will attempt to match strength, sinew, and instinct against a most cunning foe. Behold now, the fleet footed black and tan missile of pure muscle and adrenaline.

"Yes, ladies and gentlemen, a contest of man against nature. But this sleek canine is not the foe I speak of. No, the foe this man in the center ring must face... IS... the contradiction of the ages! If you will observe now, the man is holding harness, leash, collar and a sweater. Where is the contradiction, you might ask?"

"Notice now the four-footed has observed these items also. Meaning, she will now vibrate at something near 240 volts of surging adrenaline. As I speak, the image in her eyes is translated in her agile brain to... 'I'M GOING FOR A RIDE AND EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING MUST ASSIST IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS THE APPLICATION OF THE ITEMS BEFORE ME! READYSETGO!'

"Witness now the contradiction of consent in heart. And yet, ladies and gentlemen, the possible defeat of her most fervent desire by the flailing of her limbs and frantic contortions that will amaze and astound!"

Real life cue: The contortions of an overly excited Max Pin, while a certain pack Dad tries hard not to swear after discovering he put the sweater on backwards... before the harness. Now cue ever more frantic uncooperative contortions as sweater is removed and harness applied. (Kudos to Dad as not a harsh word was said... this time.)



Me



Promise Prudence Pepper

After a hard-won victory, and our two main attractions have departed to dog daycare, Keira sometimes took to whining and nose whistling while wandering around the house.

So with a mopey Golden and a collective edge of wariness while waiting for Spring, Tucker and I (the two seniors) knew from our family-pack experiences that Mom and Dad were going to make some adjustments.

Tucker and I adapted to Pru's exuberance and insisting on being the center of everything (especially with Dad) pretty quickly. Keira, not so much.

Keira, until the surprise arrival of Promise Prudence Pepper, had assumed that, as the youngest, she would always be the baby of the family. Being a Golden (you know Golden's believe they are the most fantastic and beautiful breed of dog ever to grace the earth) added to her jealousy and downcast mood.

At first, Dad and Mom were pretty sure Pru was a Min Pin or a mix thereof, but Pru grew longer than the King of Toy Breeds, and Mom and Dad realized they actually had adopted a Max Pin.

"Max" might have been an understatement for Pru, and after a couple of months Dad and Mom decided Pru needed a bit of socialization to tamp down and the burn off some of her excess energy and learn to be corrected by other dogs outside her pack without taking offense. It also gave Keira and Mom a break at home.

nope. It was Keira.

In the midst of the coldest and winteriest stretch of days, and not all that long ago, a decision was made on behalf of the pack.

Keira was going to try out Daycare... solo.

Well, that was interesting turn of events. So, with baited breath, we're waiting for Mom and Dad's schedule to align for Keira's first daycare.

Yesterday was relatively warm compared to the recent past, and I thought I'd get Tucker's take on Keira's soon-coming adventure while we both pretended it was warm enough to lay out in the sun.

"If I was a betting dog, I'd put my money on a very short trial run at Daycare," said Tuck.

I shifted my position to get a better look at Tucker. His humor is so dry sometimes, I can't always tell when he's serious. "Why do you think Keira won't take to it, Tuck?"

"Keira will probably be fine. It's Pru that's going to have quite a bit to say about being left behind."

I stood up to shake off the cold from the ground. "Oh my Tuck, I didn't even think about that."

Tucker stood up to stretch. "Haze, I believe we are in for a very interesting Spring."

I have to admit, I think he's right.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog



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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.net.

BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Shows adoptable dogs at Prescott Petco, 1:30p Saturdays. More info: blackhathumanesociety.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: 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: misskittyscatthouse.com.

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS. For an up-to-date list of our dog & cat adop-

tion 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 EQUINE CENTER. Tour our center: 928-515-4947.

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY (YHS)

- 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.
- 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.

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

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- Mar 9, 10a-12p. Olsen's Grain, 711 Elrod Rd (S of US Post Office), Prescott.
- Mar 30, 10a-12p. Petsmart, 1121 S Plaza Way, Flagstaff.

CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK EVENTS
For further info or to register online, visit cvequestrianpark.org

- March 23-24, Cowboy Challenge Clinics and Competitions and EXCA Races with EXCA Champion Mary Rose Anderson.
- April 6, CVEP All-Breed Open Horse Show, Buckle Series.
- April 7, CVEP Driving Show in New Driving Arena.
- April 27, Hunter Jumper Lessons & Schooling Show with Trainer Megan Bennett.

Rescue Resources

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



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6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer
aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com
928-925-7219, aarfrescue.net

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623-780-1604, animalguardiannetwork.org

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928-632-9559, bradshawmountainwildlife.com

HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE

11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff
928-526-0742
highcountryhumane.org

TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY

928-793-2364,
tubacityhumanesociety.org

ARK CAT SANCTUARY

dlrraz.org
Parks, 635-5909
arkcatsanctuary.org

CENTRAL ARIZONA ANIMAL SEARCH & RESCUE

Camp Verde, 520-921-9974
centralarizonaanimalsearchandrescuellc.com

HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA

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928-474-5590
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OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY FUN ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG INCREASING ALL THE TIME

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Today, those who enjoy activities with their dog have an ever-increasing number of options to choose from. Many of those are available locally or within a reasonable drive from the Quad Cities area.

Dog activities have several beneficial side effects: training and competing translates to quality time spent with your dog, which improves your bond; and participation in dog activities keeps your and your dog active, thus healthier.

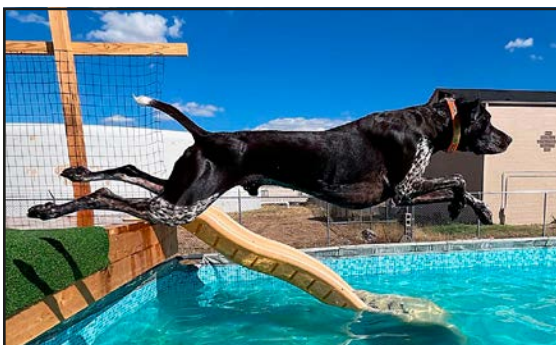
You can find fulfilling activities that fit both you and your dog's activity level, physical abilities and aptitudes. Most organized dog sport events welcome both purebred and mixed breed competitors, and many can be adapted to physical disabilities. Whatever activity you choose, you can enjoy being out, getting exercise, meeting new people, and enhancing your relationship with your pet.

Most activities in the Quad City area are facilitated by clubs, whether generic or single breed registries. Some may require a tracking number to compete, which can be obtained for a small one-time fee. Some of the clubs offer training and practices. It's a great time to try something new, so check out some of these opportunities available in our area.

Dock Diving: This sport is becoming more popular throughout the U.S. In 2023, dog trainers K9 Synergy brought dock diving to the Quad Cities area, an exciting addition to local dog sports.

In dock diving, your dog waits on a 40-foot dock. You throw his toy, and on command he runs, leaps off the dock and into a specialized pool, and retrieves his toy. The goal is to have the longest jump, and like most dog sports, there are beginner through advanced classes. As your dog advances, there are other classes such as air retrieve, where your dog must jump and retrieve or remove a bumper above the dock.

For more information about this relatively new sport, search dock diving on AKC.org or visit NorthAmericaDivingDogs.com.



Dock diving in K9 Synergy's new pool. Photo courtesy K9 Synergy.

K9 Synergy has confirmed a 2024 season. "We are planning to open the pool in April," said Lead Trainer Chris Stauffer. "We will offer guided splashes for people interested in dock diving, dogs that don't know how to swim, and for confidence building! We also offer unguided splashes for people that have used the pool before, and are familiar with the rules and safety procedures. The pool is 35' long by 16' wide, and 52" deep with a 20-foot dock sitting two feet above the surface of the water. This year we have an upgraded aluminum, 3-foot wide ramp!"

For information on K9 Synergy's 2024 dock diving season, visit K9SynergyDogTraining.com or message them on Facebook at [K9SynergyPrescott](https://www.facebook.com/K9SynergyPrescott).



Agility is an active partnership. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.

Agility: Agility is essentially a timed obstacle course for you and your dog, that becomes more complicated as levels advance. While you may have seen some spectacular runs on television during national competitions and said, "I can't do that!" agility is obtainable for all levels.

While it certainly is a physical sport for both handler and dog, handlers can adjust. Handlers have even learned to direct their dogs from a scooter, or with minimal movement. This requires training the dog to take direction from a distance, and many do it phenomenally well. Adjustments in time and obstacles are

also made for more senior dogs and handlers.

Whether your challenge is to simply make it through a course within the time limit, or to compete at the highest levels, it's all great fun, and a great run is a thing of beauty.

Obedience: Long a staple of trainers who want to enjoy a little competition, obedience is still a great test of your handler/dog relationship. Obedience is a stepping stone to so many other sports, because control of your dog is crucial not only for success and safety in daily life, but even more so in activities where your dog will be off leash, and often in unfamiliar areas.

Obedience titles can be earned at the levels from the beginning Companion Dog to the upper lev-



Megan Sims Kennedy of Painted Seven Ranch takes her dog through a rally course. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.

els of Utility, where a dog must perform scent work and directed work away from the handler.

Both the American Kennel Club and the Australian Shepherd Club of America offer classes from Beginner Novice to advanced levels. Mixed breed dogs are welcome in these events with a tracking number.

Rally Obedience: This wildly popular sport is a wonderful challenge for dogs and owners. In traditional obedience trials, the dog/handler team completes a standard course at the judge's direction, with the only interaction between dog and handler the initial command at the beginning of each exercise.

In Rally Obedience, each trial is made up of a timed course of signs. The team is given a signal to begin, and the handler/dog completes the course on their own.

In all but the most advanced levels, the handler may talk to the dog and use hand signals to help things along. The courses offer fun interaction with your dog and a great sense of accomplishment at mastering the varying courses and the dog/handler relationship needed to complete the Rally levels.

Barn Hunt: Barn Hunt is another dog sport that is becoming ever more popular. In Barn Hunt, dogs of all breeds hunt rats (protected in strong, aerated PVC tubes) in a maze of straw bales. The dog must find the hidden rats, indicate the find, and the handler must "call" the find.



Dogs navigate a straw-bale maze to find protected rats. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.

The real challenge is that every dog indicates a find differently and handlers must learn to read that individual dog. In each level, the dog must also complete a tunnel and a "climb" on one or more bales.

Like most dog sports, there are a number of levels, with added rats and course challenges. Barn hunt rats are most often pampered pets of the sport enthusiasts and rules for their care, handling and protection are strict.

While Barn Hunt is not currently available in the Quad City area, there is a working club in Casa Grande. Visit them at CasaGrandeBarnHunt.com or BarnHunt.com.

Two relatively new dog sports include Scent Work and Trick Dog, both American Kennel Club events that are open to mixed breed dogs with a tracking number as well.

(Please visit PrescottDog.com to read the rest of the story)



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Dog - Male	\$180	\$130	Microchip	\$20
			Package pricing available	

The Snip n' Go Clinic is open by appointment only. Visit unitedanimalfriends.org/spay-and-neuter-clinic or scan the QR code for details and appointment availability. Appointments made online. Services are limited to spay/neuter, vaccines and microchip only.



*Prices subject to change. Proof of income required to qualify for low-income pricing.



FURR-TASTIC FINDS RESCUE RESALE

510 S. Montezuma St, Prescott
928.910.3985 uafresale@gmail.com



Open 10:00 to 4:00 Thursday thru Saturday

Proceeds help animals in need

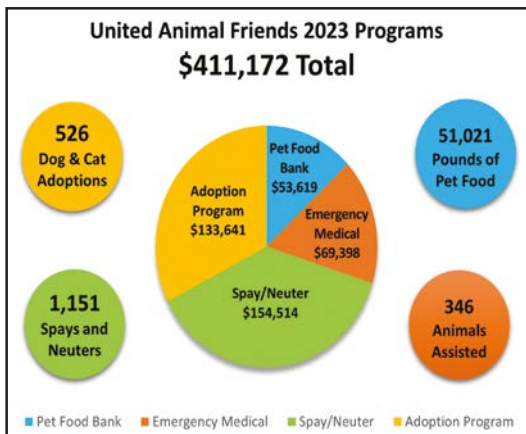
Fill a Furr-equent Shopper Card for \$15 off

Donations gratefully accepted at the rear of the store, which is reached through the back alley. Look for the UAF banner on the wooden fence. Due to limited space, we are unable to accept mattresses or large furniture, appliances, electronics, or exercise/sporting equipment.

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS ON A RESCUE MISSION

United Animal Friends is celebrating the successes of 2023! Even though the new year is well underway, it's always inspiring to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year. For the animals, neighbors, and friends of the UAF community, 2023 was indeed terrific. Just look at these terrific numbers:

- **Adoption Program:** Thanks to our supporters, volunteers, and partners, we were able to invest \$133,641 in our lifesaving Adoption Program, which allowed us to find loving homes for 526 dogs and cats.
- **Pet Food Bank:** We spent \$69,398 for our Pet Food Bank program, allowing us to distribute 51,021 pounds of pet food, feeding an average of 536 community pets per month!
- **Spay & Neuter Program:** Together, we contributed \$154,514 toward the spay or neuter of 1,151 cats and dogs, which will prevent thousands of unwanted litters!
- **Emergency Medical Program:** With our community's incredible support, we spent \$69,398 to help pay for the critical veterinary needs of 326 cats and dogs!



We also made extraordinary progress at the UAF Rescue Ranch, including the expansion of our "mom and pups" facilities and the start-up of our Snip n' Go Clinic, which has already spayed, neutered, and vaccinated hundreds of community cats and dogs at affordable prices. Your donations, adoptions, participation in our fundraisers, and purchases at the Furr-tastic Finds Rescue Resale Store all contribute to our success.

We are honored by your support throughout 2023, and we hope you'll help us do even more in 2024! Please follow us on Facebook or visit UnitedAnimalFriends.org to watch us grow.

Adjusting our Approach to the Reservation Pet Population Problem



Do you ever wonder about the fate of up to 400,000 street dogs on the reservation, many of whom may not be considered adoptable in the traditional sense? But they are still sentient beings with feelings and needs.

When Blackhat President Cindy Yurth and her husband went to Nepal, combining a trek with an animal welfare research venture, it propelled an approach that has certainly been kicked around but we do not seem to solidify.

As on the Rez, every town and village in Nepal has a population of resident street dogs. And as on the Rez, they are tolerated; with some people who are annoyed and some who are caring and feeding them. As with traditional Navajos, they are not welcome inside homes and are not kept as pets in the same practice other areas follow.

But the Nepalis do recognize their value as they alert the community to burglars and intruders, and people do feed them since a content dog is less likely to attack livestock and more likely to protect their feeders. There is even a festival called Kukur Tihar where the Nepalis celebrate their relationship with street dogs and decorate them with garlands of marigolds.

Cindy observed that the street dogs in Nepal seemed healthier and had better weight than many of the struggling Rez dogs. They also have organizations that help street dogs, through the Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust and the Community Dog Welfare Center in Kathmandu. And they advocate vetting and sterilizing them before returning the dogs to the only life they know and are comfortable with. Similar progress can be seen



Lucy, in Prescott

on the Rez with focus on mobile vetting clinics, but sadly way more dogs are euthanized as a quick fix. Maybe a better and more compassionate approach is to focus on the sterilization and continued care of the adult dog population, pulling the babies and adoptable pups for socializing and grooming as family pets. We can still honor the lives of dogs who have no desire to sleep in our beds with us and respect their right to live. The question we need to ask ourselves is—are we capable of keeping space for those who have different needs and cannot conform to our presumption of value? Can we nurture and respect the dogs for who they are, just as we are learning to do for feral cat colonies?

Laws and attitudes will have to change on the Navajo Nation in order to allow citizens to feed and sterilize free-roaming animals; it's not a decision outside groups can make for the tribe. But how we choose to treat those living beings that are not necessarily a part of our inner world speaks to who we are as a caring society, and I hope we are able to make the right choices.

If you want to help, there are so many opportunities to honor these dogs and provide for a quality of life. Every Reservation Chapter has caring people who, with support, can feed and vet the older street dogs. Or if you would consider a pup who has been given a chance to get off the street and can be part of a family, please visit BlackHatHumaneSociety.org to see our adoptable pets.

Together, we can still make a difference for those dogs who are both unsocialized or ready for a better life. We can show a reverence for all life if we are willing to make that effort.

FETCH YOUR STICKS!

For the Yavapai County Search & Rescue Search Dog Unit's
2nd Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

May 11, 2024

Registration: 6:45 a.m.

Shot Gun Start: 8 a.m.



Stoneridge Golf Course • 1601 N. Bluff Top Dr. • Prescott

All proceeds go to the Yavapai County Search Dog Unit for dog certifications, training and supplies for the dogs, their handlers, and their flankers.

Register early to get your spot, they fill up fast! 1 Person for \$130, and a 4some for \$500. Lunch and a swag bag are included. Plenty of raffles, a 50/50 drawing mulligans prizes, and MUCH MORE!

Contact: Patty Richardson at 661-229-7320 • Email: pattyrichardsonsarsdu@gmail.com



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Who is AARF Animal Rescue?

You often see our stories here, but we aren't how familiar readers are with who we are, or why we are different. Even though pet-rescue missions are similar, every rescue creates their own vision and identity. We're grateful to be part of this collective rescue mission. As we enter our sixth year, we're also grateful our vision came to life with tons of volunteer labor and donations.

AARF is known as the Out of the Shelters Ranch. Set on ten acres dedicated to our dog residents, the ranch has heated and cooled bunkhouses and large, open pens for exercise and socialization.

No dog is ever without a home here. Returns stay until they are re-adopted into forever homes. A few are considered sanctuary dogs but, again, that's only until their special someone comes along and takes them home. We encourage people to come spend time with a dog they might be interested in, so they get to know each other better.

Volunteers are the wheels that keep us moving forward, and we truly have amazing ones. They come Monday through Saturday to walk, play with, and train each dog on the property. Of



course, our Puppy Palace is a magnet when little residents are there, which is often!

We love to share with folks and welcome anyone who wants a tour: just give us a call. Out of the Shelters Ranch has been called magical, a place where you can forget everything else and just feel and absorb the surroundings.

We have a beautiful barn for meet-and-greets, or spending time with the dogs. We have two play yards and are starting a walking/scenting area to give the dogs more mental stimulation. We also have a golf cart to take you around if you have difficulty walking distances. Come sit in our memory area and reflect, in our barn and chat... or pet a pup, or join a dog for play. Come learn about us.

AARF began with a dream and has given close to 500 dogs their chance to have a new life with special people. Our goal: Saving One by One, Until There Are None.

Rescue has never been easy: it's a daunting task, given today's throwaway mentality. Last year, we took in owner-surrenders, pups being given away at Wal-Mart, seniors from a hoarder, pups from Mexico and the reservations, a veteran's best friend and her babies (that was temporary for mom). Each resident gives us hope for the next, and the next.

You can see our adoptables can be seen on Petfinder, if not in person. Please consider a rescue.



It's hard to understand why some animals don't get looked at, especially when one is as loving as Hash-brown. Unfortunately, temperament aside, looks, age, and size can make a dog hard to adopt. That was the case for good ole Hashbrown. – a hundred-pound, 8yr old, hound mix.

Hashbrown originally came to Yavapai Humane Society as a surrender back in February, of 2022. After six months of waiting, he finally got adopted. Sadly, he didn't stay out for long, after nine months, Hashbrown was returned due to an unfortunate change in his owner's home life.

Days, weeks, and months passed before anyone asked about Hashbrown. Then one day, a woman by the name of Doris came in and asked about him. She saw his photo on our website and thought he was so handsome. Hashbrown was the first dog on her list and ended up being the last! After spending some time with him, Doris saw his potential and wanted to adopt.

Hashbrown has settled into his new home! Doris said they had to work through some separation anxiety, but otherwise, he has done well. Hashbrown loves going out for walks multiple times a day, receiving belly rubs on his "big round tummy", and even gets along with his cat sibling. Sounds like Hashbrown has finally found his forever home!



Happy Shelter Tears

The happiest tears we see around the shelter are those on the faces of Verde Valley Humane staff and volunteers crying when our residents go off to loving adopters and real homes. Recently, I talked with adopters and heard three happy-ending adoption stories: Margo left us after 725 days in the shelter. Eugene left after 560. And Blue's story is too sweet not to share.

Eugene

Eugene was the classy white-and-black, mixed breed pup who at nine years old starred as our golf tournament poster boy. Famous as a Shelter Kisses artist, he even modeled for our

scooter raffle. Remembered by all for his distinguished eyebrows, and loved by staff and volunteers, Eugene spent 560 days in our shelter until this January, when his true love found him.

Once he loved splashing in our kiddie pool. Now he lives by the river, and has three acres of yard to call his own and a horse friend to visit. His young woman gives him love, attention, shared adventures, and the life he was meant to live.

Margo

Margo's adopter calls her "The best dog ever," and "The perfect family dog." She came to us with a plastic wire embedded in her neck, so we know her early life was not great. After 725 days in the shelter, she was



Eugene and his girl

adopted and blossomed into a happy, loving, perfect companion for a pair of empty nesters.

Besides hanging out with a remote worker, she sleeps a lot, goes for walks and car rides, and swims in her pool. She may never have been an indoor dog before, and had to be taught she could jump on the couch. Her adopters shared that they're sure the staff and volunteers at the Verde Valley Humane shelter were the reason Margo stayed so happy and adapted so well to her new home. They remembered our staff was crying happy tears as Margo left with her new family.

Blue

Blue was a big, muscular one-year-old girl looking for love. Her guy came, and it was love at first sight. He

took her home for a trial adoption, and she jumped his fence. He worried she'd get hurt. Or get in trouble. With sadness he returned her to us.

She stopped eating. He couldn't stop thinking about her. He built two five-foot-tall fences and came back for his girl. Imagine a *Top Gun* reunion.

Together at last, they are inseparable. He calls her his soul dog. He thinks she's the smartest dog, plus has a sense of humor. She goes everywhere with him. Get him started and he can't stop talking about her and claims three hours of spooning with her cured his cold. In a few months they'll be moving to California—with their fence.

These three stories show both happy endings and happy beginnings. So many dogs like Margo, Eugene, and Blue still wait for a special person to open their heart. Visit our Verde Valley Humane Society website at verdevalleyhumane.org to see if one is waiting for you at the Verde Valley Humane Society shelter in Cottonwood.

TAIL WAGS AND HAPPY BARKS: CELEBRATING DOG APPRECIATION AND CANINE FITNESS MONTH

By Jeri Denniston

Dogs, our furry companions, hold a special place in our hearts. Their unwavering loyalty, unconditional love, and playful spirit enrich our lives in countless ways. Beyond the emotional connection, however, appreciating our canine friends means ensuring their well-being through proper care, including a focus on their physical fitness. Let's delve into the wonderful world of dog appreciation and explore how fitness plays a crucial role in their happy and healthy lives.

A Celebration of Canine Companionship

Dogs have co-evolved alongside humans for millennia, forging a unique bond unlike any other animal relationship. They offer companionship, emotional support, and even therapeutic benefits. Studies have shown that interacting with dogs reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, and enhances overall well-being. Their playful nature encourages us to be more active, and their unwavering love provides comfort and security. Celebrating dog appreciation goes beyond a day or a month; it's a commitment to understanding their needs and providing them with a fulfilling life.

While I'm not currently a dog owner, my husband and I have owned three during our 37 years of marriage. I remember one incident with our second dog, a rottweiler/lab mix we adopted from a local animal shelter. She was small for her breed, only 65 pounds. One day we were hiking the hills behind our house in San Diego. As we descended a particularly slippery section with lots of shale, I stumbled and nearly fell. She had been a few yards ahead of me and sensed my discomfort. She came back to my side and stood there with her neck rigid so I could hold onto the top of her head and carefully take one step and then another through the slippery area. I took a step, and she took a step until we got to a more level area where my footing was more secure. Then I praised her and let her run ahead. It still gives me goosebumps as I write this. This was evidence that when we treat our pets with love and fairness, as we would our own children, they return that love and affection tenfold.

Fueling Happy Hounds: The Importance of Diet

Just like with us humans, diet plays a crucial role in canine health and fitness. Choosing the right food ensures your dog receives the necessary nutrients to thrive. Consider factors like age, breed, activity level, and any potential health concerns when selecting food. We found that most store-bought pet food contained both fish meal and corn which our dogs did not digest well. The best, affordable dog food for us was a lamb and rice kibble we bought in 40-lb. bags from Costco. All our dogs were quite happy with that.

One funny story I recall when we adopted our third dog, a 5-year-old, 95-pound Rottweiler-Shepherd mix. When we brought her home from the animal shelter, we purchased a small bag of senior kibble as her food. We poured some in the bowl for her and she sniffed it, then looked at us as though to say, "Really?" You expect me to eat this?" I remember pushing it toward her to get her to eat. Her response was to bring her paw down on the bowl and flip it over. Kibble everywhere. I guess she told us! We returned the bag to the store and got a growing dog version of the lamb and rice kibble which she was quite happy with. Your pet will definitely communicate with you if you just pay attention!

If you don't know what food to choose, or your pet is a bit on the heavy side, you may want to consult your veterinarian for personalized recommendations. Specific dietary needs can vary considerably between breeds

and even individual dogs. High-quality food rich in protein, healthy fats, and essential vitamins and minerals forms the foundation of a healthy canine diet. Avoid overfeeding, though, as obesity is a major concern in dogs, leading to joint problems, respiratory issues, and other health complications. We also never fed our dogs table scraps so they didn't get trained to beg for food when we sat down to eat. They were all really good about just laying at our feet or under the table to be near us regardless of whether we ate at the dining room table, outside on the patio, or even snacked on the couch. And we always kept fresh water in their bowl. No drinking out of the toilet.

Beyond the Leash: Unleashing Fitness Fun

Physical activity is vital for maintaining your dog's physical and mental well-being. Daily walks are a good starting point, but tailoring exercise to your dog's breed, age, and energy level is crucial. High-energy breeds may require playtime, fetch sessions, or even dog sports like agility or flyball. Older dogs may benefit from swimming or low-impact activities like sniffing walks. Remember, mental stimulation is equally important. Engage your dog with interactive toys, puzzle feeders, or training sessions to keep their minds sharp and prevent boredom.

Our large Rotty-mix loved chasing a laser pointer. My husband discovered this when we were visiting with her at the animal shelter. His watch caught the light and reflected on the ground. She immediately went to chase it. So he tested how far she would go by moving the reflection to his shoe. She stood over his shoe but would not paw the light, just stared at it until he moved it to the wall or the floor. Then, like a cat, she chased the light pawing at the reflection but not if it landed on any person's body. Smart dog. That was a key selling point for him to agree to adopt her.

Another thing she loved was to play fetch. Only her version of fetch was to drag over 5-foot branches in the yard for us to throw. Yes, she would chase balls, but she loved bringing us the large branches that had fallen after a storm.

On the other hand, our smaller Rotty-mix never learned to play fetch. We tried a variety of toys from nyla bones to dong bells with peanut butter inside and even yarn toys. She simply destroyed them. The larger Rotty-mix would bury them in the yard and we never found them again. Our first dog was a boxer. She loved the nyla bones and would chew on those for hours. Her favorite thing though when we went walking was to go jumping through thick brush when we took her to areas where she could run off-leash. I had trained her to come back when called and she never ran away from us. But it was hilarious to see her disappear into a thick hedge and then pop up and down as she made her way through it. Once she was doing this on a hillside and when I called her back, she took a flying leap and ended up rolling head over heels down the slope. She was uninjured, thankfully, but what a picture to see! She also exercised herself in our backyard, running five laps across the yard, down the slope, and back again to the house, at top speed. Then she'd come into the house, drink water, and collapse on the floor panting. She was in such great shape as a result, all toned muscle and strong.

Tips for Safe and Effective Exercise

If your dog is not fitness-oriented like my boxer was, these tips may be helpful:

- Warm-up and cool-down: Just like us, dogs need to warm up before exercise and cool down after-

wards. Start with a brisk walk and gradually increase intensity, and end with a gentle stroll.

- Listen to your dog: Pay attention to your dog's body language and energy levels. If they seem tired, panting excessively, or limping, stop the activity and rest.
- Mind the weather: Avoid exercising during extreme temperatures or on hot pavement. Choose shady areas during the day and opt for early morning or evening walks when it's cooler. And if your dog is part of the husky breed like our neighbors' two malamutes, letting them romp and lay around in the snow is an absolute must!
- Hydration is key: Carry water and offer it to your dog frequently during exercise, especially on hot days.
- Carry a poop bag: It's a natural thing. Your pet may pee and poop during the walk so pick up after it, especially if you're walking in a residential area. Tip: if you take the time when you first get your pet, you can train your dog to only poop in a specific area of your backyard rather than all over. Cleaning up is less of a hassle that way.
- Gradual progression: If your dog is starting a new exercise routine, gradually increase duration and intensity to avoid injuries.
- Consult your veterinarian: It's always wise to consult your vet before starting a new exercise program, especially if your dog has any pre-existing health conditions.

Holistic Care for Happy Hounds

While diet and exercise are the foundation of canine fitness, holistic care encompasses other aspects of your dog's well-being. Making sure you take the role of the pack leader is important as well so your pet understands his/her role in the family structure. We followed the Dog Whisperer, Cesar Milan's, approach with our dogs, and the results were amazing. Our pets were loving, obedient, loyal, well-behaved, and respectful of us and our friends.

Regular veterinary checkups ensure early detection and treatment of potential health issues. Dental hygiene, including regular brushing and professional cleanings, is crucial for overall health. Regular grooming if your dog has long hair or a thick coat keeps the fur from getting matted. Preventive measures like parasite control and vaccinations protect your dog from harmful diseases. We always checked our dogs for ticks when we returned from hikes in the hills to be safe.

Socialization and mental stimulation are just as important as physical activity. Provide your dog with opportunities to interact with other dogs and people in safe and controlled environments. It's good training for your dog as well so they learn how to behave around your human guests and their furry friends.

Every Wag and Body Wiggle Tells a Story

Dogs enrich our lives in countless ways, offering companionship, love, and unwavering loyalty. Celebrating their presence goes beyond treats and toys; it's a commitment to their well-being. By prioritizing proper diet, tailored exercise, and holistic care, we can ensure our furry friends live long, healthy, and happy lives. So, the next time you find yourself gazing into your dog's loving eyes, remember that their well-being is in your hands. Let's celebrate their presence by fostering their physical and mental fitness, ensuring every wag and body wiggle tells the story of a happy and healthy canine companion.



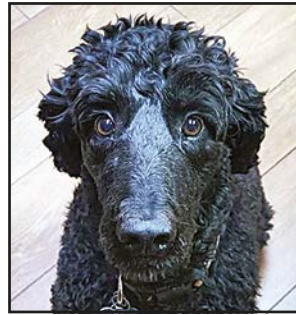
PEDRO: A golden male Chihuahua mix. He is a kindhearted gentleman who is looking for the perfect lap for resting his head and have pets. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



BOBA: An adorable 7-month-old male longhair Chihuahua. Loves to run around the yard as fast as he can, cuddle on the sofa or bed, and play with toys. Good with dogs and cats. United Animal Friends 928-778 928-778-2924



MILA: A very special 8-year-old golden retriever mix. She has a big heart and is very loving. She loves walks and fetching balls. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



DOC HOLLIDAY: A sweet 7-year-old black Standard Poodle. He is very intelligent, loves to cuddle, and relishes attention. United Animal Friends 928-778 928-778-2924



MOLLY: A sweet and large terrier mix. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666



SHORTCAKE: A 4-month-old mix of many breeds, weighing 18 pounds now. She has short legs, a long tail, and big smile. She is sweet and loves everyone. Animal Friends 928-778-2924



JACK: A 1-year-old male Rottweiler/German Shepherd mix. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666



LOUISE: This sweet 4-month-old puppy is a labrador/blue heeler mix. She is sweet, snuggly, and smart, already learning basic obedience. Blackhat Humane Society/foster 928-890-2880



FINN: A 4-year-old male Retriever/Labrador mix. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666



LUCY: A female 4-month-old Labrador/blue heeler mix. She is sweet, snuggly, and smart, already learning basic obedience. Blackhat Humane Society/foster 928-890-2880



ROSIE: A 1-year-old Australian Shepherd/Husky mix. She is black and tan with one blue eye and one brown. She is full of energy, with an enchanting personality and a heart full of love. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



BOUDICA: A young female Australian Cattle Dog mix. She is sweet, affectionate, active, and smart. She loves everyone and is good with other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society/foster Jess Fort at jfort@nndfw.org



COLE: A 1-year-old male terrier mix. He looks like an Irish Wolfhound, only smaller. He's very sweet, loving, and smart. Knows basic commands, loves playing fetch, learning tricks, and walks. United Animal Friends 928-778 928-778-2924



LOKI: A 3-year-old male English Bulldog/Pug mix. He weighs 50 pounds. He is very loveable and playful. He is good with other dogs. Yavapai Humane Trappers @ yavitrappers@gmail.com



DAISY: An adult female Chihuahua who weighs 10 pounds. She loves to give kisses and will spend an entire afternoon on your lap. Walks well on a leash, rides in the car. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



MAEVE: A young female Catahoula Leopard dog around 7 months old. She is very sweet and smart. Chino Valley Animal Shelter 928-636-4223 ext 7



HARLEY: Male Australian Cattle Dog mix, 4 months old. He is a good boy who sleeps through the night, is crate trained, and is doing well with house training. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



TURKEY: Australian Kelpie mix, 2yo male. Big, loving, energetic. Good w/children, needs to be the only dog. House-trained. Chino Valley Animal Shelter 928-636-4223, ext 7



DAVINCI: A male adult Shih Tzu. He is gentle and quiet, but a bit shy at first. Once he warms up, he is affectionate and very sweet. Petey's Playground 928-671-8084



LEO: A 1-year-old male mixed breed. He is affectionate and knows how to use a doggy door. AARF 928-925-7219



TOMMY: A small male wirehaired terrier. He is gentle, affectionate, playful, and smart. He wants all the attention you can give him. Good with other dogs. Petey's Playground 928-671-8084



KITTY: An adult female Boxer mix. She is a gentle, mid-sided dog who loves walks and all the love you can give her. She will return every bit of that love you give. AARF 928-925-7219



STUBBY: A very sweet adult male Manchester Terrier. He is friendly, gentle, and quiet. Good with other dogs and cats. Petey's Playground 928-671-8084



PECAN: One of three puppies, Pecan, Almond, and Peanut. Best guess is Chihuahua and Fox Terrier mix. They are very small, but sweet and fun. AARF 928-925-7219



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BERNIE: Mixed breed, 9mo, 65 lbs, leash- & house-trained. Good w/ other dogs & children. AARF. Please call Bernie's foster at 928-909-2077.



SUGAR BEAR: A 6yo female terrier/American Pitbull mix. Sweet & rambunctious, she's looking for her forever home. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



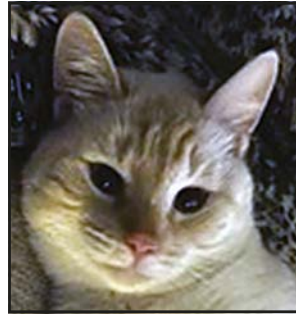
BOOBOO: A beautiful 2-year-old House Panther! All black female with golden eyes. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666



POPPY: A beautiful calico with unique markings. She is 8 months old and very sweet. Catty Shack cattyshackrescue.org



BALKI: A most handsome 5-year-old white with brown male. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666



MALAKAI: A cream male with bright blue eyes that will steal your heart. He is a sweet and loving cat who will make a perfect pet. He is maybe 8 months old. Yavapai Humane Trappers yavapaihumanetrappers.org



HENRY: A cute 1-year-old orange male with white trim. He is sweet, friendly, and a talker. He loves attention. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



LIL GUS: A sweet and loving kitten. For more information, please contact Petey's Playground at peteysplayground@gmail.com



SALLY: A beautiful dilute tortoiseshell lady. She is very sweet, cuddles a bit, and is very gentle. Her owner passed away, and she would love a new home of her own. Miss Kitty's Cat house 928-445-5411



POWDER: A most elegant all-white female with stunning blue eyes. Very sweet lady. For more information, please contact Petey's Playground at peteysplayground@gmail.com



LICORICE: A very handsome black and white fellow with the cutest face. He is 8 months old. Catty Shack cattyshackrescue.org



ASHWAY: A very handsome 2-year-old cream with white male. He is good with dogs and is beginning to ask for attention and pets. Blackhat Humane Society 575-999-6236



Adopt a Horse from Yavapai Humane Society



PATCHES
A 7-year-old grade pinto mare. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-515-4947.



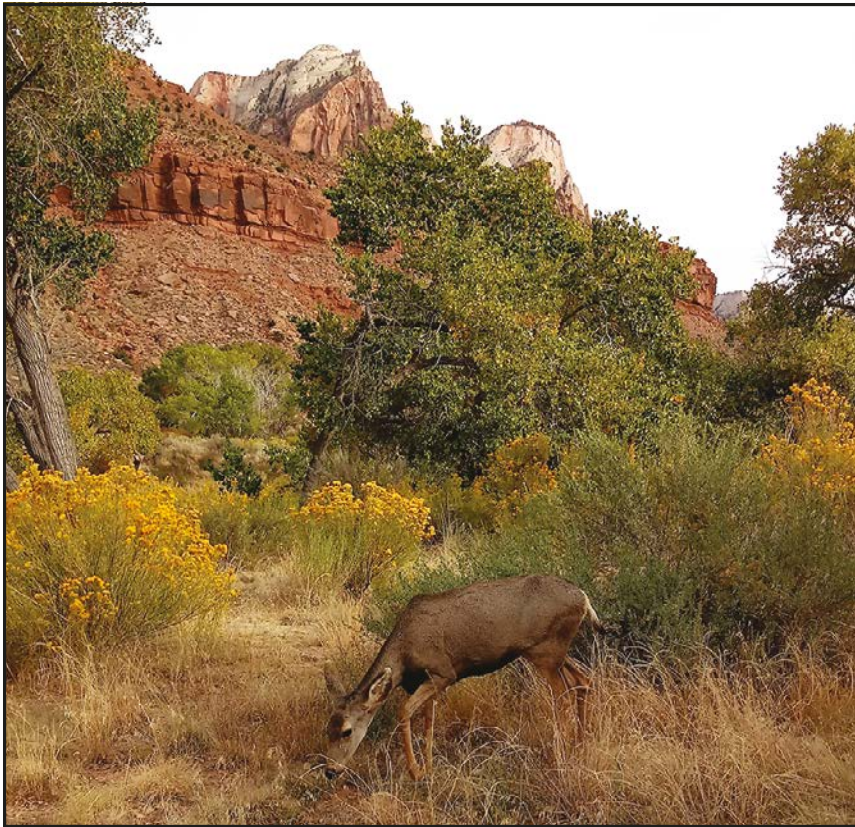
FEELS LIKE TUESDAY
A 5-year-old grade Quarter horse mare. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-515-4947.



JILL
An 8-year-old female spotted donkey. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-515-4947.

ZION NATIONAL PARK IS SOUTHWEST UTAH'S DAZZLING GEM

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz



A mule deer doe browses inside the park.

"All this is the music of waters." So said explorer John Wesley Powell in 1895 of the Utah treasure we now know as Zion National Park. Rain, runoff from the Colorado Plateau's "Grand Staircase," and the Virgin River have created a wonderfully diverse landscape over the park's 229 square miles.

Powell originally called the area Mukuntuweap, meaning "straight canyon," for what he thought was the Paiute name for it. In July, 1909, President Taft proclaimed it the Mukuntuweap National Monument. Congress established it as Zion National Park 10 years later, in November, 1919, a year after it was renamed Zion National Monument. Zion, or "promised land," was easier to pronounce and remember, officials believed.

Elevation change in the park is nearly a mile, allowing for widely varying terrain and ecosystems. Lowland desert, at 3,600-foot elevation, to forest highlands at 8,700 feet, with towering red rock cliffs and slot canyons in between, provide spectacular scenery – and hiking opportunities.

Some of those fairly easy opportunities, with less than 100 feet elevation change, include:

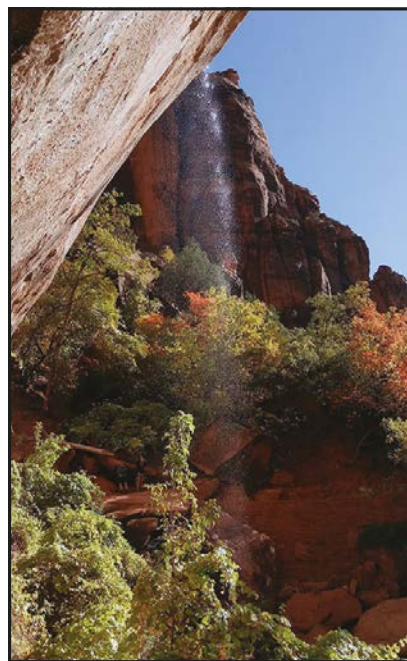
Pa'rus Trail: total 3.5 miles, paved and the only trail that allows pets on leash and bicycles. Pets can be in public roads, parking areas, camp-

grounds and picnic areas, however.

Grotto Trail: 1-mile, good for wildlife viewing.

Weeping Rock Trail: only 0.4 mile, but a steep, paved trail with minor drop-offs. With dripping springs and hanging gardens, this is the only place the rare Zion snail resides, among the maidenhair ferns and Colorado golden columbine.

Riverside Walk: a 2.2-mile paved trail along the Virgin River in a deep canyon with adjacent restrooms and water refill station.



Waterfall is a natural wonder on the Weeping Rock Trail.

Some moderate hikes include **Lower and Middle Emerald Pools Trails:** each 2.2 miles. Lovely pools, but no swimming!

Strenuous hikes, like the heart-stopping **Angels Landing**, I won't go into here. It's just dangerous, and now, after you get a permit, you have to wait in line for the opportunity to cross the narrow ridge to the summit.

The National Shuttle System, which opened in 2000, is the only way to these trails on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive from March through November. No pets allowed on shuttles except ADA Service Animals.



Emerald Pool Trails are short, but steep.

A personal vehicle is allowed only when the shuttle doesn't run. But it's so convenient – no permits or reservations needed. You get on and off at will. We would love to see such a service at all busy National Parks.

Our dogs got their own rural "resort" vacation this time, and we rented hotel rooms near the end of the shuttle stops in the Town of Springdale. The Springdale Line (town shuttle) quickly took us to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, where we hopped on the Zion Canyon line (park shuttle).

Fauna ranges from lizard and desert tortoise to elk and mountain lion. Flora varies from cactus and mesquite to ponderosa pine and aspen.

Heaviest precipitation falls in March, with sparking wildflow-



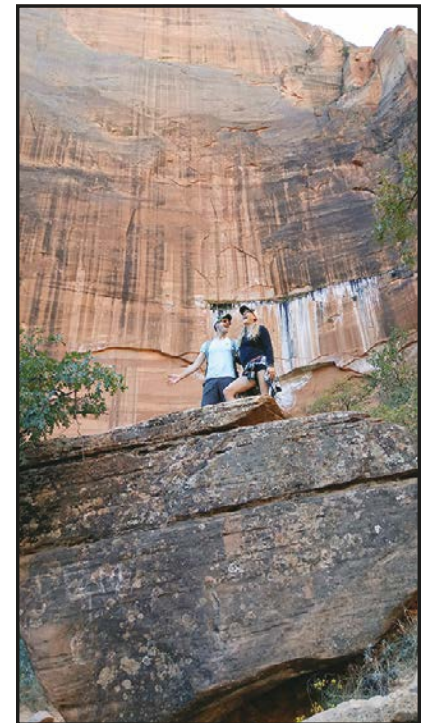
Golden columbine blooms even in October.

ers from April through June. Summers are HOT and extremely busy with tourists. Zion National Park gets nearly 5 million visitors annually, so try to get there when it isn't peak season, as it is open 24-7 year-round. It's worth the five-plus-

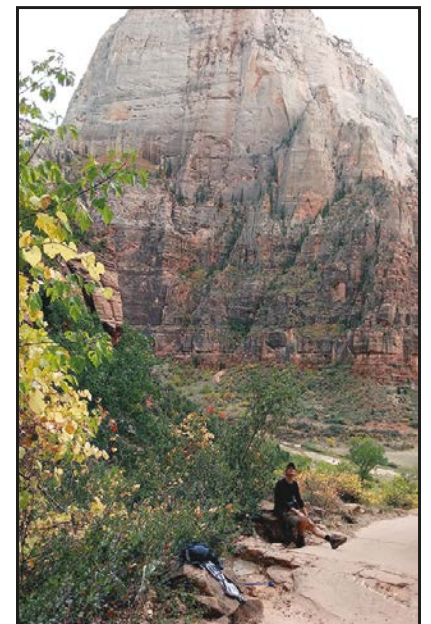
hour trip from the Prescott area.

If you aren't at least 62 and haven't purchased a lifetime senior park pass, the first day of 2024 National Park Week is Saturday, April 20, with no entrance pass needed.

Happy diverse hiking!



Zion offers so many spectacular photo ops.



Towering cliffs cause one to marvel.

Prescott Dog magazine

COVER DOG PHOTO CONTEST



It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

1) Choose a backdrop for your picture. Set your camera on large or high and capture a quality shot 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 \$50. Gift Card
- 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



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BEHOLD THE MIGHTY MYSTICAL MINISTERING MINIS

By Rita Thompson-Tinsley

Standing a whopping 34" to 38" at their withers, though miniature in stature the miniature horse proves GIANT in character. Though capable of performing many skills, such as equine competitions and cart driving, they have become absolutely paramount in the world of human therapy.

The miniature horse and pony tend to express a spirituality, a sort of sixth sense, rendering comfort and relief so phenomenally that even their owners are blown away.



The Heart of Consoling. Danni with Maddie Rose. Photo courtesy Patti Morabito.

During the holidays, I took pony Maddie Rose to a Christmas festival. She arrived adorned as one of Santa's reindeers, the theme for minis and ponies attending. I walked her around the park to acclimate her to the very busy area.

Maddie is a rescue pony that I attained from the excellent Now That I'm Safe Rescue, so I don't exactly know about her past. I do know that Maddie tends to be shy and reserved, but friendly if approached gently.

At the park, there were kids arriving and many wanted to pet her. She was tolerant, but as the day went on, she was less tolerant, and I could see it was time to make our exit.

As we passed a friend's art booth, I heard a call out. My friend Alison's uncle was visiting and wanted to see Maddie Rose. Alison's Uncle Keith is an exuberant man who has cerebral palsy plus a cognitive disability and loves to pet horses any chance he gets.



Keith getting his horse-therapy fix from Mustang Moki. Photo courtesy Alison Cray.

I warned that Maddie was getting a little high strung from the festival crowd but agreed to give it a try. After all, I had a hand clutching her lead rope and I could whisk her away if something went awry. (The last kid to pet Maddie was met with a nasty imaginary nip and plenty of stink-eye.)

What happened next was astounding! As Keith approached, hands outstretched and flailing, I was ready for anything, except this. Maddie Rose stood perfectly still while Keith began to pet her, his hands gyrating on both sides of her face. He stopped for a second, then began again going down her neck. I witnessed her fully relenting to his excited, yet loving, affections.

After Keith stopped and stepped back an amazing thing happened. My normally timid, scared, unapproachable pony leaned toward him. She didn't want to leave. As we turned to walk away, I felt a surge of tears in my eyes. I leaned down and thanked my 'rescue pony' for being a 'rescue-er' that day, making Keith's day happier.

It turns out that Uncle Keith has quite an extensive history with animals. When Alison Cray brought home her untouched BLM mustang Moki, Keith, who is also sight impaired, was doing 'air kisses', inviting Moki to come. The wild mustang complied, and obvious to say, the two became fast friends.

Therapy sessions are a way of life for JoAnn and Sparky. They have been frequenting nursing homes, the VA, even playgrounds and parks for several years. Sparky has a healing passion for people, and people have a passion for Sparky.

When the pair did a group organized visit to the Prescott VA, JoAnn realized that Sparky was a natural. He didn't need direction or guidance. "He always knows who needs him most," she claims.

When VA residents were wheeled out to the area, Sparky noticed a man laying on a gurney. It was Sparky's desire to visit the man even though he was clear across the parking lot. Sparky nuzzled the dangling arm of the man which was hanging off the gurney, and all watched as the man came to life with laughter and huge smiles.

It now has become JoAnn's practice to throw the lead rope over Sparky's back so that he is free to go to those in need. JoAnn reflects on a time in the park when Sparky, after watching a little girl go down the slide, positioned himself at the end



Sparky and JoAnn showing their spirit. Photo courtesy Patti Morabito.

of the slide as if to catch the little girl before she hit the ground. A safety net with a mane and tail.



Sparky sharing a therapy hug. Photo courtesy JoAnn.

Mary Smith, Michelle Whan and other volunteers are involved with Horses with Heart's Magnificent Minis therapy program. There are 9 minis participating from several volunteers, and they rotate so that 5 go to each function. They visit Prescott area schools and nursing homes and have started a school program called Just Say WHOA to Bullying. Heidi Harvey and her miniature donkey Brady are new members of the group. "Since I adopted Brady, I feel like a kid again," says Harvey. "I dress him in costumes for events where others can adore him, and he can make others feel good."

A special thanks to Keith Ostic who with pure joy in his heart shows us how to find true spirit.



Heidi with Brady after therapy certification.

13TH ANNUAL WOOFstock & ADOPT-A-THON

What's the best summer party on 4 paws? The 13th Annual WOOFstock and Adopt-A-Thon, of course!

The best place for family fun and finding true love? That's WOOFstock! Saturday June 8th, from 9a-2p at the beautiful Civic Center in Prescott Valley. The address is 7501 E Skoog Blvd.

The 2024 WOOFstock Day, as proclaimed by the Town of Prescott Valley, will be full of canine and family fun and activities. Each year dozens of rescues, family related non-profit organizations and vendors come together for one of the best celebrations of "all things dog."

The host and coordinator of WOOFstock is Cherie Dreves, Publisher of Prescott Dog and Flagstaff Sedona Dog Magazines. Prescott Dog Magazine has been the voice for lovable Homeless Pets and those who rescue them from harm, since 2008. Cherie had a few things she'd like to share to make your WOOFstock experience more enjoyable for you and your pet.

1. **Examine your dog's collar before leaving home to ensure the collar is not too loose.** A slipped dog in a crowd is likely to become frightened and could turn and run.
2. **Please bring a 6-foot leash.** We ask that retractable leashes not be used at the event.
3. **If this is your first time visiting WOOFstock, and you live close by, perhaps visit the venue in advance.** Dozens of dogs walk the park each day. The green is a great oasis for tired paws. This will be help-



ful for both of you when WOOFstock Day comes. You'll know where the best parking is and your pet will be familiar with the sights, sounds and smells of the park.

4. **We ask that only well behaved, socialized dogs attend our events.** What does that mean, exactly? We are NOT asking for perfect. Dogs will be dogs. Dogs need to be under the control of their owners at all times. It's truly hard for a dog not to be excitable with other dogs around. Please be sure that, when necessary, you can break off the interaction and calm your dog to continue.
5. **Dogs should be tolerant of the other dogs they meet at the event.** We get dogs of all shapes, sizes, demeanors and backgrounds. All have their own beautiful story to tell and all deserve a relaxing day in the park. Make sure your fur-baby is easy to meet other dogs, taking it in stride as a pleasant part of the experience.

6. Speaking of relaxing, **if you don't take your dogs into crowds very often, don't get overwhelmed**, as it will transfer down the leash to your fur-baby. Relax and they will too.
7. **Have a good time, visit all the sponsors and vendors, and support our local rescues.**



Peace, Love, & Dogs, Y'all!

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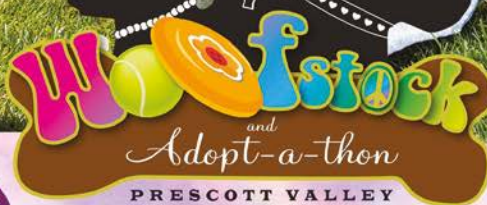
If you're looking for the next love of your life - **ADOPT**

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WOOFSTOCK AND ADOPT-A-THON SATURDAY JUNE 8TH 9-2PM

More details at Prescottdog.com



13th Annual WOOFstock & Adopt-A-THON

PAWS FOR THE PLANET: REDUCING OUR PETS' CARBON PAWPRINT

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

When it comes to our four-leggers, most of us would do anything to make sure they are full, cozy, and tail-waggingly happy! We bring them in to peruse the long aisles of dog food at the ranch store and let them snag their favorite pig-ear off the shelf.



Dura Plush Dog Ball

What we don't often wonder about is the sustainability of these products we buy for our pups. It's especially difficult at the large chain stores where most of the pet gear and food is manufactured out of the USA by large corporations looking to turn a profit. This industry is no small sector. The global pet industry is worth \$261 billion (World Animal Foundation, 2023) and in the US, we collectively spend 136.8 billion on pet products each year. (Source: tinyurl.com/mm9atn8m).

Thankfully, we are seeing industrious small businesses all over the world who are creating amazing pet products made locally, sustainably, and with ingredients and materials that are non-toxic and non-carcinogenic so our pups can live healthier and longer lives while helping the planet as a whole.

So, what can we do? Here are some simple steps to reduce our pup's carbon paw-print.

Buying Local and Support Small Businesses, and Buy Made in USA

Buying locally instead of from the big corporate giants has a huge impact on our local communities and on the quality of product you are purchasing. The community driven small businesses in the pet industry are using recycled, organic, and all natural products to make everything we could ever want or need for our pups. Small businesses are the heart of our country and truly do represent the little guys. The closer we can keep our dollars to our home communities, the healthier those communities are.

When we choose to shop at our local pet stores instead of the big box



Big Sky Nap Bed

stores, our money is reinvested in our local community, and the ecological footprint is lowered by lessening the transport of goods and consumers. (Source: tinyurl.com/b4tuysd2) Our local pet stores are in touch with our local community and want to make sure our pups are getting the very best products and ingredients. They choose to buy Made in USA to avoid the toxic and carcinogenic materials often found in foods and materials produced by countries with lower health standards. (Yes, we are pointing the finger at you, China!)

Our local stores carry the organic, sustainable, and locally made products from small companies opting to use local human-grade ingredients and sustainable packaging. Here are some US companies that are focused on healthy, sustainable pet products that are high quality, easy on the wallet, and are built with craftsmanship to last:

- Westpaw (westpaw.com)
- Cycle Dog (cycledog.com)
- The Honest Kitchen (honestpet-products.com)
- Project Hive (projecthivepet-company.com)

Buy Recycled, Nontoxic, and Biodegradable Products!

These small pet companies are choosing to make pet products from alternative materials like recycled plastic, natural fibers, and biodegradable materials, like Cycle Dog's Dura Plush Dog Ball, made from recycled plastics. And Westpaw's Big Sky Nap Bed made with recycled fill.

There's even the Molly Mutt company (mollymutt.com) that masterfully crafts the cozy pet bed of your four-legger's sweetest dreams! You stuff the bed with your old pillow fill which keeps the fill out of the dump and gives your pup cozy sniffs of you all day and night!

Check out the wool pet toys and products of Friend Sheep Wool company (friendsheepwool.com), like the Eco Kitty Cave.

And to keep that dirtier side of pet life a bit greener: compostable dog poop bags are cheap and a cinch to find. The

compostable bags are made from cornstarch and plant-based polymers that fully compost back into the earth (tinyurl.com/yeyjcu54). Even swapping just one plastic dog poo bag for a compostable one makes a paw-sative difference. Plastic bags are made from processed fossil fuels (like petroleum) and take 1,000 years to break down in a landfill and even then, they never fully break down, instead they become microscopic pieces of plastic that pollute toxic and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) plastic chemicals into our ecosystems and into our own human and pet bodies! (Source: tinyurl.com/yx7jf3jt)

Choose Food and Treats that are Sustainable

Dog food packs the biggest wallop in our pup's carbon footprint. Pet food makes up 30% of meat's environmental impact. (Source: tinyurl.com/d5f3end5). In pup food, look for sustainable packaging and local sustainable ingredients! Consider choosing small game like egg, chicken, lamb, or insect protein over large game like beef or bison and look for sustainability clues on the labeling such as local ingredients, pasture-raised beef, organic ingredients, free-range chicken, solar powered food production, ocean safe, etc.

The Honest Kitchen makes human grade kibble and toppers that are baked at low temperatures, use US sourced ingredients, are non-GMO, use fair trade channels, AND gives discounts to animal rescues. Our local pet food stores and Natural Grocer's carry this food, give it a go!

DIY and Get Creative!

Reuse the Recycle: All of my tail-waggers have been obsessed with recycle! The next time your hound gets frisky for a fetch, toss them an empty (and well-rinsed) plastic milk jug or a cardboard box to destroy! Watch out for sharp edges or box staples and obviously don't give them anything sharp like glass or metal! Once they destroy it, toss it back in the recycle. Easy peasy and FREE!

DIY: Eliminate the middleman, make food, treats, and toys yourself! Have you



Eco Kitty Cave

ever brainstormed hilarious and fun toys for your pup made from things you already have at home? (There are some fun ideas here: tinyurl.com/ph2a96b5). Or have you tried dehydrating slices of yam for your pup to chew

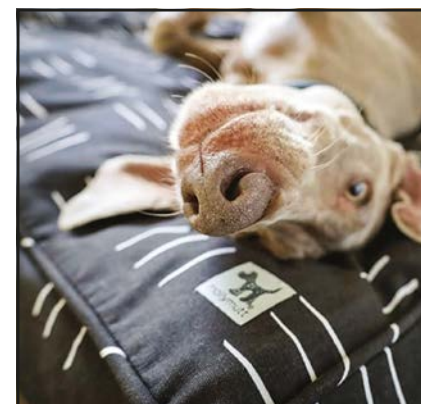
on? Or baking up some peanut butter dog treats? Heck, my pups even love it when I toss them a giant carrot or a yam from the Prescott Farmer's Market!

Making your own food and snacks is easy and just takes a bit more consideration if you are going to cook for them full time like making balanced meals (a how-to is at tinyurl.com/5eurct26), and minding dog-toxic foods. (A list is at tinyurl.com/3pjmprxd). Sharing our food with our pups also helps us bond as a pack, you will notice a difference in their pack behavior in no time if you start eating with them!

In the big picture of sustainability and consumption habits, our pets can have a big impact. There's a misconception that it costs an arm and a leg to buy local, organic, or sustainable products for our pets, but the reality is most of the cheap, unsustainable, and "made in China" pet products really are cheap: they aren't made to last, and they aren't made to be healthy for our pets.

When we choose local and sustainable, we choose health of our pets and our planet AND we get the best products while supporting our local small businesses! On the larger scale, we can support nonprofits that advocate for healthy pets and healthy planet via changing legislature and global business practices like the Pet Sustainability Coalition (petsustainability.org). Let's raise some paws for the planet!

Until next time, happy tails and happy trails!



Molly Mutt Bed

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