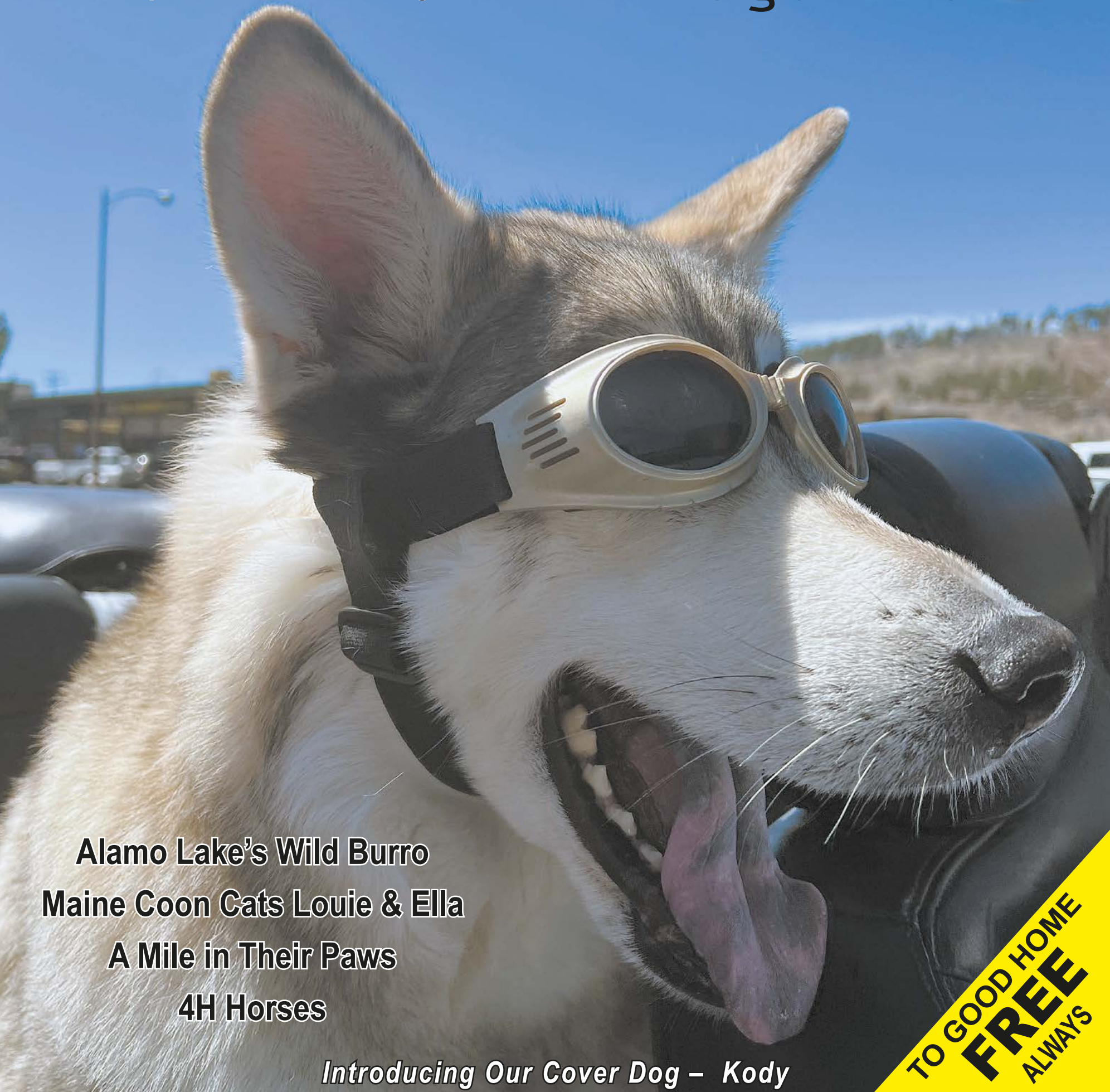


Prescott Dog

March/April 2025 • PrescottDog.com magazine



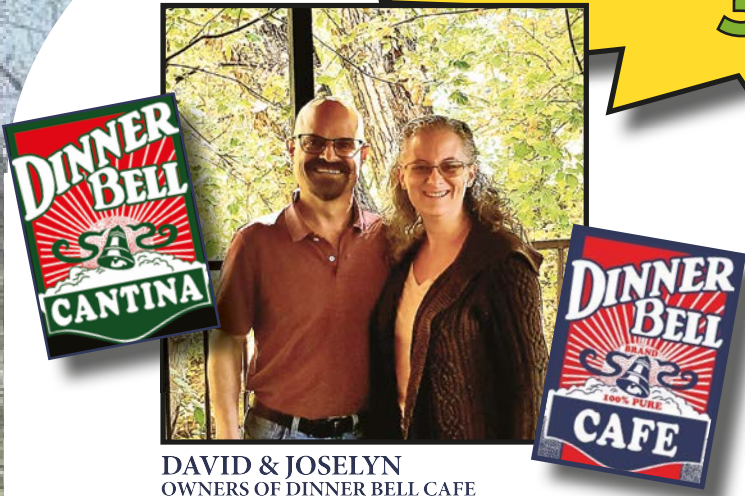
Alamo Lake's Wild Burro
Maine Coon Cats Louie & Ella
A Mile in Their Paws
4H Horses

Introducing Our Cover Dog – Kody

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DOGTREE PINES:
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 Nestled among six serene acres in the pines of Prescott, Arizona, Dogtree Pines is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit senior dog rescue and sanctuary dedicated to providing a forever home, medical

care, and hospice support for aging dogs in need. Specializing in high-risk, medium-to-large breeds aged 10 years and older, Dogtree Pines offers these seniors a second chance at love and comfort.

With high-quality food, vital supplements, medical care, and an abundance of love, Dogtree Pines ensures that every resident enjoys their golden years in peace and dignity. Often referred to as "Doggie Disneyland," this sanctuary is a place where health and happiness take center stage.

As the team proudly states, "Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary - Where Miracles Happen."



WHY SENIORS?

Senior dogs are among the most loving and appreciative companions. Many of the dogs at Dogtree Pines have endured neglect, abandonment, or mistreatment. Some were once cherished pets but, through unfortunate circumstances, found themselves homeless, injured, or on euthanasia lists with no hope of rescue.

"These dogs have given their entire lives to us. No dog deserves to die alone in a cage on a cold concrete floor—certainly not seniors,"

says Cindy Lamont, Founder of Dogtree Pines. A growing crisis, senior dogs are being abandoned and euthanized at alarming rates. Because of their age, potential health issues, and the financial burden of veterinary care, they are often overlooked by adopters and even rescues.

Dogtree Pines stands as a beacon of hope for these forgotten souls. Here, they receive the love, care, and dignity they deserve in their final years. And when the time comes, they are given a peaceful, loving farewell.

Dogtree Pines is more than a rescue—it is a sanctuary of love, a place where miracles truly happen.



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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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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

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

Winner receive:

- 1) A \$50. Gift Card to Frontier Dog & Co.
- 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



Kody, Our Cover Dog

Name: Kodiak (Kody)
Hometown: Prescott, Arizona
Age: 9 years old
Favorite brand of food: Badlands Ranch freeze-dried chicken or salmon
Favorite people food: Why, peanut butter of course!
Favorite toy: Any Kong that has peanut butter in it.
Favorite outdoor activity: Dog park visits.



Favorite indoor activity: Helping my Mom's home-based behavioral training. I am her dog whisperer, and I help grouchy dogs learn to be friendly and safe with other dogs and people. So I'm pretty important, don't you think?



Favorite nap spot: My cozy crate next to Mom's bed.

My fitness regime: Dog park playtime and hiking with Mom in woods that my wolf ancestors roamed free and felt safe in from human predators.

Describe my perfect canine pal: That's a hard question to answer. I love ALL my BFF's that Mom introduces me to. However, who I love the most is my wolf-dog sister, Mystik, who I grew up with; and my forever girlfriend Rosie, who gives me the best play dates ever.



Describe my perfect day: Well, because I'm Mom's mobility service animal, I get to go EVERYWHERE she goes.! We rest up in the mornings, and then I accompany Mom to her training sessions in the afternoons and evenings. Then—after we're done socializing at the dog park—we run Mom's errands, and I get to see all my favorite human BFFs at all the places we have to go. My favorite place is the Prescott Square at the end of a busy day!



ROAMER: THE CAT WHO BEAT THE ODDS

By Kay Luckett

Meet Roamer. Born in 1981 and lived to (possibly) beat the world record as the longest living cat. She just crossed the Rainbow Bridge early in 2025 while being cuddled and loved by her two moms, Leslie and Karen, residents of Prescott Valley, Arizona.



In 1987, Roamer met Leslie and Karen's mom in Mesa, AZ. At that time Roamer was declared to be six years old. Mom's neighbor had the poor dear declawed, then sentenced her to a life outside. Most cruel. However, Roamer was getting ready to beat the odds even then as she roamed the neighborhood. She was lucky enough to be eating meals provided by Mom.

Eventually Roamer settled down with Mom and liked to hang out in the safe vicinity of her home. When Mom passed in 2012, daughters Leslie and Karen brought her home where she was adopted into a family of six (yes, six) dogs.

Roamer had a good appetite; she loved eating her many treats and was a big, furry, healthy girl. Every day she went out to the front bushes to rest under the watchful eye of her two moms and six siblings.

As Roamer aged, Leslie joked that she would have to leave Roamer in her will because by then she was a bona fide senior cat. She had a breakfast call time at 4:00am sharp each day. She enjoyed a happy home life, especially being the spoiled kitty.

As Roamer aged, she was losing the ability jump up on the bed, so she slept her last nights under the Christmas tree in her



cat-bed.

Leslie introduces the family as Pinner, age 17, a black and white Pointer, Teddy, a terrier mix, age 18, Morty, age 3, Delphina, a Rottweiler nicknamed the gentle beast, age 16, a mixed breed rescued by Karen, Bear, age 2, a Bichon Frise, rescued by her son, and Pinky, age 7, a French Bulldog, rescued by their roommate.

Inspiring life lessons handed down by Leslie include her knowledge that despite the rejection Roamer had suffered through, this cat was appreciated. Especially for how much love and comfort she gave to others, especially to Mom at the time of her passing. Leslie says that sometimes she senses Mom looking at her through Roamer's eyes.

Additionally, Leslie says that they are most definitely a family of pet lovers. The one thing she feels is important is that when one loses a pet, please adopt a new pet – not to replace but to add to the loving family.

The longer we live, we can potentially adopt three or four or more in our lifetime. We know pets never live long enough, so Leslie's remedy is to adopt more!

Phone conversations with Leslie (and always with sweet Karen talking in the background) are filled with happy memories and the utter respect and appreciation both sisters and six dogs have for Roamer, their family, and for all living beings. Meow.

14TH 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 May 31st, 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.



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.

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-

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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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.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: 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 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 Yavapai-HumaneTrappers.org to request mtg or complete preadoption form.

MARCH & APRIL EVENTS
HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- Mar 17-21 Spring ZooCamp
- Apr 5 Behind the Scenes Photo Tour
- Apr 12 Breakfast with Lynx
- Apr 20 Easter Eggstravaganza
- Apr 26 Community Appreciation Day (FREE Day)

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA NATIONAL CONVENTION Apr 14-16, Prescott Resort & Convention Center. More info: bchcaz@gmail.com

SPARKY MINI

February 14, 2006 – January 1, 2025

The mighty mini that touched the hearts of all who met him passed away on New Year's Day, 2025. JoAnn, owner of beloved Sparky, had a special and unique relationship with the mini-horse whose magical charm reached out to our community.

Sparky shared his special power of caring through equine therapy, parade pony ambassadorship and simply recognizing when someone was in need of his comfort and care. Sparky and JoAnn have been frequenting nursing homes, the VA, even playgrounds and parks for several years. Sparky's healing passion for people will always be honored and remembered. RIP.



Rescue Resources

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



<p>AARF ANIMAL RESCUE 6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com 928-925-7219, aarfrescue.net</p>	<p>COCONINO HUMANE ASSOCIATION 3501 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff 928-526-1076, coconinohumane.org</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg 928-684-8801 wickenburghumane.com</p>	<p>SAVING PAWS RESCUE SHEPHERDS & MALINOIS Glendale, 480-737-6089 savingpawsrescueaz.org</p>
<p>ARIZONA BORDER COLLIE RESCUE Tempe, 480-422-5366 azbcr.org</p>	<p>DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Glendale, 480-899-5227 dlrraz.org</p>	<p>LITTLE ORPHAN ANIMALS Mayer, 678-206-7505 orphananimals@aol.com</p>	<p>TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY 928-793-2364, tubacityhumanesociety.org</p>
<p>ARK CAT SANCTUARY Parks, 928-635-5909 arkcatsanctuary.org</p>	<p>DOGTREE PINES SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY 1525 S Dogtree Lane, Prescott olddogs@dogtreepines.com 667-364-8733, dogtreepines.com</p>	<p>MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE 928-445-5411 misskittyscathouse.org</p>	<p>UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS Prescott, 928-778-2924 unitedanimalfriends.org</p>
<p>BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Native American Reservation Animals 928-899-3942 blackhathumane@gmail.com</p>	<p>FREEDOM FRENCHIE RESCUE Mesa, (630) 345-0493 freedomfrenchierescue.org</p>	<p>PEOPLE FOR PAWS AZ RESCUE peopleforpawsaz.org info@peopleforpawsaz.org</p>	<p>VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood 928-634-7387 VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org</p>
<p>BLUE MOON RESCUE & SANCTUARY 1851 E Perkinsville Rd, Chino Valley 928-925-7724, bluemoonrescue.org</p>	<p>HEELING HEELERS HEARTS Surprise, 623-226-2749 azblueheeler.com</p>	<p>PETEY'S PLAYGROUND 22448 State Highway 89, Yarnell peteysplayground@gmail.com 928-713-1375, peteysplayground.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott 928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org</p>
<p>CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER 1904 Voss Drive, Chino Valley cvas@chinoaz.net, 928-636-4223 x7 chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption</p>	<p>HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff 928-526-0742 highcountryhumane.org</p>	<p>RED ROSE INSPIRATION FOR ANIMALS Thriftique: 31 Bell Rock Plaza, Sedona info@redroseinspiration.org 928-282-5278, redroseinspiration.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY EQUINE CENTER (928) 515-4947, Chino Valley yavapaihumane.org</p>
<p>CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY Daytime 928-925-1926, Prescott Valley</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA 2115 Shelby Dr 928-282-4679 humanesocietyofsedona.org</p>	<p>RESCUE A GOLDEN OF ARIZONA Phoenix, 602-404-9663 golden-retriever.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL RESCUE Chino Valley yavapaihumanetrappers.org</p>



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Yavapai Humane Society

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YHS SECOND CHANCE MEDICAL PROGRAM



This program was created to provide needed veterinary care to injured or critically sick animals whose owners are not able to afford normal veterinary rates or cannot wait the length of time it takes to get the care needed.

The Second Chance Medical Program is funded by your donations and provides medical care to pets if their owner's income qualifies.



YHS SAFETY NET PROGRAM



The Safety Net Program helps pets and their families stay together during difficult financial times or dislocations, hospitalizations, domestic violence displacements and other similar situations.

Often our community members face crises that prompt possible abandonment of a beloved pet, even though the crisis is likely to be temporary. Our Safety Net Program provides foster placement, veterinary help, and other remedies that can help prevent a pet losing its home and family because of a temporary crisis by helping a family weather the storm for up to 30 days.

Our Safety Net Program is dependent on the resources of our community including monetary donations and foster homes.



YHS COMMUNITY PET FOOD PANTRY



YHS's Community Pet Food Pantry allows us to assist over 60 families every month, ensuring they can keep their beloved pets at home, where they're loved and cared for. This program is all made possible by your donations of cat and dog food. The next time you're at the store would you consider picking up an extra bag of dog or cat food to help our community members in need? Donations can be dropped off at our main campus: 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd., in Prescott.

For more information about these programs and all that YHS provides to our community, visit our website at yavapaihumane.org or call us at 928-445-2666.

RESCUE TALES

Denali

We recently learned that a special pup fostered through Blackhat needs critical help, so we wanted to look to our dog-loving community and *Prescott Dog Magazine* for their amazing support. The story begins deep on the Navajo Reservation in an isolated area known as Twin Lakes.

A beautiful black and brindle 3-month-old puppy, Denahi, was found wandering alone. He was pulled to safety by Blackhat along with another unrelated stray in the area, Yumi. They blossomed in foster care and ended up developing a strong friendship. With his shy nature, and her instinct to look out for him, she was the perfect soul to help build his confidence and trust.

When she got adopted, we were all concerned as to how he would do alone, but the Universe was watching. The adult son in the same household stepped up and asked him to join their loving 3-generational family. It was a great match, and he learned that adults and young kids were great fun as he developed his silly personality.

While Sharon gave primary care to both, David became his constant buddy and best friend. But his family knew all was not right with Denahi's body. Denahi had developed painful struggles with his hindquarters. Some days he could walk and other days it hurt to just stand up. Even Yumi was worried on the days he could not go on their daily walk together.

Local orthopedic vet surgeons took x-rays and referred the owners to a specialist in Phoenix when it was determined his hips were too deformed and would require advanced Hip Arthroplasty.

Denahi's owners made the trip to Phoenix and met with the specialists. Sharon and David were devastated, but they were assured that his prognosis would be good with this corrective surgery. But he could lose his ability to walk without it. They really liked the surgeon and his experience and skills to help Denahi, but the combined surgeries will run \$12,000, which also includes a year of medical support.

So now this local family is turning back to our community for our help, too. Denahi needs this surgery to avoid living on pain meds which will not resolve his ability to walk and play. If anyone can help this family help a beautiful Blackhat pup, it would mean so much and give Denahi the life he deserves. Donations to Blackhat for his surgeries can be made directly (designate for Denahi) or on the adopter's Zelle page, which can be obtained by contacting us.

Please help this family help the dog they love, and we will happily give you updates on his progress and his return to a pain free life.

Three Special Dogs

Looking for a special pup that has been overlooked? Who is so deserving and is anxiously waiting for their new home? Look no further and check out these three special foster dogs hoping for their chance to shine. They are sponsored by



Blackhat Humane Society, a rescue exclusively dedicated to homeless street animals on the Navajo Reservation.

Tyson is a sweet, happy 2+ year, medium sized (40 lbs.) Australian Shepherd mix who loves receiving pets and attention and going on

walks. His past life was stressful and hard as he lived as a street dog with other dogs who were also fending for themselves. A kind man who was feeding them noticed his eyes were infected with accumulated pus, so he took him to a mobile clinic for help.

A Blackhat foster saw his sweet face and took him in so he could be nursed back to good health. He still has scars around his eyes, but he can see his world just fine and is so happy to be out of pain. He is now fully vetted, crate, leash, and house trained. Tyson can be defensive around other male dogs and would do best in a home without small animals, but his delightful carefree personality and lower energy level would be perfect for someone who wants to bypass the zippy young dog stage.

His best friend is his foster pal Maizie, who is showing him the ropes of comfortable indoor living. Learn more about both pups on blackhathumanesociety.org.

Cotija was rescued from near Tohatchi NM, where she was pregnant and starving. She was pulled into a loving foster home and offered up six beautiful babies who have already found great homes. Cotija is a smaller husky/cattle dog mix (45-50 lbs.), maybe 2 years old. She has a striking white coat which can be a symbol of divine protection (guardian angel or guide), offering comfort and support during challenging times. Her loving nature supports that suggestion, and her foster parents say she will be a loyal companion.

When her foster mom says walk, her tail swooshes so excitedly she could sing. She has gotten along well with the other dogs in the house, loves food snacks and is easily trained with the snacks. She would do best in an environment where she has a fenced yard and dog friends to be active with and/or have parents who would take her on outdoor adventures. This is probably the first home she has lived in and currently has access to a dog door, so house accidents have not been an issue. She is fully vetted (shots and spayed) and ready for her forever home! Learn more about Cotija on blackhathumanesociety.org.

Zorro is a handsome 10- to 12-month-old male black-and-ivory shepherd/husky mix. He has those deep understanding eyes that assure you he is with you every step of the way and will be a devoted friend. This little boy was found abandoned, running around the neighborhood scavenging for food and begging for children to play with him.

His foster mom watched him interact playfully with children and knew it was just a matter of time before Animal Control picked him up, so she invited him to come stay at her house. At foster mom's house, Zorro learned to love being a house dog

and played very actively with 2 big female dog siblings.

He is very friendly, seeks out kind attention, and obeys simple commands. He is medium sized at 40 pounds and still loves to climb into foster mom's lap for snuggles. Zorro is a bit alpha and would do best with a larger male or female dog. He needs a house with a securely fenced backyard, but he could do well with a doggie door to the outside. Learn more about this masked-face marvel on blackhathumanesociety.org.

If you think bringing a street dog or cat into your home and watching them blossom into a happy healthy being would be rewarding, we would love to tell you about our foster-supported program. Please visit us on blackhathumanesociety.org to learn more.

**Protecting Our Pets:
National Animal
Poison Prevention
Week and Beyond**



**Yavapai
Humane
Society**

At Yavapai Humane Society, we not only want to share information about our animals looking for a home, adoption success stories, and details about our many programs, but we also want to provide valuable information on how to keep our furry family members safe. Ensuring their well-being is a responsibility we all share, and awareness of potential dangers is a crucial part of responsible pet ownership.

As pet owners, we do everything we can to keep our furry family members safe, happy, and healthy. From ensuring they get proper nutrition to regular vet checkups; their well-being should always be a priority. However, one danger that can often go unnoticed is accidental poisoning. That's why National Animal Poison Prevention Week, happening March 16-22, serves as an important reminder to protect our pets from potentially toxic substances lurking in our homes and environments.

Many common household items, foods, and plants that seem harmless to us can pose serious risks to pets. Human foods such as chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, garlic, xylitol (found in sugar-free gum and candies), and alcohol can be toxic or even fatal to pets. Medications, both over-the-counter and prescription, including ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and antidepressants—can cause serious health issues if ingested by animals. Household products like cleaning supplies, antifreeze, and even certain essential oils can be harmful. Many common plants, including lilies (especially toxic to cats), azaleas, and sago palms, pose significant risks, and pesticides can be fatal if consumed.

The best way to keep your pets safe is through prevention. Store all medications, cleaning supplies, and chemicals out of reach. Be mindful of foods that are left on counters or within easy access. Research plants before bringing them into your home. Keep rodenticides and pesticides in pet-proof containers and areas. Always supervise pets outdoors to prevent ingestion of unknown substances. If you suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, contact your veterinarian immediately.

(Rescue Tales continued on page 13)



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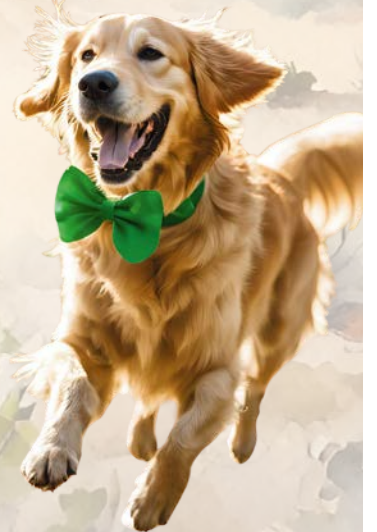
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BEANIE BOY: An 18-month-old male petite heeler mix. He is crate, leash, and car trained. He is fun, goofy, and quacks like a duck when excited. Eager for his own family. Black Hat Humane Society 928-899-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org



CYRUS: A 40 pound, 6-month-old male Australian Cattle Dog mix who is active and athletic. Great agility prospect. Lives with other dogs and cats. A loyal and devoted guy. Black Hat Humane Society 928-89-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org



SWEETIE: A petite, fluffy, playful female 1-year-old cattle dog mix. She likes other dogs, okay with cats. Leash and doggie door trained. She wants a home where people are around during the day. 928 607-6007 or blackhathumanesociety.org



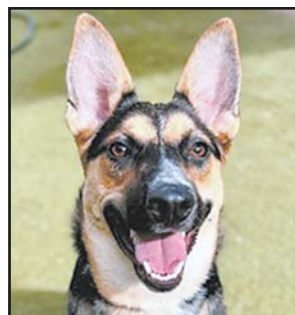
TIP: A 4-month-old lab/shepherd mix reservation dog. She loves paddling in water and playing with toys. She is spunky, affectionate, crate trained, and house trained. Black Hat Humane Society 928-899-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org



NIZHONI: A 2-year-old Great Dane mix, 53 pounds. Affectionate, curious, and easygoing, she has a friendly, funny, and loyal personality that makes her unforgettable. United Animal Friends
unitedanimalfriends.org



LUNA: A majestic Cane Corso, impressive size and protective nature. With a sleek, muscular build and a striking coat, she exudes both power and elegance. Luna is a gentle and loyal companion. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



SPRITZY: A 2-year-old female German Shepherd mix. She is a spirited and adventurous lass who adores belly rubs and ear scratches. She has a charming smile. Yavapai Humane Society
928-445-2666



SPARROW: A 3-year-old male brindle boxer/shepherd mix. He is a high energy, fun dog with a real zest for life. He'll be a great jogging companion. Yavapai Humane Society
928-445-2666



SKYLAR: A sweet lady, 8 years old and 25 pounds. Mostly white with brown spots. For further information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society.
928-445-2666.

Prescott Animal Hospital Your Hometown Vet Since 1947



(Rescue Tales continued from page 10)

As we move into April, we shift from poison prevention to broader emergency preparedness, recognizing National Pet First Aid Awareness Month. Just as we keep first aid kits for ourselves, we should have one for our pets, too.

A well-stocked pet first aid kit should include bandages and gauze, anti-septic wipes, tweezers for splinters or ticks, hydrogen peroxide (only for vet-directed use in inducing vomiting), a digital thermometer, and emergency vet contact information. Knowing basic pet first aid can be lifesaving. Learning how to perform CPR on pets, treat minor wounds, and recognize signs of distress can make all the difference in an emergency situation.

And now...a not-so-glorious but important reminder. Rounding out April, we celebrate National Scoop the Poop Week (April 23-29) because responsible pet ownership means cleaning up after our pets. While it may not be the most glamorous part of having a pet, picking up after them is crucial for multiple reasons. Pet waste can carry harmful bacteria and parasites that can spread to other animals and even humans. Rainwater can wash pet waste into storm drains, contaminating local water sources. And let's face it, no one wants to step in an unexpected gift while out for a walk.

While National Scoop the Poop Week is just seven days, let's be honest: every day should be scoop the poop day. So, grab that bag, do your duty (pun intended), and help keep our communities clean and safe.

By staying aware of potential hazards, being prepared for emergencies, and doing our part as responsible pet owners, we can ensure that our beloved pets live long, happy, and healthy lives. Now, let's go give our four-legged friends a well-deserved cuddle—and maybe a treat (as long as it's pet-safe).



Orly and Toni are siblings who came to United Animal Friends as kittens 13 years ago. They were fostered and then adopted by a UAF volunteer, Allie, who understood that it would be difficult to find an adopter willing to take on Orly, who has chronic ear infections due to his malformed ears. When Allie passed away in 2023, Orly, Toni, and the rest of Allie's cats came back to UAF to find new homes.

Just as when they were kittens, we knew it would take a special adopter to take on Orly's medical needs. Luckily for the

bonded pair, an angel came along one month later. An animal lover in Phoenix, who is friends with one of the kitty caregivers at the Rescue Ranch, expressed interest in adopting a cat who needed a special home. She fell in love with Orly's photo and adopted both cats so they could stay together. They had found the perfect home, where Orly received the very best care, including laser treatments, and his ear issues improved.



Orly

Tragedy struck again when their owner contracted Covid on a family vacation and did not survive. Toni and Orly returned to the Rescue Ranch, where we again looked for a special person for them. Then, miraculously, another angel appeared. This time, the angel needed these two cats just as badly as they needed her.

Rolene, who is 90 years old and lives in assisted living, reached out to UAF wanting to foster a cat. Studies show that cats can not only help reduce feelings of loneliness for seniors but also provide significant health benefits, such as lowering blood pressure and reducing stress and anxiety. Rolene had

already received permission from the facility to have a cat, but each time we thought we had one for her to foster, the cat would get adopted and Rolene would be disappointed. With Orly and Toni in mind, Kris, our Ranch Manager, asked her if it would be possible for her to foster two cats instead of one. Rolene asked the assisted living manager right away and received approval to foster both cats that very day.

Toni and Orly are now the stars of the facility. They are allowed to come out of the room they share with Rolene to visit other residents in the hallways, and they also bring many visitors into their room so all three of them get plenty of social time. This happy ending has turned out to be a win-win for all involved.

On a related note, UAF would like to remind readers of the importance of having a plan for your pets in case you are unable to care for them in the future. If you would like to learn about UAF's Pet Trust Program, please visit unitedanimalfriends.org/pet-trust-program/

(Rescue Tales continued on page 15)



GUS: A 6-year-old handsome male Doberman. He weighs 80 pounds. He is a cuddlebug at heart. And he wants to be a lap dog. He is house-trained and walks well on a leash. United Animal Friends
unitedanimalfriends.org



NELSON: A 9-month-old male Chow mix. He has the fluffiness of a chow and the short-leggedness of a Corgi. A mix of gentleness and playfulness, Nelson is eager to bond with his new family. United Animal Friends, unitedanimalfriends.org



PONCHO: A 1yo male Cattle Dog mix. Has an outgoing, charming personality, loves playing & making new friends. An energetic dog and would make a great jogging or hiking companion. United Animal Friends
unitedanimalfriends.org



HONEYBEE: A sweet and gentle female German Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix. Quiet & affectionate, gets along w/other dogs regardless of size. Not aggressive, is good w/ well-mannered children. Yavapai Humane Trappers, yavitrappers@gmail.com



SUNFLOWER: A 7-week-old German Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix. Seems to have mom's gentle, sweet nature. She & her litter mates (yes, there are more of them) should mature between 50-70 lbs. Yavapai Humane Trappers, yavitrappers@gmail.com



GRACE: A 10-week-old female German Shepherd Dog mix. She is playful, curious, and full of puppy energy. And very sweet. She is crate trained and sleeps through the night. Yavapai Humane Trappers yavitrappers@gmail.com



CHABLIS: An 11mo yellow Lab/Rottweiler mix. She is gentle, affectionate, and good with children and other dogs. She loves belly rubs and hugs.
AARF
928-925-7219



NEWMAN: A 6-year-old Chihuahua/Miniature Pincer mix. He came from a not-so-great home, so he tends to shy away until he knows you. Very sweet once he trusts you.
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Dogs & Cats for Adoption



COLTON: Colton, our black sweet boy, is 7 months old. We have had him since he was a kitten. He is great with other cats and just needs a nice loving home for himself.
Petey's Playground
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RINGO: A 6-month-old male, white with tabby patches. He is very energetic and loves to play. He also loves to be held and loved on. He is good with other cats.
Petey's Playground
928-671-8084



JINX: An all black 7-month-old black male, brother to Colton. He loves to play and then curl up in your lap and purr. Good with other cats. We don't know about dogs.
Petey's Playground
928-671-8084



MADDIE: An 8-year-old female calico love bug. She is a talker who loves to play. A total sweetheart who just wants love.
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(Rescue Tales continued from page 13)



Underdog Clinics: A Lifesaving Force for Pets in Need

By Jennifer DeFosse.
Photo by Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehab.

Every month, Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehab hosts free/low-cost veterinary clinics on the Navajo Nation. With a stray population estimated at 500,000 and extremely limited access to veterinary care, pet owners in this area face significant challenges.

During our January clinic in Upper Fruitland, our team was in the parking lot of the Walter Collins Chapter House, distributing free pet food to clients in need, when a woman pulled up in her car, clearly distressed. She explained that her dog, Rose, had been brutally attacked by a pack of dogs and asked if we could help.

Our team immediately sprang into action. Rose had suffered extensive inju-



ries, her body covered in wounds and lacerations.

We quickly took Rose into our care, and our veterinary team performed a two-hour surgery to repair her injuries, stitch up her wounds, and place drainage tubes to help with healing. Thankfully, Rose arrived on Friday, giving our veterinary team the weekend to monitor her progress and provide additional treatment. By Sunday, she was ready to return home to her grateful family.

Rose is now in excellent spirits and recovering well. Her owner was deeply thankful for our team's help during her moment of need. In a region where veterinary care is extremely difficult to access, we are honored to be able to save the lives of animals like Rose and provide critical care to pets and their families.

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You don't need to worry about remembering to donate, and with Amazon's discounts on Subscribe & Save orders, you're helping us stretch every dollar further.



We are incredibly grateful to all those who have already signed up, but the need is ongoing. As the cost of pet food rises and demand in our community grows, we're calling on pet lovers like you to join us in this important mission. Every bag, can, or box of food sent our way makes a huge difference.

Let's work together to ensure every pet—whether in our shelter or a loving home—gets the food and care they need. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your kindness, compassion, and support!

To sign up and start making a difference, visit: amazon.com. Check our website for available animals for adoption: highcountryhumane.org/adopt-a-pet

AARF Never Gives Up

Let us tell you about Delta (one of many stories but this one is ours).

Born December 20, 2019, Delta survived with her siblings in a mostly feral manner on the Navajo reservation. They were rescued and taken to Coconino High School in Flagstaff, where Sandi volunteered, and she spent hours trying to get them to accept and trust humans.

In 2021, she asked Liz if AARF had room. We did, and soon the three

(Rescue Tales continued on page 21)

ALAMO LAKE'S WILD BURRO TRAIL LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz

Being startled from a sound sleep in the middle of the night by a braying burro next to the camper must mean you are camping at Alamo Lake State Park.

Sat me straight up, but we figured the burro was more startled, because he had set off a motion light at head height. We're sure the sudden brightness scared the hee-haw out of him.

He galloped off down the road. Then, for good measure and to show who was boss, he galloped up and down the road a couple more times. I think he liked the sound of his hooves striking the pavement.

We saw all sizes of burros right below our campsite. We heard them braying in the night. And the morning. And the afternoon. And the evening. Because they can.

Wild burros abound at this western Arizona oasis in LaPaz county's Sonoran Desert. They are donkeys, but somehow, the Spanish burro moniker better fits these hardy descendants of Wild West miners' work animals. A group is called a herd, drove or pace. After watching them run, I can safely say a human could not keep pace, unless we drove. (Punsters Anonymous.)



A variety of vegetation and a mountain range frame Alamo Lake.



Chris Drayovitch, Peoria, and grandson Auden Croko walk with Star on the Wild Burro Trail, while her husband, Bryce, walks their other dog, Bryce, out of sight.



A trio of wild burros wait for hikers to pass by on their namesake trail.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, completed Alamo Dam off the Bill Williams River in 1968 for flood control, creating a permanent lake. Conservation and recreation figured in, along with the possibility of hydropower generation. But lacking feasibility, no power plant was built.



Alamo Dam diverts Bill Williams River to form the lake.

This is great news for those who seek an isolated refuge, including several protected bird, fish and reptile species. With the nearest city lights 40 miles away, dark skies offer amazing stargazing. Especially when the burros wake you up.

The State Park opened in 1969. At 3,500 acres, Alamo Lake has the reputation as one of the best largemouth bass and crappie fishing lakes in Arizona, with several annual fishing tournaments held there.

Kids are encouraged to try for sunfish and bluegill while parents angle for the larger piscines, including catfish and tilapia. Swimming also is allowed.

We enjoyed exploring this vast lake with our kayaks. And while the dam doesn't compare to the monstrous likes of Hoover, it still made me feel tiny next to its massive face, 283 feet high.

Along with an abundance of burros, wildlife also includes turkey vultures,



A curious burro stops along the roadside.

eagles, coyotes, foxes, mule deer and many species of waterfowl. While hiking area trails, you will, without a doubt, encounter burros.

Respect their space, as we did on the Wild Burro Trail and the offshoot Rattlesnake Overlook. I didn't mind stopping to admire the lake and mountain vistas to allow the burros to mosey on.

Happy hee-haw hiking!




PETS for THE ELDERLY



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DON AND DARLENE PACKARD'S PETS ENRICH THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS OTHERS

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Don and Darlene Packard have always loved animals, sharing their lives with an assortment of dogs, cats, and even a potbellied pig.

The couple was living and working in Anchorage, Alaska, when on Valentines Day 1991, Darlene convinced Don that they needed a potbellied pig. "After all, George Clooney had one and it slept in his bed. The fantasy grew in my head, so it was instant love the day we saw all these piglets with mama. Toto was a bundle of wiggly, squealing piglet energy, and our lives were never the same."

Toto became well known around Anchorage, Darlene said. He raised money for one of the elementary schools to update their computers. He walked on a leash, and while bribed with raisins, belted out tunes on his baby piano. "He was a delight to all who met him. We took him to schools, nursing homes and once even to church," Darlene said.

"We left Alaska in 1997 for Atlanta, Georgia. Toto's adventure continued on a wide-bodied plane in the biggest dog kennel available, headed south by himself. My heart was breaking with worry about how his flight would go," she said.

Toto lived to be 13, but in old age, he was plagued with an impacted tusk which impeded his ability to eat. "Toto lived to eat, and upon the advice of his vet, Dr. Steven Dow, Toto was gently and compassionately put to sleep. There was no dry eye in the clinic that day!" Darlene said.

Toto was laid to rest at the Las Vegas Ranch, next to the Pierce family's prize-winning horse and cow. "He was in grand company at his final resting place home on the range," she said.

In 2012, Don and Darlene had become enchanted with Australian Shepherds. An avid walker, Don asked a friend who raised the dogs if she could find him an Aussie, because his current dog, Katie, was becoming too elderly for long-distance jaunts. "The day Don got the call that she had a special boy, Sailor, changed our world again," Darlene said.

Sailor, a red Aussie with white trim, had been born the only puppy in his litter. He was raised with a young cat, Riley, so he was a good fit with the Packard's cats. He loved to walk and



Jake, Harry and Sailor. Photo courtesy Darlene Packard.

Don had found his canine soulmate. On Sailor's first day in his new home, the two walked seven miles, the first of hundreds over the years. "They were both tired but happy campers by bedtime," Darlene said.

"Not long after, he enrolled Sailor into therapy dog training. Sailor loved meeting people and making them feel loved," Darlene said.

In 2014, Jake, another red Aussie, joined the Packards, and also became a much-loved therapy dog.

"Jake was a clown and would make us laugh at his antics. He had a smile like Elvis Presley and would use it to crack us up when he was in trouble. He also became a therapy dog at the young age of two. He was a special boy and loved by all."

Sailor, Jake and Don also would visit people at Yavapai Regional Medical Center,

care facilities, and a few of the hospices in town. The dogs both achieved the most complex therapy dog ratings—they were allowed to visit most areas of the hospitals, and were as much loved by staff as by patients.

Don has a heart for lonely, forgotten people. "They are sitting there day in and day out, and nobody visits them. I had one lady in particular, whose daughter lived in town, but didn't visit her. I made a point of seeing her about once a week. She really enjoyed Sailor. There are people out there who are sick, they're warehoused, and not many people care," Don said.

Don said one of the most gratifying things he has seen in his therapy work with Sailor and Jake was a man who had not spoken since he had a stroke.

"About the third visit to that gentleman, he looked down at Sailor and said, 'doggy.' That was the first word he had spoken since his stroke. That's a rewarding thing to me. The dogs really make a difference in people's lives," Don said.

Sailor passed away in 2023 at the age of 12, mourned by all who knew him, including the heartbroken Jake. Soon, Darlene said, rescue Bernese Mountain Dog, eight-year-old Otis, joined the family. "The day that this big goofy dog walked up our driveway, my heart was hooked."

In May 2024, Jake had a stroke. "The last memory I have of him was when they wheeled Jake in and he looked up at me and gave me one of those goofy Elvis Presley smiles. And then he was gone," Darlene said.

Otis, knew that something was missing, and began to mourn, and the Packards knew it was time for a friend for him.

"Famous last words—NO PUPPIES," Darlene said. "A few weeks later we came home with Dotty, an eight-month-old heeler mix from Ship Rock, New Mexico. Her DNA shows 24 different breeds in her make-up. Nicknamed 'Naughty Lotty Lu,' Dotty is a hoot and has breathed new life and energy in Otis. She is a herder, and we are her sheeple."

Harry the tuxedo cat, who came along in 2014 to join cat housemate Truman, rules the Packard home, including the dogs. Truman passed away in 2016, but Harry is well known on Facebook, writing of his adventures and life observations in *Harry's World*, ghost written by Darlene.

"Harry has helped me write term papers, meeting minutes, kept track of campaign finances and keeps Otis and Dotty in line," Darlene said. "He lays in wait for Dotty to walk by to attack. He holds his own at 10 and Dotty has met her match in Harry the Cat."

Don and Darlene, who also has given many hours of volunteer time in various capacities, this year received the inaugural Light of PV Award at the annual Prescott Valley State of the Town Luncheon. It's certain that the couple is the light of life for every animal fortunate enough to share their home and hearts.



Don, Darlene, Dottie and Otis. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.

Don, a retired Air Force veteran, has given 22 years of service and more than 6,000 hours volunteering at the Prescott Veterans Hospital. He had seen therapy dogs at the hospital, so it was a natural progression to want to share the friendly Sailor with veterans and staff.



Toto. Photo courtesy Darlene Packard.



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MAINE COON CATS LOUIE & ELLA BRING ENTERTAINMENT TO HOME OF SINGER/SONGWRITER TONI TENNILLE

By Heidi Dahms Foster



Toni, Kelly, Louie and Ella

Seventies pop-icon Toni Tennille has had an assortment of beloved dogs throughout her life, but she also has always loved cats. When she moved to Prescott in 2008, she brought with her two tuxedo cats, Victor and Toria. After the two passed on, Toni had not had cats for some time, until two very large, very furry Maine Coon cats joined her household in January 2022.

"I visited my friend Kelly's house, and she had a gorgeous orange cat. She told me he was a Maine Coon, and was only a year old," Toni said. "She also told me he was not nearly as big as he was going to get!"

After falling in love with Kelly's cat, the two visited a cattery near Phoenix, where the breeder had done all genetic health testing and vet clearances on the cats, and as a cat exhibitor, had won many championships.

"We drove up to this lovely house, and when we walked in there were seven large main coons lounging all around this great room," Toni said. "They all looked at me like, 'come on in, it's fine!'" They were all gorgeous.

The owner had a litter of three kittens, and the rest is feline history. Toni fell in love with the parents, Serena and Simba, and reserved a kitten, a male she named Louie. He was too young to bring home, so she planned a return visit.

She had so fallen in love with the cats that she asked if she could bring one of Louie's sisters into her family as well, so Ella joined Louie in their new home.

According to the Cat Fanciers Association, the Maine Coon is "perhaps the most popular breed to have been 'born' in America, and the largest of all pedigreed cats. With a documented history going back to the 1850s, these shaggy, 'super-sized' cats are one of the best-known cat breeds, and are bred and shown all over the world.

Friendly, sweet-tempered and easy to train, sturdy and rugged, the breed is well-suited to the frosty winters of the northeast U.S. These cats have heavy,

flowing coats for built-in protection from the cold and broad, well-tufted paws that appear designed to navigate snow banks."

Toni has a more succinct description. "They are huge, and they shed!"

She has had fun with naming her pets to harken back to her musical career. Victor and Toria, originally born to a stray in her vet's office, were a play on her time performing the stage production of Victor/Victoria in a U.S. national tour from September 1998 through June 1999.

After she moved to Prescott, she acquired and showed two Australian Shepherds, Bebop and Lula, named after the rockabilly song Be-Bop-a-Lula" first recorded in 1956 by Gene Vincent and His Blue Caps.



Louie

Louie, Toni asserts, is a "big old doofus. Anyone can come in the house, even someone he's never seen before, and he'll lie on his back on the floor and watch. Nothing upsets him.

"He comes and lies on my chest in the morning at 3 a.m. to wake me up, when he decides he wants something to eat. They're as smart as they can be. They've never made a mistake in the house."



Louie and Ella

Maine Coon Louie is Prince Louie of Armstrong, named after Louis Armstrong. Queen Ella of Fitzgerald is just that, a queen, Toni said. She is named in tribute to singer Ella Fitzgerald, personal friend and favorite of Toni's.



Louie is large

Louie is also the largest of the two cats, weighing in at 32 lbs. at two and a half years old. Ella is smaller at a little over 22 lbs. The two won't achieve full growth until age four or five.

"I hope Louie doesn't get too much bigger," Toni said. "He's hard to get in the car for vet visits!"

Toni has found that grooming Louie and Ella has been different from other breeds of cats she has known.

"They have very thick double coats, an undercoat and a shorter outercoat. They tangle and create mats if you don't keep up with them, either brushing them or keeping them clipped in a lion cut. If you get a Maine Coon, be ready to spend some money on grooming!"

Louie and Ella currently share their home with Toni's remaining Aussie, Lula, who is now more than 14 years old. They all get along well. Despite their varied personalities, Louie and Ella are endlessly entertaining.

"They are funny. I'd forgotten how much fun they are to watch!"



Ella

(Rescue Tales continued from page 15)

little musketeers arrived. Sandi adopted one of them but still came out to spend time with Delta. She was brought to adoption events, but she

was very nervous, so no one stepped up. Delta continued to progress and enjoy life with our volunteers and staff.

In November 2024, a lady named Shanyn took Delta home to foster. Shanyn is an amazing trainer, and after two months she reported good news.

"Delta has been learning to walk on a leash without pulling using a Halti head collar and is making great progress. She no longer gets nervous when vehicles drive by while she's on a walk, and her pulling has been extremely reduced. She loves playing with other dogs her size or larger (Delta weighs 46 lbs).

"When she first got here, she was a little reactive to sounds that she wasn't familiar with, but she has adjusted well and is becoming more

desensitized to different sounds in the environment. She's made a huge improvement, and building her confidence has been the main priority since she arrived.

"Delta also loves playing with a ball, playing with her rubber chicken, and going for car rides—she does great and is calm. More progress toward being comfortable and at ease in the house is coming. This girl definitely loves adventures!"

Delta is still a bit standoffish when meeting new people but she soon warms up. If you can come out and are willing to spend time with her, you'll find her to be not only beautiful but a fast learner who will make a wonderful companion for some lucky person. She may not be a cuddle bug, but she will be a by-your-side, devoted friend.

If you're interested in meeting this beautiful lady or have questions, please call 928-710-0596 to schedule a meet-and-greet.



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If You Had to Evacuate, Where Would You Take Your Animals?

Yavapai County is proactive in disaster preparedness with volunteer non-profits providing the resources needed for your animal family.

Animal Disaster Services (ADS) will shelter your household pets and Large Animal Shelters & Emergency Readiness (LASER) provides a safe haven for your barn animals—all at no cost to you.



LASER started in 2019, working in partnership with the Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management (YCOEM). Two dedicated large animal shelters stand ready: one is located at 10445 County Fair Trail, Prescott Valley, just off of Hwy 89A near Arizona Downs; the other is located at the Chino Valley Equestrian Park, 2208 Equestrian

Way, off of Perkinsville Road.

When disaster strikes, YCOEM will notify LASER, which will send out a quick response team to prepare the shelter site. Gates will open to the public when LASER is activated, and the location will be broadcasted through various news sources, on the LASER website, and on its Facebook page.

A dedicated LASER hotline phone number will also be broadcasted and available for all questions. LASER volunteers will care for your barn animals 24/7 until the evacuation is lifted, and owners will have 24 hours to pick them up.

You can prepare now by doing the following:

- Sign up for your local emergency notification system. YCSO uses alertYavapai. Register at YCSOaz.gov.
- Know your zone. Most jurisdictions have adopted evacuation zones, using pre-determined areas for the delivery of vital information. Go to protect.Genasys.com.
- Create a family communication plan. If you are away from home (Rescue Tales continued on page 23)

RESCUE PUPS BAILEY & GRACIE ARE MARNIE UHL'S COMPANIONS AS SHE ENTERS RETIREMENT

By Heidi Dahms Foster. Photos courtesy Marnie Uhl.



Marnie, Bailey and Gracie

Newly retired Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Marnie Uhl has always been a soft touch for a cute cat or dog. Now that she has a little more time on her hands, she plans to enjoy a lot of it with her two little rescues – a Cairn Terrier-Chihuahua mix named Gracie and a Shih Tzu-Terrier Mix named Bailey.

Marnie's always had pets during her childhood and teen years, including cats, multiple poodles, labs and even a cattle dog. "I always had animals growing up," she said. "Somehow, animals always managed to find me."

One of her and her son Josh's favorites was a lab named Boomer, who wandered into their yard as a stray pup. "Boomer turned out to be the best darn dog. He'd sleep with Josh and everything. We loved him."

Boomer passed away at the ripe old age of 12, and the difficulties of keeping pets in rented homes kept the two from having pets for some years.

"Then Josh wanted a cat," Marnie said, "So he gets a cat, and then he goes to college. Now I have a cat! I'm more of a dog person than a cat person. I like cats, but I'm a dog person. I moved here my cat Sneaks."

Sneaks lived with Marnie in Prescott Valley until her sister came to visit. "She loves cats. Sneaks would sit in her lap, and she says, 'can I have Sneaks?' So I said yes, and she took Sneaks home. She just loved her."



Bailey

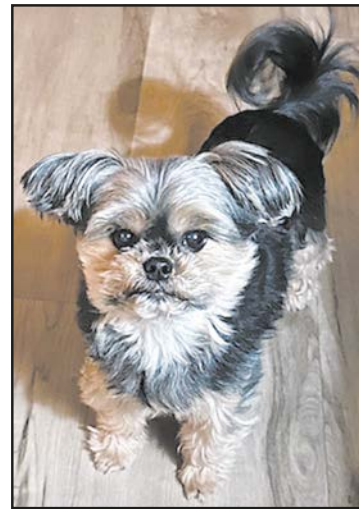
Sneaks lived a long and happy life with Marnie's sister, and Marnie later adopted a sable Sheltie named Scarlett from a friend in Prescott Valley. "She was a beautiful dog," Marnie said, "but she was a herding dog!" After she knocked down the gate a couple times trying to "herd" cars that came down the street, Marnie knew she wasn't the home for the little dog, and her former owner was able to place her in a more active home.

"I cried buckets, and I told myself, 'here you are all alone in your house again,'" Marnie said. Her home was empty for some years as she navigated the hectic life of a Chamber CEO, along with volunteer work, acting in, and directing community theater productions.

In 2017 Marnie was ready for another dog, but she knew it had to be a smaller, indoor pet. She asked a friend at the Humane Society to keep a lookout, but was told that little dogs were quickly adopted. Then Maricopa County brought some small dogs up for an adoption event.

Marnie and fellow Chamber colleague Gloria Grose went to the event, where they brought out a little white male dog. "I didn't want a male, and I didn't want a white dog," she said, "but sometimes you don't choose them, they choose you. We were out in the play area and he came and he was in my arms. I fell in love with his personality. I said right away I would call him Bailey."

Marnie came home that day with Bailey, and Gloria was smitten with and adopted a little terrier named Dolly. Not only did Marnie fall in love with Bailey, but she found she



Gracie

met all her neighbors because she was out walking him. "Walking by yourself is kind of boring, but if you walk a dog, they have to sniff everything, and you meet everybody and make friends. You can walk by somebody and say hi, but if you have a dog, they'll ask your dog's name, and you'll stop and talk."

Bailey was spoiled as soon as he walked in Marnie's door, and every visit home at lunchtime was a joy for both of them.

A year later, Marnie was thinking about getting a companion for Bailey. "I knew I just wanted a little female that would get along with him. I happened to be sitting reading the newspaper, saw a little Yorkshire mix for rehoming, and thought, 'Oh, that's the cutest little face!'" The owner was rehoming the Yorkie mix because the other dogs in her home were picking on her.

Knowing that cute smaller dogs are usually quickly adopted, Marnie called, thinking she'd be gone. "I thought, 'what do I have to lose?' But she still hadn't gone yet."

The owner had an appointment with someone else to meet "Gracie," but it wasn't a fit, so she called Marnie back. She wanted to visit Marnie's home, see her yard and see if the dog would get along with Bailey.

"She came over and we sat in the backyard, and Gracie kind of wanders over and grabs one of Bailey's toys. And he didn't do anything about it. He didn't really pay much attention to her. The lady liked the yard and the house, and said, 'Well, I really think this would be a good home for her.'"



Marnie, Gracie and Bailey

Bailey and Gracie have filled Marnie's home with fun and companionship. They sleep in her bed, and provide a lot of company and entertainment.

"Gracie loves to play fetch. I buy the little balls, and bounce them off the wall for her to bring back. She and Bailey are really smart, but she's really shy around other dogs," Marnie said.

Marnie's friends have joined her on walks, especially on the walking paths at Mountain Valley Park, a favorite of many Prescott Valley residents. The friends that walk with her and don't have dogs enjoy taking Gracie along.

Bailey and Gracie, both now eight, were Marnie's companions and comfort through her diagnosis, treatment and recovery from breast cancer, and now, they'll be her companions through her transition into retirement. "They've been perfect."

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magazine

(Rescue Tales continued from page 21)

when that GO order is issued, where will your family meet?

- Create a list of items to collect as you evacuate. Consider: People/Pets, Prescriptions, Personal Items, Papers, and Priceless items.
- Prepare a GO kit for humans and animals, and keep it updated. A list of suggested items for humans can be found at tinyurl.com/mww45tzs
- For the needs of your household pets, go to AnimalDisasterServices.com. The LASER website has a list for your barn animals at laser-shelter.org.
- Create defensible space around your home. Check out the Yavapai Firewise website at yavapai-firewise.org.
- Have a neighborhood evacuation plan. If you are out of town when disaster strikes, can your neighbors get your animals out?
- Teach your animals to load quickly, even under stressful situations.
- Find various ways out of your neighborhood. If the route you usually take is blocked, how will you get out?
- Stay informed, but make sure you are following reputable and reliable sources of information. Social media can be full of misinformation and AI-generated images.

Do Not Self-Deploy

Seeing disaster images may compel you to head to the impacted area. Do not underestimate the complexity of working in a disaster area. Until a need has been identified and the local community impacted has requested support, or your organization has been activated, volunteers should not enter.

Recovery lasts a lot longer than the media attention. Volunteers will be needed for many months after the disaster, especially when the community enters the long-term recovery period. Get involved now as a volunteer or make a donation to animaldisaster-services.com and LASER at laser-shelter.org.



By the time you read this, you should see a new structure on our property in Yarnell. Since we opened, we have had only hard work, creativity, and the dedication of our volunteers to treat the health issues of some of the cats and kittens we took in. A little kitten can appear healthy when we get them, but the stress associated with the change in their environment can trigger an upper respiratory infection that not only affects them but the other cats and kittens in our care.

There has never been a group of people more dedicated to these little babies than our volunteers, and it's only because of them that we've been able to restore these little things back to health, so they can get adopted.

Now, thanks to a gift from the estate of one of our supporters, we've been able to purchase a separate building that allows us to quarantine new kitties until we can ensure they can be safely blended with the others. We are working on finishing the inside, and then will put it into full operation.

We're so thankful for Chris Nerison, who not only designed and helped install the sign on our building but also thought of us in his estate when he passed. It has changed things so much for the cats and the big-hearted people who care for them.

So many of our kittens have been adopted in the last two months. Adopters have come as far as Chandler and Lake Havasu, thanks to Char's petfinder.com posts and the incredible adoption counseling and follow up by all our cat volunteers.

Adult cats, especially those who have known the stability of a loving home for years, have more trouble finding new homes when their owners pass. Joe from Wilhoit and George from Glen Ilah passed away recently, and their five adult cats had nowhere to go. They are now at Petey's Resource Center, trying their hardest to figure out what happened.

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Luna, Misty, Missy, Georgia and Belle need new homes. They are all sweet adult cats that have been well cared for all their lives. They are now looking for someone to step up and take over. Come and see them all at the resource center.

We can't leave a discussion about cats without mentioning Colton and Jinx. They were adorable little black kittens when they got here and now are stunningly handsome black cats fast approaching adulthood.

Black animals are historically overlooked in shelter environments and often spend more time than others waiting to be noticed. These are exceptional cats. Please come and take a look and consider them for your family.

Because we had so many other things going on, we took the fourth quarter of 2024 off from event plan-

ning. For 2025, we convened an event-planning committee to schedule a few traditional events that people have enjoyed in the past, and added some new things we think will be fun.

First up is Je-Purr-Dee (a take-off on the quiz-show Jeopardy), on March 15 at the Yarnell Regional Community center. Three contestants chosen from our studio audience will test their knowledge of all things cat to win prizes and a title.

Audience participation supporting the contestants and Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will round out the experience.

This will be really fun, and we thank Shari King for making it happen, and for being our master of ceremonies. Please visit our website at peteys-playground.org for more details.

(Rescue Tales continued on page 25)



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4H HORSE: BENEFITTING YAVAPAI COUNTY'S HORSE-HAPPY COMMUNITY

By Rita Thompson Tinsley

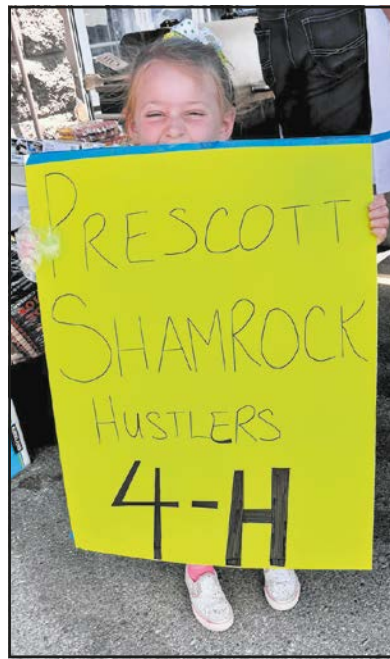


When local merchant and seasoned horsewoman Jessica Daugherty inquired about 4H leaders serving the local community, she discovered there was a void.

Being the recipient of a decade-long involvement with her local 4H club in Montana, Jessica recognized the need for a 4H Horse project in our very horsey environment.

She spearheaded the development of a 4H Horse Project to serve both Ash Fork Sunset and the Prescott Shamrock Hustlers, two clubs that come together with practices and meetings hosted at Chino Valley Equestrian Park (CVEP).

According to the Park's President Trudy Ruth, CVEP has generously provided sponsorships to each of the 4H members for them to access CVEP's top-of-the-line horse facility, which includes a main arena for them to use, complete with outdoor lighting, and a warm-up arena.



4H work starts at the youngest level.

The Horse Project venue features teachings and demonstrations from professionals such as an equine dental veterinarian, a farrier, experts on saddles/horse tack, and numerous other areas where the kids can learn hands-on all about the horse.

The 4H clover represents the organization's 4H's which are all included in their pledge: I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living.

According to their website, 4H is America's largest youth development organization—empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime.

Project Leader Jessica Daugherty fully believes, "You should engross yourself in something you are passionate about." And engross, she did.

While attending the University of Montana on scholarship, she brought along three horses and two goats. For Jessica, it was important to do and learn about everything horse.

However, she states, "4H Horse is not a riding club. You learn about bookkeeping, putting on demonstrations, public speaking and, importantly, public service". The 4H programs really set kids up for adulthood, with an emphasis on community.

As of 2025, Jessica's 4H Horse Project has grown to fifteen active members. As membership grows, the need for volunteers has become imperative. Luckily, as it goes with kids and horses, you see regular par-



Posing with farrier Ramey Morrow. Far L: Volunteer Rochelle Hawkins. Far R: Project Leader Jessica Daugherty.

ticipation with parents who help by transporting the horses to meetings, practices and events.

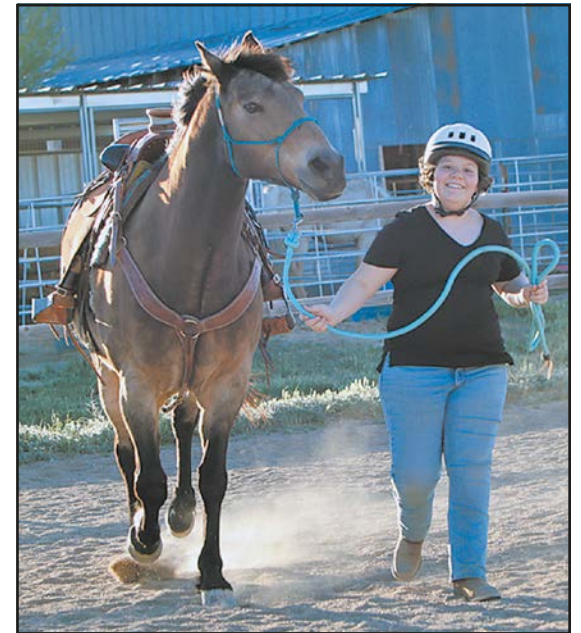
Dads are especially key in moving large and heavy objects to or from the arena, such as obstacles from a practice course.

Rochelle Hawkins has been a vital contribution to the project coming from a background with Future Farmers of America (FFA) with valuable animal knowledge and know-how. Jessica believes that both 4H and FFA are the foundations of America.

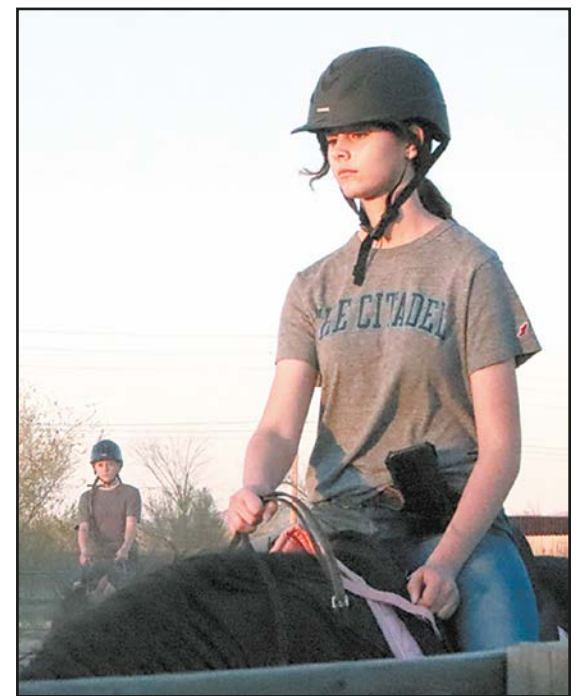
The kids in the 4H Horse Project are continually learning and practicing their riding skills and have competed in local equestrian shows. Jessica is lining up a special 4H sanctioned horse show for two Saturdays in the spring which will be open to 4H Horse kids statewide.

Last June, the kids acted as volunteers serving local veterans at a complimentary Veteran's Luncheon at Essence Kitchen in Chino Valley. They served meals, bussed tables, and took care of the needs of our local veterans while all gratuity was donated to the Yavapai County 4H Horse Project.

Last July, the kids became involved with the annual Prescott parade, serving as the all-popular parade pooper scoopers where they learned that some of the most important jobs begin with a shovel or a rake.



Essential horsemanship skills begin with ground work.



Practice makes perfect in the saddle.

These opportunities afforded to our 4H youth serve the purpose of developing leadership, responsibility, citizenship and other greatly valued life skills. Here's to the 4H project that sprouted knowledge and fun with H-clover number 5: Horse.



Equine Dentist Dr. Rich Fisher giving 'hands on' examining of tooth surface to young 4H member.

YAVAPAI COUNTY'S SEARCH & RESCUE K9 UNIT PARTICIPATES IN CERTIFICATION SEMINAR

The Yavapai County Search and Rescue K9 unit is often called upon to conduct a criminal investigation search by the Sheriff's Office. In February, our K9 team went through a Crime Scene K9 Investigation seminar. The K9s are required to recertify every 2 years. Teaching the five-day course is Matt Zareella—and internationally known K9 instructor who is also the owner of American Patriot K9 Training and representative for the International Police Working Dogs Association (IPWDA).

A retired State Trooper based out of Rhode Island, Matt has trained K9 teams all over the country. He also travels all over the world, working his K9 on recovering lost persons and MIA soldiers. He has been coming to Yavapai County for three years to train and certify the Search K9 Unit in various areas of Ca-



Matt Zareella IPWDA Instructor



ver and Live Find disciplines. You might recognize his name from the movie, *Rescued by Ruby*, where he portrayed the training instructor.

Our team was able to train at several different locations in the quad cities during this Crime Scene K9 Investigation course. For the K9 fire-investigation part of the class, we trained at the Central Arizona Fire Academy. For our building searches, we trained at the Jeep Posse House and at Little Dealer, Little Prices RV dealer. For the vehicle searches, we trained at the You Pick It salvage yard and Prescott Tire Pro.

Like most of the members of the Yavapai County Search and Rescue teams, our K9 unit is also trained in wilderness first aid, tracking, lost person



YCSRT K9 Crime Scene Team

behavior, and K9 first aid. The K9 team carries what is called a Fido bag that's used for dogs requiring basic medical treatment like oxygen and fluids. In the past, the team had to help a dehydrated dog belonging to its missing owner during a search operation. As you can tell, our K9 unit is highly trained in any situation that may occur.

Our YCSRT K9 Team is a non-profit organization that's kept going through donations and grants. Please consider donating to help pay for our equipment and ongoing training. Visit us on Facebook at YCSRTK9unit for more information.

(Rescue Tales continued from page 23)

Yavapai Humane Trappers Animal Search & Rescue Celebrates 7th Year of Rescuing Dogs



"It takes a village" is the philosophy behind our incredible all-volunteer Arizona organization. We became an official 501(c)(3) in November of 2019 and have been awarded the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency for three years running.

With only a moment's notice, day or night, our volunteers travel to help animals. YHT has taken animals that other rescues are unable to help. We also serve all of Yavapai County and frequently travel to the Navajo, Hopi, and Apache reservations—and anyplace else where an animal is in need and no other resources are available.

Our village consists of a trapping team, animal behaviorists, a foster team and fosters, an adoption team, and an events/marketing team.

Our trapping helps to find lost pets, injured animals, abandoned dogs and cats. The injuries are often severe and require extensive medical intervention. Every day brings a new challenge.

YHT's animal behaviorists work on two levels with our dogs. Newcomers are evaluated for any triggers or behavioral issues, how they walk on a leash, fearful tendencies, and reactions to other dogs or children.

Our team also assists our foster parents when there are issues with a foster dog. They'll also evaluate dogs to help find the best foster home for them.

Our foster team is amazing. At a moment's notice, they scramble to find foster homes for incoming dogs. They jump in to provide loving homes for often very dirty, sometimes injured, scared animals. We have a very special group of fosters who specialize in injury rehabilitation, bottle babies, and hospice care.

The adoption team processes pre-adoption applications and is available at adoption events (such as at WOOFstock every June, and most Saturdays at the Prescott Petco). They work to find the best fit for the animal.

We don't adopt on a first-come basis. Our rescue animals are in loving foster homes or boarded for medical reasons, and the foster parents help



determine if the personality of the animal fits with the potential adopter.

Gracie is one of our many wonderful stories. She was found at on a cold 28° February morning

at 2 a.m. in Kayenta, hovering behind a bush for protection from wind gusts. After she was rescued, 111 people responded to a Facebook post suggesting names. We brought her to Prescott, where it discovered she had had many litters of puppies in her five years on The Rez. She may have spent most of her life hiding behind bushes, but no longer. Gracie was adopted by her foster mom and now enjoys a furever life of car rides, dog parks, and pup-cups.



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A MILE IN THEIR PAWS: BEING MORE-THAN-HUMAN FOR OUR PACKMATES AND OUR PLANET

By Solana Kline, honorary four-legger

Humans are weird. I say this when trying to imagine why a species would choose to live so out of sync with their ecological systems that they rely on for survival.

I've spent my career as a cultural anthropologist and human geographer, exploring human-nature relationships and seeing how our learned cultural norms impact our ecological communities in positive and negative ways. My doggie comrades are not just honorary PhD's but are also partial impetus for my research representing the rights and agency of our more-than-human comrades here on Earth. More-than-humans are the non-humans or other-than-humans who we share the planet with.

The more-than-human research field is full of creative methods to try and capture the activity, communication, life, actions, agency, and communities of more-than-humans. Researchers are literally putting their noses to the ground to experience the world as closely to the more-than-humans as possible. For some, this means sitting still for hours as the boulder does, and for others it means crawling hand over foot, belly to the ground as the water monitor does.

Think about different scales of space-time for each species or piece of matter, where time and distance (or space) are relative to the being who is experiencing it. Think of how long it might take a minuscule mite to travel ten feet, versus how long it would take you to walk it. Or how your perception of the world might change based what senses are keen in your species, or how massive a human would seem to a stink bug raising his rear in warning out on the trail. This is the relativity of space-time and the importance of perspective.

In industrialized human cultures, humans assume they are exceptional, or better-than other beings. This keeps us from empathizing, connecting, and feeling the world with them—a detrimental way to live on a planet that's made of interconnected and interdependent webs of life and livelihoods.

As much as we'd like to think we are special: we aren't, we are just weird! Stepping into the paws and hooves of our four-leggers sure can make a difference in how we are able to empathize with our pack/herd mates. Their own unique and relative space-time impacts how they experience the world, how they interact with us, and how they express their needs.

So, in best efforts to walk a mile in their paws, I've been going full canine, following Betty and Mickey's lead into every bush and gully, putting my bare hands and feet on the ground, awkwardly ambling around after them—admittedly feeling



Following the pack off-piste after some good sniffs



Mountain-goating with the pack down Spring run-off near Cottonwood

a bit jealous that I don't have a tail to wag. Imagine the freedom to poo immediately when the need arose? Or to sprint off wildly after a squirrel's chirp?

I squat down to Betty's Terrier vista: she can barely see above the golden Winter grasses blowing against her snout and shoulders, relying on her senses of smell and hearing to geolocate the underground mouse tunnels she is tracking. Betty has always been one to find the highest point to survey her territory, so I lift her up to my gaze height and she perks, eyes and ears and sniffs on point to gather in all of this new information.

I try it with Mickey too, but he is a dense boy, so he got about half again as tall but enjoyed the new perspective all the same.

I get down on all fours to wrestle, bum-slaming the dogs, mouth open, snorting and growling, pawing their sides, copycatting their play styles. As soon as I move down to their height and body position to play, they immediately include me in their wrestling, whereas when I am an upright two-legger, they wonder how to encourage me to join in.

Out on a trail run, they catch a rogue sniff on an outbound breeze and follow it into the hillside, I pursue, and while I can't smell 1/10,000th as well as they can, I use my other senses to understand



Following our ears in the high-country

what they are doing. I see jackrabbit tracks and pellets in and out of the terrain, but when the pups stop to gulp down an occasional rabbit dropping, I decide I've got enough fiber in my diet.

I get on all fours at the top of a staircase. Jeesh, that is steep! No wonder Mickey descends with both front feet together, followed by his rear feet together, awkwardly bucking his bum side to side while he rocking-horses down.

Betts barrels through a wall of tumbleweeds and screeches to a halt, looking stuck and worried. A branch

of tumbleweed is wrapped into her hair across the insides of her rear legs, effectively shackling them together with desert prongs. If I had a relatively sized prickly bush stuck between my legs, I imagine it would be three feet wide.

The hounds drift off into dreamland, feet and nosers going a hundred miles an hour, eyes fluttering to match their light dreaming woofs. I lay next to them, mimicking their motions and trying to imagine the who/what/where/why of their dreams. Galloping across Spring grassfields to a steak dinner? Hounding through hill and burrow, hot on deer musk?

I join in Betty and Mickey's morning ritual of snuggles, where they simultaneously decide upon waking up to flip-flop onto their backs, full beast-mode, wriggling wildly and scratching their backs and lovingly clashing their open mouths together. They welcome my joining-in, full smiles wrapped around all our mugs, being in the moment and in joy to start the day with my pals. Yes, please!



Taking in afternoon camping naps

Going more-than-human with our packs and herds is more than just a silly experiment, it is a potent means of thinking and viewing and feeling and living as other and together. This becomes an essential practice for us humans as we ponder how we want to co-exist with our planetary comrades, including with our fellow humans. The more we consider others in our world, the more we are part-of our world.

It reminds us that we're embedded within and inseparable from the infinitely intricate and delicately delicate balance of species and matter all around us—we belong to all these more-than-humans, and we belong to our fellow humans. And while you might be leery to risk being known as the weirdo on the trail, or in your neighborhood, practicing being more-than-human is sure fire way to remember our innate connections to all life on the planet, and it all starts right here with our four-leggers.

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