

# Prescott Dog

July/August 2025 • PrescottDog.com magazine



## **Airlift to a New Life**

Land of the Giants  
The Caissons Go Rolling Along  
Bored Dogs, Not Bad Dogs  
Celebration of Life: Zoila

*Introducing Our Cover Dog – Kala*

TO GOOD HOME  
**FREE**  
ALWAYS

# WOOF WORLD WAGAZINE

 A MUST-SEE FOR ALL DOGS LOOKING FOR AN OPEN HOME AND HEART 

## COVER STORY

Meet Loch and read his inspiring tale of a dog who dares to dream... of snacks, snuggles, and a forever home.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Five Ways to Convince Your Human It's Time for a Walk (Again)

## FASHION

Microchips ~ The Accessory You Can't See, But Absolutely Need

## LIFESTYLE

Manifesting a Forever Home: Loch's Vision Board ~ Every dog in a shelter has one

DON'T SHOP TILL YOU DROP... 

**ADOPT!**

Check out Yavapai Humane Society at [yavapaihumane.org](http://yavapaihumane.org)



YHS AVAILABLE DOGS

 **Yavapai Humane Society**

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928-445-2666



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## CONTENTS

Kala, Our Cover Dog .....	5
Hazel Howls.....	6
Some of the WOOFstock Adoptions.....	7
Calendar .....	8
Rescue Resources .....	8
Airlift to a New Life.....	9
<i>Jennifer Casey</i>	
WOOFstock Event Wrapup .....	10
Rescue Tales .....	12
Dogs for Adoption .....	15
Cats for Adoption .....	16
Summertime Tips and Tricks for Kitty Kitty .....	17
<i>Kay Luckett</i>	
Land of the Giants: Hike Sequoia National Forest .....	18
<i>Cheryl Hartz</i>	
The Sport of Fast CAT is Fast, Fun and Easy to Train...20	
<i>Heidi Dahms Foster</i>	
The Caissons Go Rolling Along.....	22
<i>Rita Thompson Tinsley</i>	
Bored Dogs, Not Bad Dogs .....	24
<i>Solana Kline</i>	
Celebration of Life: Zoila.....	26
<i>Anita Rosario</i>	

### PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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

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

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### PUBLISHER/OWNER

Cherie L Dreves

### ADVERTISING

(928) 445-4811

Cherie@reddogpublishing.net

### CONTRIBUTORS

*Cover Photo by Linda Zimmerman*



Heidi Dahms Foster  
*Feature Writer*



Cheryl Hartz  
*Outdoor Writer*



Pilar Henry  
*Feature Writer*



Solana Kline  
*Feature Writer*



Kay Luckett  
*Feature Writer*



Rita Thompson-Tinsley  
*Equestrian Writer*

## 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 receive:

- 1) A \$50. Gift Certificate
- 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**



## Kala, Our Cover Dog

**Name:** Kala or Little Miss Kala

**Hometown:** Nikiski, Alaska

**Age:** Four

**Favorite Brand of Kibble:** Purina Pro Plan Salmon and Rice.

**Favorite People Food:** I enjoy strawberries and green beans.

**Favorite Toy:** I am OBSESSED with my Chukit Ball.

**Favorite Outdoor Activity:** I LOVE it when Dad throws my ball with the Chukit. I can do this ALL DAY LONG.

**Favorite Indoor Activity:** I like to play with my orange Chukit ball inside too! Did I mention my Chuckit ball?

**Favorite Nap Spot:** I love sleeping on the couch or Mom and Dad's bed.

**Fitness Regimen:** I love a morning walk and Dad throwing my Chuckit ball in the backyard.

**Describe Your Perfect Canine Pal:** I love my sister, Mochi, but sometimes we don't get along. Generally, we love to play but are very competitive.

**Describe Your Perfect Day:** My perfect day would be my morning walk, playing with Dad and my Chuckit ball, going to the Prescott Dog Park, and then hanging with my humans.



# HAZEL HOWLS

## Badges & Badgering

What a waste of a perfectly good morning. Even though it's my own fault for opening my mouth. I didn't realize that giving Tucker, my pack brother, a bit of advice yesterday would end up with him and myself spending the morning (right after breakfast, mind you) having our picture(s) taken.

You're probably wondering what's the big deal about having our pictures taken. Well, the three involved are canines. Trying to stay still over and over again. Attempting to follow multiple overlapping instructions. All hurriedly delivered by two increasingly frustrated adult two-leggeds. It's hard to endure. Dad once told me W.C. Fields loathed working with small children and animals. Not offended, I completely understand.

Picture Taking is a total mystery to four-leggeds. On occasion pack-Mom and/or Dad will point their talk and talk box at us, giving us an endless stream of commands and suggestions. Mom also tries to demonstrate somewhat effectively what exactly they want us to do.

Of course, Mom always tries to share with us the results on her little box. Tucker and I pretend to be pleased and amazed at whatever she's trying to show us. Pru licks the screen. Keira always thinks Mom is giving her something to play with.

You're probably curious what the occasion was that warranted all the hullabaloo. It started yesterday with Pru (surprised?), pestering Tucker to make her a deputy sheriff.

You see, Tucker has been the honorary sheriff of our pack for years now. He's always had a penchant for taking care of the home pack and the foster puppies that passed through our lives. Keira, our family's red Golden, was not only a present for Mom but for Tucker also.

He's loved each of the service Golden we've raised and, of course, he pined for them when they moved on. It was natural for him to want to share his duties with Golden pack-sister.

Well, Keira became a deputy for the pack, but it's mostly ceremonial. She's basically Mom's official gardening escort and morning coffee confidant. Keira also likes to show off to Pru when they go out the back door, by whirling in circles and barking at nothing in particular. She just likes to announce to the natural world that she is on duty.

I guess Pru, who looks up to her older sister Keira (even though Pru picks on Keira from time to time), started to want a formal title and job of her own, too.

Poor Tucker had to not only listen to quite a lengthy presentation from Pru yesterday about all of her qualities and "Darn good reasons" that she should be sworn in as a Deputy, like Keira.

Tucker also had to fight to hold his tongue, as he was in a surly mood to begin with. He told me later that he had to keep in mind how sensitive Pru's feelings are, even though as a Max-Pin Paradox breed, she's pretty tough and athletic.

Tuck told me that his mind just kept whispering, "Not a snow cone's chance in Hades" as Pru listed endless reasons why she should be part of the pack enforcement team. To top it off, Keira was on the other side of the big pine tree engaged in non-Deputy behavior. (Editor's note: See Tucker's own account at [tinyurl.com/3v3hcj7a](http://tinyurl.com/3v3hcj7a))

When Tucker finally managed to break away, he came to me at a loss as how to handle Pru's request without causing strife in the pack. This is where I shot my mouth off trying to help.

Back when I was navigator in the big truck with Dad, I remember him regaling me with tales of the Adirondack Mountains, which included mentions of a conservation officer he was friends with.

So... I said to Tuck, "Why not swear in Pru as a conservation officer?"

Even though I couldn't quite remember exactly what all that involved, Tuck took to the idea and ran off to tell Pru. Hence this morning's ruckus in the living room for a quick swearing in and chaotic photo shoot for posterity.

Dad even dug out an antique, leather-mounted conservation officer badge he had and let Pru wear it for a while. Dad had to take it off for safekeeping when he saw Pru taunting Keira with, "How is it you don't have a badge like I do? Must be Dad likes me best. Too bad you don't have a badge. Mom took pictures of me with my badge for posterity. Too bad nobody took pictures of you with a badge."



So, if the morning wasn't bad enough, Pru was on my heels for a couple of hours, making sure I wasn't doing anything that could be considered a non-conservation activity.

Eventually she got bored with me and pestered Dad with a thousand questions, interspersed with requests to see her badge again.

Dad got pretty exasperated and tried to pawn Pru off to Mom, but Mom's quick on the uptake and she deflected. (Ball is back in your court, Dad.)

He finally convinced Pru to check on Keira outside, and the moment Pru was out of hearing range (upright ears? Add thirty feet), Dad beelined to Tucker, who was lying in front of the floor fan.

"You need to rein in your new officer a bit, Tucker," Dad said firmly.

"I am empowered by the county, and I believe Pru is under Federal jurisdiction," Tuck said without raising up or even opening his eyes.

Ball is in your court, Dad.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog

*From the Wild  
To the Hunt  
To the Ranch*  
**Rez Dogz**  
*and  
Back to the Wild  
or  
Maybe Rez-Cued*

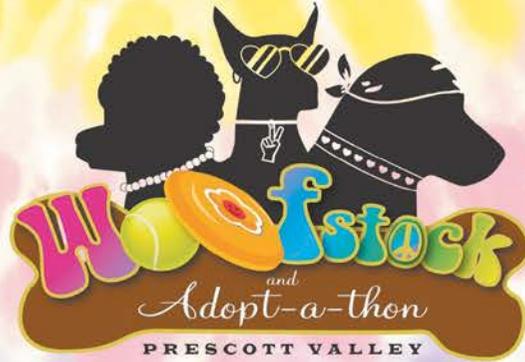
*A New Special Exhibit  
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 **Museum of  
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[www.museumoffindigenouspeople.org](http://www.museumoffindigenouspeople.org)



# SOME OF THE WOOFSTOCK ADOPTIONS





# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS

**AARF ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY.** Adoptions by appt. in Mayer. Info 928-925-7219 or email at [aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com](mailto:aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com). See pets available for adoption at [aarfrescue.net](http://aarfrescue.net).

**BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY** Shows adoptable dogs at Prescott Petco Sun 11a-1pm or by appt. More info: [blackhathumanesociety.org](http://blackhathumanesociety.org) or 928 899-3942.

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

**CIRCLE L RANCH ADOPTIONS.** On-site by appt. Off-site info. 928-273-7005 or [CircleL.org](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://unitedanimalfriends.org/adoption-events/). To volunteer or learn more about us: [unitedanimalfriends.org](http://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](http://Yavapai-HumaneTrappers.org) to request mtg or complete preadoption form.

## JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

### HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- July 7-11,14-18,21-25 ZooCamp
- July 10 Zoo by Moonlight
- July 12 Breakfast with Tortoise & Friends
- July 11,19,26 ZooLittles
- July 19 Evening with Clouded Leopards
- July 19, ZOOvie Night
- July 26 Sip & Paint (Adult)
- August 2,22,30 ZooLittles
- August 9 Evening with Mt. Lion
- August 9 Zoo by Moonlight/ Members Free Night
- August 16 Wet & Wild Day
- August 23 Evening with Clouded Leopards

## CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK EVENTS

For further info or to register online, visit [cvequestrianpark.org](http://cvequestrianpark.org)

- July 26-27, Obstacle Clinic and Obstacle Challenge w/Trainer Megan Bennett of Sunset Ranch.
- Aug 23, 4H Schooling Show
- Aug. 24, Western Dressage Association of AZ Western Dressage Show.
- Aug. 30, Chino Valley Equestrian Park Open Schooling Show Buckle Series, 8 am start.

## OBSTACLE CLINIC & OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

- Aug 23-24, w/Trainer Megan Bennett of Sunset Ranch at Horses with Heart. Info: 602-565-1514.

## SEPTEMBER EVENT

### DOGTREE PINES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

An afternoon of inspiration & fun w/ live music, cocktails, a silent auction & dog-wares. Tasty food, desserts & a live presentation by Dion & Gobi from the New York Times' bestseller, Finding Gobi followed by a meet & greet. Sep 13, 1:30p-4:30p. Hazeltine Theater, 208 N Marina Street, Prescott. Tickets: \$125. More info: [dogtreepines.com/events](http://dogtreepines.com/events).



# Rescue Resources

For an expanded view of Rescue Resources, visit [PrescottDog.com](http://PrescottDog.com) & [FlagstaffSedonaDog.com](http://FlagstaffSedonaDog.com)



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



## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

**ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICES**  
Shelter for animals in the event of a disaster.  
PO Box 10793, Prescott • 928-642-0758  
[AnimalDisasterServices.com](http://AnimalDisasterServices.com)

**LASER**  
Large animal shelters & emergency readiness.  
P.O. Box 12782, Prescott • 928-713-9691  
[laser-shelter.org](http://laser-shelter.org)

# AIRLIFT TO A NEW LIFE

By Jennifer Casey

United Animal Friends recently took in sixteen dogs from a hoarding situation on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico after receiving a plea from a fellow rescue organization. The owners had so many dogs, they couldn't afford to feed them all or properly care for them, and the organization that contacted us couldn't take them.



Tulie and pups

We knew ahead of time that one dog, Reba, was coming with a litter of puppies, but it wasn't until the day they were due to arrive in Prescott that we discovered another dog in the group, Tulie, was not only pregnant but had given birth that very morning.

Both moms were fearful and very protective of their babies, making it difficult to get them settled into the segregated mom and pups buildings at the UAF Rescue Ranch. These poor mamas didn't understand that we were trying to help. They and did their best to keep us away from their pups, but eventually all were safely bedded down in their cozy quarters.

We soon learned that it wasn't just the moms who were fearful. All but one of the adult dogs were under-socialized due to their lack of exposure to people. They were also very confused at finding themselves in this new situation. Our caring staff and volunteers worked patiently to make them feel safe, acclimate them to their new life, and prepare them for adoption.

We gave the puppies plenty of interaction with a variety of people at our weekly dog enrichment sessions so they'd be ready for adoption once they were spayed or neutered. While we made good progress with most of the dogs, Reba, Tulie, and Teddy continued to be extremely shy and fearful.

Sometimes the best way to help another being is knowing when you need to ask for help. United Animal Friends has spent years cultivating relationships with a broad network of rescue organizations in the southwest, which lets us all work together for the greater good of animals.

In most instances, UAF is

the one taking in adoptable pets from underserved areas so we can get them adopted into loving homes. This time, we were the ones needing help from an organization with vast experience in rehabilitating fearful dogs, so we reached out to Best Friends, the nation's largest sanctuary for homeless animals.

Best Friends is headquartered in Kanab, Utah, with additional lifesaving centers in Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Houston, Bentonville, and New York. The Salt Lake City lifesaving center—which works collaboratively with animal rescue groups, city shelters, and individuals dedicated to making Utah a no-kill state—agreed to accept Reba, Tulie, and Teddy.

Thrilled that the dogs would receive the expert care they needed, we now needed to find a way to transport them to Salt Lake City—a ten-hour drive from Prescott. Because the dogs were so fearful and could quickly bolt in a panic, they would need to be kept in their carriers to ensure their safety for the entire trip. That would be an uncomfortable trip, and not the best start to the next chapter of their lives.

One of the UAF volunteers with flight experience started thinking of a better way: why not fly them?

Once again, we needed to reach out for help.

The cost of flying them in a private plane would have been prohibitive, but when Judy contacted Leighnor Aircraft at the Prescott Regional Airport and explained the situation to Jerred Clark, the office manager, he and another pilot, Nigel Legallet, agreed to fly the dogs to Salt Lake City for free.

A few days later, our ranch manager, Kris, brought the dogs to the the airport before dawn for their private flight, and soon they were off to their next step in getting the lives they deserve. We're thrilled that Best Friends will be providing the expert care these dogs need. We're also extremely grateful to these generous pilots for helping them get there.

After the flight, Jarred said, "I'm just happy that the dogs are in a better place, and that they're getting the help they need."

Because Best Friends allowed us to free up some space by taking these three, they asked if we could take in two dogs from the Kayenta, Arizona shelter located on the reservation.

Due to the lack of resources and demand, remote shelters like this one have a particularly hard time getting dogs adopted. They rely on organizations such as ours to bring the animals to areas where they can be seen and adopted into loving families.



Polly Ann

Jimmy Dean and Polly Ann soon filled the vacancies.

Jimmy Dean is a loving, gentle, two-year-old (our best guess) hound-dog mix who enjoys making new friends. He gets along great with other dogs and loves soaking up attention from people.



Jimmy Dean

Whether he's exploring the yard with his nose to the ground or just relaxing by someone's side, he's happiest when he's part of the action and surrounded by love.

Polly Ann is a mixed-breed beauty with a heart of pure gold. At around three years old (again, our best guess), she's the perfect blend of youthful energy and grown-up charm. She's super outgoing, incredibly friendly, and absolutely adores meeting new people. She's the kind of pup who thinks everyone she meets is her new best friend.

Could you be the new best friend for either of these wonderful dogs?

If you'd like to learn more about Jimmy Dean, Polly Ann, or any of our other adoptable dogs or cats, please visit [unitedanimalfriends.org](http://unitedanimalfriends.org). While you're there, please consider donating to one of our critically needed programs, including the Foster/Adopt Program, Spay/Neuter Program, Emergency Medical Program or Community Pet Food Bank. Your support makes happy endings happen.



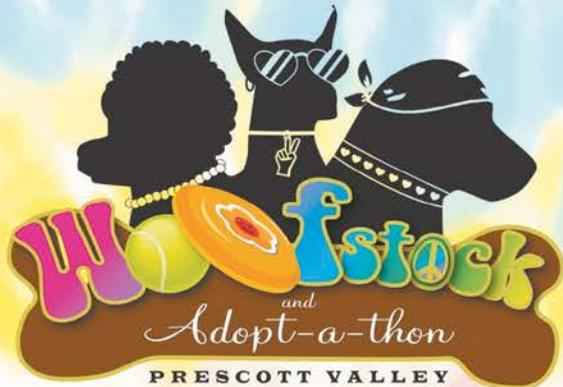
Jared and David



Securely loaded



Puppy enrichment

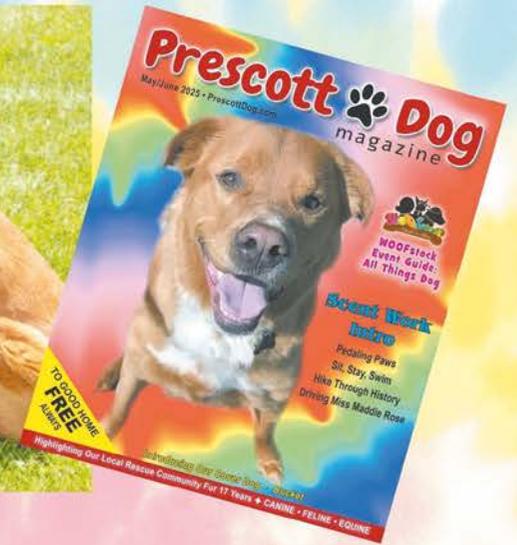


**Woofstock**  
and  
*Adopt-a-thon*  
PRESCOTT VALLEY  
**Saturday, May 31st**



**A Howlin' Good Time Was Had By All!**

**WHETHER YOU MET A NEW FRIEND,  
GOT YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED  
OR FOUND THE NEW LOVE OF YOUR LIFE,  
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE  
14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOOFSTOCK AND ADOPT-A-THON  
A HOWLING SUCCESS!**





### Senior Pets for Senior Vets

Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary is launching a new program called Senior Pets for Senior Vets (veterans and retired first responders).

Senior dogs are being surrendered to shelters, abandoned on the streets, and euthanized in record numbers right now. The shelters are full, the rescues are full, and the streets are full of animals who have no place to go. They have been abandoned.

Many of these owners have passed or gone into senior-care living facilities with no plans for their senior pets. Senior rescues are especially hard to adopt out or rehome because they have limited time left and may have unusually large vet bills. Very few people go to a shelter looking to adopt an older dog that they will only have for a very short time. In addition, rescues face the same challenges.

Seniors cost more, require more time and effort, and in most cases the rescue can't recoup an adoption fee. Old rescue dogs usually sit at the shelter uncomfortable and in pain, get sick, and are eventually euthanized. That's no way to end the life of a dog who has been a loyal companion for their entire life.

Dogtree Pines gives these dogs the safety and security, joy, love and health that they deserve and—when it comes time—a passing with love and respect.

In our program, we match an available dog with a veteran, and you can choose to adopt or foster. If, at any time or for any reason, you determine that you can no longer care for the dog, we take them back into the sanctuary, no questions asked. This lets you enjoy the company of a senior pet without worrying what will happen to them if changes arise in your life.

### Benefits of Our Program

- No adoption fee!
- Adopt or foster (select dogs)
- If anything happens (medical or otherwise), we take the dog back, no questions asked. No need to worry about finding them a new home!

Please see our available dogs at [dogtreepines.com](http://dogtreepines.com).



Woody & Peanut

### Dogtree Pines Fundraiser Event

This year's fundraiser celebrates our profound bond with dogs. Attendees will enjoy an afternoon of inspiration and fun at the Hazeltine Theater.

Your afternoon begins with live music and cocktails while you peruse exquisite silent-auction items and shop at the DOG Duds booth in the beautiful outdoor courtyard of Hazeltine. You'll indulge in tasty tapas from El Gato Azul and delicious desserts provided by Theodore's Fine Foods while anticipating our headliner—the famous Dion and Gobi from the New York Times bestseller, *Finding Gobi*.

Dion, an accomplished motivational speaker, will share a fifty-minute presentation with a slideshow on the epic true story of their journey, challenges, and enduring bond to get to where they are today. They'll share their story together as Gobi sits by his side.

It's all followed by a meet-and-greet with Dion and Gobi and leaving with a gift, thanking them for their support of Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary.

So please join us on Saturday, September 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hazeltine Theater, 208 N. Marina Street in Prescott. Tickets are \$125. For more information, please visit [dogtreepines.com/events](http://dogtreepines.com/events).



### What's New at the Shelter: Spring into Summer

Spring has been bustling at the Humane Society of Wickenburg, and we've got puppies and kittens galore to prove it. The warmer weather brought a baby boom that filled our shelter to capacity, but thanks to our incredible community of volunteers and fosters, every furry life has been met with love, care, and a safe place to grow.

We've welcomed a crew of rock star volunteers this season, including long-time supporter and now foster extraordinaire, Kirsten N, who opened her home to not one, but two litters of kittens.



Volunteers like Kirsten are the heart of what we do, and we're always looking for more compassionate people to join our team. Whether it's fostering, walking dogs, or helping with events, there's a place for everyone at HSW.

Speaking of help, we're currently in urgent need of puppy and kitten food, litter, formula, and other basic supplies. If you'd like to help, please visit us at [wickenburghumane.com](http://wickenburghumane.com) and click the donate tab to find links to our wishlists. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a huge difference in the lives of the animals we care for.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce our upcoming Puppy Yoga event in July. This fun, feel-good class pairs gentle yoga with playful puppy snuggles. Not only is it a unique way to unwind, but it also supports our mission to spay and neuter every puppy and kitten we take in. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for official dates and registration info, and note that spaces will be limited.

Don't forget to check out our Follow the Litter series on social media. We recently wrapped up the inspiring journey of Madeline, a stray who gave birth under the care of one of our fosters. Her puppies have all found loving homes, and now sweet Mama Madeline is ready for her own forever family. Next up: Katrina's litter. Katrina is currently waddling her way through the shelter, soaking up love and belly rubs while we await the arrival of her little ones.

There's never a dull moment at the Humane Society of Wickenburg. Thanks to our community's continued support, we're able to meet every challenge with hope, heart, and a lot of wagging tails. Whether you donate, volunteer, foster, or simply share our posts, you're a vital part of this lifesaving work.

Stay tuned, stay involved, and help us make this our most impactful summer yet.



### Let's Work Together for the Animals

If you've spent any time in the world of animal rescue or sheltering, you know just how emotional and passionate it can be. Most of us didn't get into this work for recognition or praise. We did it because we couldn't stand by and do nothing when animals needed us. And at the end of the day, that's what matters most... the animals.

But sometimes, in the middle of all that passion, things can get a little messy. Misunderstandings happen. Frustrations build. And sadly, that can lead to criticism, conflict, and finger-pointing—especially online.

Once it's out there, it's out there, whether it's accurate or not. Even if something gets deleted, it's already been seen, shared, and absorbed. And let's be real: how often do people assume something's true just because it's on the internet? Please do your research before you decide what to post or repost.

We've all heard the whispers: "That place doesn't care about animals." "They turned me away." "I'd never work with them." And while those words are being exchanged—on social media, in conversations, in reviews—animals are sitting behind kennel doors. Waiting. Hoping. Depending on all of us to keep showing up.

Here's the thing: when we divide ourselves... when we speak out in anger or make assumptions without having a real conversation... no one wins. And the ones who lose the most? The animals we all care about.

Rescue work is hard. And shelters? They aren't big-box stores with unlimited budgets and neatly tied-up outcomes. They're made up of people doing the best they can with what they have. Budgets are tight (no matter what you might hear), staff and volunteers are often stretched thin, and every day brings emotional highs and lows. This work is full of tough calls, heartbreak, and hope—all tangled together.

So, when something goes wrong, or even just feels like it did, it's easy to feel upset. And those feelings are valid. But how we respond to those moments matters.

Instead of turning to social media or firing off a one-star review, what if we hit pause first? What if we reach

out, give each other the benefit of the doubt, and try to talk it through? What if we choose grace over gossip?

Because the truth is, most of us—whether we're adopters, fosters, donors, staff, or volunteers—are here for the same reason: we love animals, and we want to help. We want to make things better for the ones who can't speak for themselves. And doing better? It starts with all of us. With communication. With kindness.

With remembering why we're here in the first place.

Former staff and volunteers are part of this, too. If something didn't sit right with you, please say something, but do it with the intention of making things better. Talk to someone at the organization. Ask questions. Share your thoughts directly before taking it public.

Sometimes there's more going on behind the scenes than people realize. And sometimes things that happened years ago are still being talked about as if they're happening now.

If there are issues, there are ways to address them through proper channels—but let's not make it harder for the animals still waiting for homes by spreading more hurt.

To our community: your voices matter too. Your support and your feedback are incredibly important.

If something doesn't make sense, or if you're concerned, we invite you to reach out. Come visit. Give us a call. Let's talk it through. Because behind every policy or decision, there's usually a reason. More often than not, it comes from a place of trying to do the right thing with the resources we have.

This work isn't perfect, but it is personal. And I promise you, most of us are doing the very best we can.

Now just imagine... what if instead of tearing each other down, we built each other up? What if rescues



Goofy: 3 years old, retriever/lab mix

and shelters collaborated more? What if people left organizations with dignity instead of bitterness? What if we asked questions before jumping to conclusions?

That kind of shift could change everything. It could result in fewer animals waiting for their forever homes. More adoptions. More lives saved. Simply because we chose to lead with compassion, to listen, and to work together.

Because at the end of the day, this work isn't about who does it best or who gets the credit. It's about making sure the animals get the best we can give them. And none of us can do it alone.

So, the next time something feels frustrating or confusing, take a moment. Reach out. Ask. Listen. Let's not make this about blame or drama. Let's keep it about the animals.

Together, we can do so much good. Together, we can give them the second chances they deserve.

Let's lead with kindness. Let's work together. Let's keep our hearts and our eyes on what really matters. Because the animals are the reason we're here. And they're worth it.



Pretty sure we all agree that puppies and kittens are adorable, and each one deserves the best chance for a safe and happy life with someone that loves them as part of their family and will always take care of them.

Unfortunately, we in rescue too often see the other side: Uncaring owners that don't bother to spay or neuter their pets, allowing them to roam whenever and, guess what, inevitably we see an accidental litter.



After, we might see them for sale in parking lots, on Craig's List, and other Facebook sites. Worse, abandoned in an empty lot, in the woods, or along a highway. They are so vulnerable and did not ask for life to begin this way. The worst part is that mom or dad will be ready to do it all over another day unless change happens!

There are options. AARF, for example, was given a generous donation last year targeted for low-cost spay/neuter. We have been fortunate to have a wonderful partner in the Chino Valley Animal Hospital. Other veterinarians have also stepped in to assist at our clinics.

So far, we have had seven events with up to sixty dogs and cats brought to each one. That's 350-400 animals, all because their owners have chosen to be proactive and responsible—and we thank every one.

There are other groups in and around our area who also have low-cost options available for community pets. Just do your research. It is so important to be that special owner, because you are the guardian for their health and wellbeing.

Our Puppy Palace at AARF has housed 24 moms and 161 litters since 2019. Most were abandoned, found by good Samaritans, brought to shelters, or were owner-surrenders.

Our last mom was Scarlet, a beautiful blue tick hound, who had 14 puppies. She, as do most of our moms, found a great home. (Thank you, Cherie and WOOFstock!) Some of her kids are still with us and hoping.

AARF is open six days a week for tours or visits. We'd love to show you

around or talk about our spay/neuter program. If you know someone that needs that service, please refer them. If you have spare time and want to volunteer with us, call 928-925-7219. We have lots of doggies to share your love with.



The can-do attitude in rescue makes all the difference for animals who might otherwise die. Luckily for Blackhat, we have the epitome of that attitude in one of our long-time volunteers, Susan M.

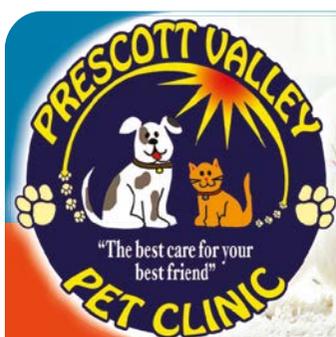
In the rescue world, it's way too easy to look at a situation and come up with reasons why you can't help, and we have heard it all. People have so much going on right now, but to say, "Yes, I will find a way to help" means one more animal will get a chance.

Our first story starts deep on the Rez where there's a fenced-off wolf sanctuary and adjacent unfenced bone-pit, where old meat scraps and bones are discarded. As you can imagine, it's a magnet for free-roaming dogs, and starving dog packs quickly form to fight for those remnants. Animal Control must patrol the area periodically and will indiscriminately remove friendly, under-socialized, and feral dogs.

Just before one such sweep, our can-do foster identified two young pups whom she felt deserved to be saved. So, save them, she did.

She named them Alectra and Astria, which means "shining and star, loved by the gods", and someone was certainly watching out for them. They're now in training and are learning that people can be kind and caring. They'll be up for adoption soon.

Bordering the Ramah Navajo Reservation is a kindhearted rancher who sometimes spots abandoned dogs and asks Blackhat for help. Late last year, he spotted three young pups hiding by an old shed. For a week,



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Reed

the rancher and his wife worked at coaxing the pups to them with soaked kibble.

When the pups disappeared, the ranchers went on a search and miraculously found them a half-mile away. Frantic to bring them to safety, the ranchers used their coats as nets and finally managed to contain the pups. One was adopted by another rancher and is doing well. In honor of the kind rancher, the two that went to foster Susan's with Blackhat are the Sunny Pups: Fife (female) and Reed (male).

They are now striking handsome one-year-old pups with bobtails.

They're car, crate, and leash trained and are good with other dogs. Their medium energy level makes them perfect for an active family, and they are loyal to the core. So now it is time for some can-do adopters to give these good pups a chance to thrive and bond.

The fulfillment of giving a deserving pup the ability to blossom can change your life. Please consider helping Blackhat help the Rez dogs who need and want that chance, and consider how you can help. Check out [blackhathumanesociety.org](http://blackhathumanesociety.org) to learn more.



**Phyllis**

This is the story of how a recent spring day started with a party celebrating the anticipated arrival of a new baby and ended up creating a new life for an old dog.

United Animal Friends President, Joellyn Nusbaum, had driven to Phoenix for a family baby shower. While she was there, UAF Ranch Manager Kris Gruda noticed a tiny terrier on

the rescue list at the Arizona Humane Society, which is also in Phoenix.

The terrier was 13 years old, scruffy, had cataracts in both eyes, and was in dire need of a dental. In other words, she was irresistible—maybe not to most people, but she was to us.

Of course, as soon as Joellyn got the call from Kris, she started making plans to borrow a dog crate and added a side trip to the shelter before returning to Prescott with her precious cargo, whom we renamed Phyllis Diller because of her crazy hair.

The Arizona Humane Society said she had been a little grumbly with their veterinary staff, but who could blame her? She had come to the shelter from a horrible situation of neglect, her teeth probably hurt, and she was mere skin and bones under that wild mane, weighing in at just four pounds. All that was about to change. Once she was in our care she was able to let down her guard,



perhaps sensing that this was a new beginning in a safe place.

Our Furr-tastic Finds Thrift Store Manager, Pam Rosenwasser, has several small senior dogs and offered to foster Phyllis to see if she would fit in with her pack. Not only did Phyllis fit in, she soon became part of the family when Pam adopted her. Through loving attention, proper dental care, and a nutritious diet, Phyllis has already gained four ounces and great confidence.

During our recent Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the UAF Rescue Ranch, Phyllis strutted in as if she owned the place. Instead of living in a neglectful situation or scary shelter, she now enjoys spending time in the sun, watching TV with her pack, and being adored by Pam.

*If you'd like to donate to our Foster/Adoption Program to help more dogs like Phyllis or see our other adoptable pets, please visit our website at [unitedanimalfriends.org](http://unitedanimalfriends.org).*

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**MORALES:** A 3-year-old female Siberian Husky mix. With her golden coat and blue eyes, she is quite a striking lady. She is adventurous and would be a great hiking or running buddy. Loves tennis balls. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



**RAVEN:** A black 4-year-old female terrier mix. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666.



**MATILDA:** A sweet, dignified German Shepherd lady, 8 years old. Loves to play, go on walks, and does well on car rides. Gets along well with other dogs but would prefer having her own person. Dogtree Pines 667-364-8733



**ROSIE:** A lovely 8-year-old lady. She is a staff favorite. Gentle, protective, and gets along with other dogs well. Loves walks and playing in water. Her one floppy ear makes her cute and unique. Dogtree Pines 667-364-8733



**DEXTER:** A sweet 9-year-old male Chihuahua. A gentle and affectionate soul and champion cuddler who prefers women. He is housebroken, knows basic commands, and walks well on a leash. United Animal friends 928-778-2924



**OLIVIA:** A 2-year-old female Pembroke Welsh Corgi mix. She is sweet and cheerful and loves being close to her people. Olivia thrives on gentle affection. An yes, she has the little button tail of a Corgi. United Animal friends 928-778-2924



**ELLA:** An 18-month-old white Boxer mix. She loves everybody. She walks well on a leash, is housebroken, crate trained and gets along with other dogs well. She just ignores cats. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-710-4634

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**MRS BUBBLES:** A female American Bulldog, 8 years old. She is very smart and incredibly sweet. She loves everyone she's met. Good with other dogs. She loves playing and snuggles on the couch. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-710-4634



**ARYA:** A 2-year-old Keeshond mix with the classic coat and rings around the eyes. She is gentle, affectionate, and craves attention. She is good with other dogs. She is housebroken. Black Hat Humane 575-999-6236



**JUNIE:** A 12-week-old female fluffball, likely Great Pyrenees and Husky cross. She is already 20 pounds now and will be big. She plays with other dogs and currently lives with cats. Black Hat Humane 928-899-3942



**SCARLETT:** A sweet and affectionate female Bluetick Coonhound. She will be a loving family pet. She is housetrained. AARF 928-925-7219



**TANGO:** A 6-year-old mixed breed female. She is very affectionate, housebroken, and good with dogs and cats. Her goal in life seems to be to get as many belly rubs as she can. AARF 928-925-721



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**MADDIE:** A beautiful brown tabby lady with striking green eyes and a sweet smile. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666.



**FELDSPAR:** A most charming 2-month-old black male with white whiskers and a white lightning bolt down his face. He is sweet and loves to be held. Also loves toys. And food. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**MONTANA:** A 2-month-old orange male. He is very outgoing and playful. He loves to cuddle and give kisses, and he will sleep in your lap. Loves toys. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**MARGO:** A 1-year-old female petite fluffy beauty. She is mostly white with some calico markings. She is affectionate and thrives on attention. She is a lap sitter who loves ear scratches and chin rubs. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



**SASSY:** A 2-year-old silver gray long-haired lady with supersoft fur. She loves affection, will spend hours sitting with you. Loves being petted and brushed. Loves wand toys too. Miss Kitty's Cat house 928-445-5411



**MR LITTLE:** A 2-year-old brown tabby male with golden eyes and white trim – the cutest white toes! He is gentle, affectionate, and dignified. He loves string toys and bouncy balls. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue.org.



**STORM:** A beautiful long-haired female, silver-gray with green eyes. She is 2 years old. She is very affectionate and playful, preferring wand toys over all others. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com.



**GRACIE:** A young, beautiful cloud-gray lady w/ big golden eyes. Affectionate tiny diva. Gentle, friendly & playful. Loves chin rubs while sitting on your lap. Yavapai Humane Trappers at traceyegggers29@gmail.com.



**MABLE:** A classy tabby female with a medium-length coat and big peridot-green eyes. She is 5 months old. Mable may be small in size, but not in personality. Affectionate with a big purr. Yavapai Humane Trappers at traceyegggers29@gmail.com.



**WHISPER:** A beautiful soft gray handful of fluff. A 16-week-old female kitten born in rescue. She is super sweet and completely healthy. Yavapai Humane Trappers at traceyegggers29@gmail.com.



**WILLIE:** A 1yo orange long-haired male with white trim and big copper eyes. He is affectionate, friendly, funny, and playful. He is very sweet, loves to be petted and brushed. He's good with other cats. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com.



**KITTY:** A 4-year-old male brown tabby with white. Very handsome gentleman with vivid green eyes. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666.

Cats for Adoption

# SUMMERTIME TIPS AND TRICKS FOR KITTY KITTY

By Kay Luckett



At last, we have arrived: it's Summertime. Woo Hoo! Barbecues, sunshine, swimming, hiking, vacationing, no school, and yes, gifts from Kitty Kitty. Life is full of surprises.

Sometimes these gifts are just obvious clumps while others are disguised in.... undesirable things. These are commonly found under our shoe or glopped onto one of our bare feet in the dark. In either case, while daily grooming and hairball formulas abound, I've yet to find a permanent cure for a long-haired, senior black cat named Shadow: gorgeous, graceful, and giver of many gifts.

Cats bring a variety of gifts to us such as mice, birds, lizards, and... you name it, we've seen 'em all. The hairball gift, however, is unique in that it is homemade and delivered in unusual ways during hot months. But what causes these dignified, cuddly sweethearts to give them and how can they be prevented?

Hairballs are mostly caused by shedding, and as the cat grooms, soft hairs are swallowed. Kitty instinctively knows what to do to prevent those hairs from leaving her stomach, and so come the retching, gagging,



yucky sounds that broadcast, "I'm coughing up hairballs." This prevents intestinal blockage and damage.

It's important to prevent constipation from the ingestion of these tiny hairs that kitty swallows when licking and grooming. Grooming kitty every day during the season is essential—even more so for long-haired cats. In addition to grooming, you can give your cat specific commercial remedies designed to lubricate the digestive system. These come as gels, pastes, or tasteless powders, and you can find them in pet stores.

In addition to the problem of hairballs, I can't stop Shadow from howling each night, somewhere between midnight and 5:30 a.m. Howling can be a product of boredom, which can happen with indoor cats. It can also be caused by a lack of exercise, not enough playtime, loneliness, and possibly from discomfort caused by illness or pain. If your cat is howling or meowing, you should take kitty to be checked by your vet.

When Shadow arrived, she spent five weeks hiding in the dark. But once she finally surfaced, she totally embraced my heart and soul. These howls came early on after trust was established. Many times, she comes to get me up and then wants no food, no play, but just a bit of petting. I obediently comply.

Midnight howling can be alarming and disruptive at first, but I've come to discover how this needs to be addressed. When the howling began, I used to howl with Shadow, thinking that we were communicating. Later, the vet informed me that what I was doing was encouraging the behavior. So I stopped. Now, I just listen to see if it stops. If it doesn't, I get up to feed her or invite her to come cuddle with me.

During Shadow's vet examination, some senior concerns cropped up: kidney function, digestive issues, and minor eye irritations. These are being addressed medicinally, but even so her annoying behavior continues. With much angst and constant investigation, we finally discovered another cause of the howling: this six-pound senior is constantly hungry. I'm grateful that this was a problem I could handle at once.

I tackled the hunger issue, and here's a trick I learned: cover and store several snacks so they're available to be handed out after I stagger into the kitchen during morning twilight.

Constipation pain is another issue we're addressing with a healthy diet and some pet-store concoctions. Shadow and I play together with her toys, and along with grooming, petting, and cooing, we enjoy sharing constant loving behaviors. Some cats just need constant care.

Anyone adopting a cat should know about the trick of the CCCs: Constant Care, Complete Commitment, and Compassion.

Most rescues, including Shadow, have been saved for a reason. These reasons vary, but most rescues have some separation anxiety, fear, and/or trauma. Being sensitive to our sentient feline companions is the most loving gift we can bring to them day-in and day-out, holidays included.

You can think of a clingy as a special-needs cat because the crying or craving for attention is a real need, not just for humans, but for domesticated animals, too. Cats who have moved, lost their routines, or experienced the loss of a mate or their human are deeply affected. And since most cats need routine, these changes—including being moved or boarded in a shelter—can cause a number of agitating behaviors.

It's necessary to love a cat in spite of certain behaviors. Loving a cat means that you are willing to provide a quiet and stable environment. You give them daily attention through playtime, regular grooming, healthy foods, and finding ways to keep your cat alert and stimulated.

Since life is busy, in addition to playtimes you can also consider adopting another cat for a companion, purchasing interactive cat toys, or perhaps even hiring a cat-sitter from time to time. Our cats thrive in a pre-



dictable, safe environment with calm voices, low media-sounds, and a consistent routine.

Kitty seeks love and affection, just as humans do, and cat people know this. Cat lovers have learned some basic spiritual lessons from our fur-angels. Patience, tolerance, acceptance, and being of service are some of these important life lessons taught by kitties everywhere. These are a few of the ingredients on how to nurture a happy, contented cat.

Meow.



Summertime Tips and Tricks for Kitty Kitty

# LAND OF THE GIANTS: HIKE SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz

It isn't the tallest or even the widest, but for sheer volume, the General Sherman Tree in California's Sequoia National Forest contains more wood in its trunk than any other tree in the world – 52,508 cubic feet, to be exact. In total biomass, also measuring branches, roots and foliage, it's still Number One. It's also one of the oldest, at an estimated 2,200 years.



If you require an urban reference to imagine the scope of these giants, Sequoia trees can grow as tall as a 26-story building with bases as wide as a city street. Naturalist John Muir coined the name, Giant Forest, after his visit in 1875.

But Sequoia was not established as a national park until 1890. Buffalo soldiers kept it safe in 1903 and their

commander, Charles Young, was the first African-American superintendent of any national park.

Volcanic and glacial landforms in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, also called the High Sierras, are what make conducive conditions allowing sequoias to grow to such massive proportions.

To stand beneath the General Sherman Tree and many more spectacular trees in the Giant Forest, including the President Tree, the Chief Sequoyah Tree and the McKinley Tree, you'll hit the Congress Trail, a paved 3-mile loop.

Keep an eye out for Douglas squirrels. When pine cones fall near you with regularity, a squirrel is cutting them to gather up for lunch.

The seeds the squirrel misses are ready to sprout if provided with a sunny, clear bed of ashes. This is where forest fire, so devastating in the West, can be beneficial. The U.S. Forest Service states that: "Most fires in a sequoia forest burn low to the ground. They are relatively cool, as fires go." So those fires don't normally kill mature sequoias, but can reduce the number of thinner-barked trees, leaving more open space for sequoia seeds to become saplings.

*"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt."*  
– John Muir

To experience a dirt path in the park, the one-mile loop of the Big Trees Trail is ideal. Interpretive exhibits about the natural history of sequoias skirt a meadow profuse with a wide variety of plants.

Plenty of trails abound in Sequoia National Park,



Jack and Duke treated this sequoia like any other tree.

but they don't allow dogs. Our two napped briefly in the topper-covered bed of our pick-up, parked in the deep shade, as we explored the Big Trees Trail a bit, getting a chance to traverse an immense log serving as a bridge across a shallow wash.

The pups got their chance to get up close and personal (i.e. lift their legs) next to some of the giant trees off-trail next to the parking lot.

I hope you also get a chance to visit the Giant Forest, if for no other reason than to feel very young in the scheme of things.

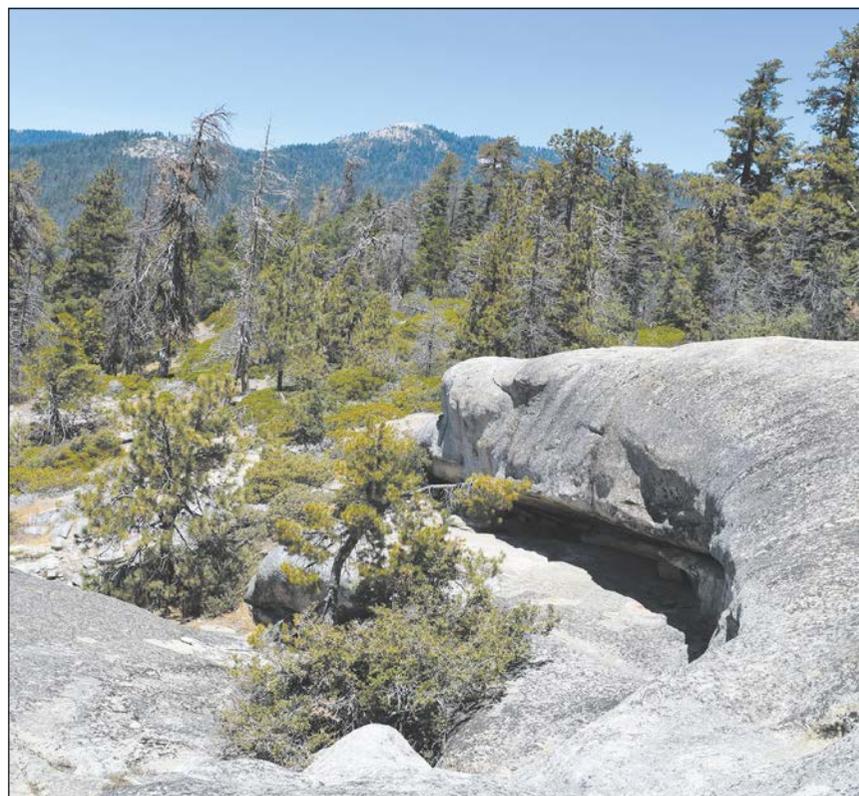
Happy youthful hiking!



Ancient sequoias make the author feel young again.



A fallen giant sequoia tree becomes a bridge.



Sequoia National Park is in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

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# THE SPORT OF FAST CAT IS FAST, FUN, EASY TO TRAIN, AND SATISFIES YOUR DOG'S PREY DRIVE

By Heidi Dahms Foster

If you love to watch your dog run full on, and enjoy hanging out with other dog lovers, you might want to check out a Fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test) trial near you.

Fast CAT is a relatively new, popular sport in which dogs essentially run a 100-yard dash within a set course, chasing—wait...a plastic bag? The bags, or lures, are drawn by a motorized line.

Dogs find this fast-moving target irresistible, and hilarity ensues when you see their expressions of excitement and joy as they engage in the chase.

American Kennel Club Fast CAT trials have been conducted in the greater Prescott area through the Chino Valley Canine Training Club (CVCTC) and the Prescott Arizona Kennel Club (PAKC), organized by Harmony Dog Sports. PAKC conducted their first Fast CAT trials March 15th and 16th at Liberty Traditional School in Prescott Valley.

The conditions were a bit challenging in a spring snow, but everyone enjoyed the day. CVCTC conducted two Fast CAT trials in 2024, and scheduled another on April 26 and 27 at Heritage Middle School in Chino Valley.

The sport is open to all dogs whether purebred or mixed breed. Competing dogs can earn points and titles in Fast CAT, with their average times converted to miles per hour and taking into account their height.

Fast CAT provides exercise and mental stimulation for your dog, and encourages relationships between you and your dog, and with other dog lovers. It's also an exciting sport to watch. As a bonus, if you love photos of your dog, Fast



Darla Cassidy's Samoyed Halo enjoys the chase in Fast CAT. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.

CAT produces some amazing action shots.

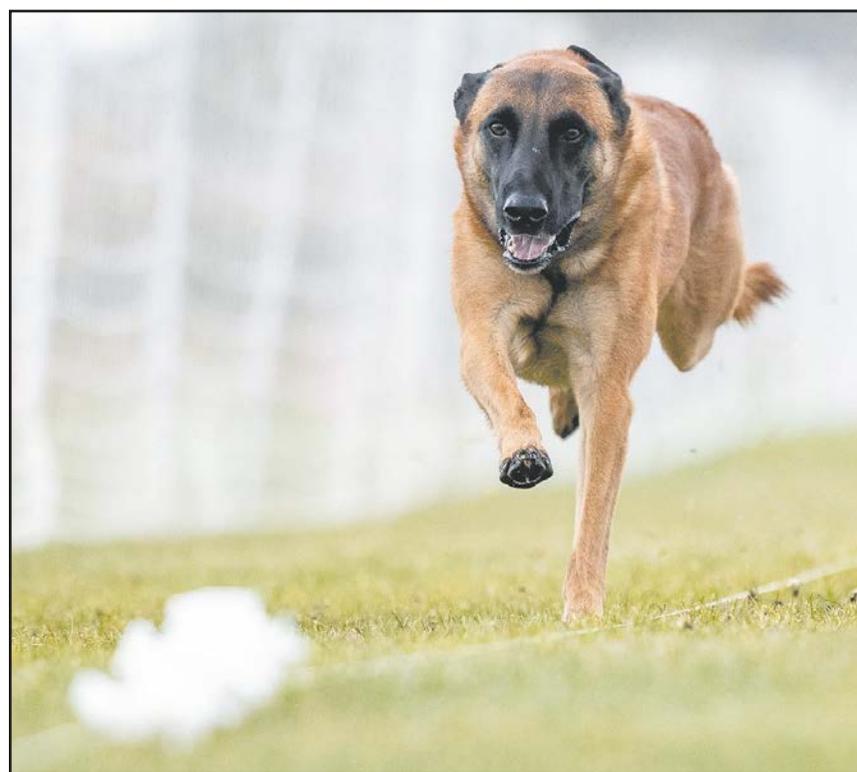
CVCTC President Sharon Bryant competes in Fast CAT and several other dog sports with her Malinois Ryland, a breed notable for needing a job to do. "Fast CAT doesn't really require any training and we have a blast watching him run at over 29 mph. He can just let loose and have a good time."

Because Fast CAT doesn't require a great deal of training like other dog sports, it's an easy way to observe your dog simply having fun. "I can just enjoy the moment and not think about how to fix what we did wrong. There is no wrong," Bryant said.

All sizes and breeds of dogs can enjoy Fast CAT. CVCTC Vice President Maggi Lieber competes in Fast CAT with her small Cairn Terriers. "Fast CAT is a great release for those dogs that just have to run and have a high prey drive," she said.

Darla Cassidy competes with her Samoyed Halo, a larger dog. And Teena Meadors runs her tiny Russian Toy, Coco Puff. Meadors said Puff isn't interested in obedience or rally, but the first time she had a taste of Fast CAT, she was hooked.

"It's well known now that as soon as Puff is out of the car at trials, she



Belgian Malinois Ryland running Fast CAT. Photo by Charlotte With Dogs Photography.

starts making noises you'd never expect to come out of an animal!

"For her, it's her terrier background. It satisfies her prey drive. There are breeds you wouldn't think would do well in Fast CAT, but I've seen them go bonkers on the course," Meadors said.

While required training for Fast CAT is minimal, your dog should want to chase the bag. Dogs must be 12 months old to compete, and must be healthy.

A reliable recall is important so you can catch your dog at the end of its run. "Train a recall so you're not chasing them all over after they've run!" Lieber said.

You can train your dog to chase a lure by introducing them to a bag on the end of a pole. Most dogs have the instinct to chase the bag, and you can make the training into a fun game.

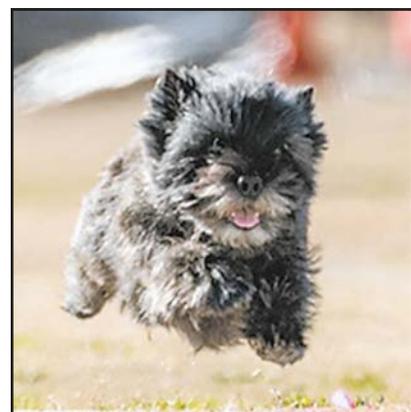
Once your dog is interested in the bag, or lure, you can check with your local dog clubs to find a fun run, or attend a trial to see what it's all

about before entering. YouTube also has a number of videos that will familiarize you with the sport.

- **More tips on getting started with Fast CAT:** [tinyurl.com/4jatt3zt](https://tinyurl.com/4jatt3zt)
- **Upcoming Fast Cat AKC events:** [tinyurl.com/yn9zak2a](https://tinyurl.com/yn9zak2a)
- **Local club events:** Chino Valley Canine Training Club ([cvctc.net](https://cvctc.net)) or Prescott Kennel Club ([prescottarizonakennelclub.com](https://prescottarizonakennelclub.com))



Maggi Lieber's Finn gets into the chase in Fast CAT. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.



Maggi Lieber's speedy Cairn Terrier running Fast CAT. Photo by Go Dog Photo.

The Sport of Fast CAT is Fun and Easy to Train



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# THE CAISSONS GO ROLLING ALONG

By Rita Thompson Tinsley

My earliest memory of a presidential funeral is the iconic cortege orchestrated exclusively for John Fitzgerald Kennedy (35th president of the United States).

On November 25, 1963, Kennedy's funeral procession journeyed from the Capitol to St. Matthew's Cathedral for the Requiem Mass, then on to Arlington National Cemetery. The horse-drawn caisson carried the flag-draped casket of the fallen American president and was surrounded by military soldiers. Following behind in the somber procession was a black, riderless horse with reversed boots in the stirrups.

A caisson is a traditional two-wheeled cart, a military vehicle once used to transport artillery ammunition. The riderless horse is a concept that dates back to the days of Genghis Khan where it symbolized a rider's last journey; the reversed boots (toes pointing backwards) imply that the rider would behold one last glimpse of his family or his troops.

The riderless horse in Kennedy's funeral procession was a wild child.

This black-as-coal Morgan/American Quarter Horse cross had a fiery spirit no one could contain. Black Jack was not rideable by most—though it was attempted many times—so he was led as a riderless horse through military processions with utmost caution by the handler de jour, as handlers were alternated.

The young soldier who led Black Jack during Kennedy's funeral procession said the horse was quite a handful and impatient during the lengthy pauses in the procession. The handler shared that during one pause, Black Jack became so unruly that he stepped on the soldier's foot, likely breaking his toe. But since the cameras were rolling, the soldier held his composure so as not to take away from the somber event.



Illustration by Candace Weatherly Coyle

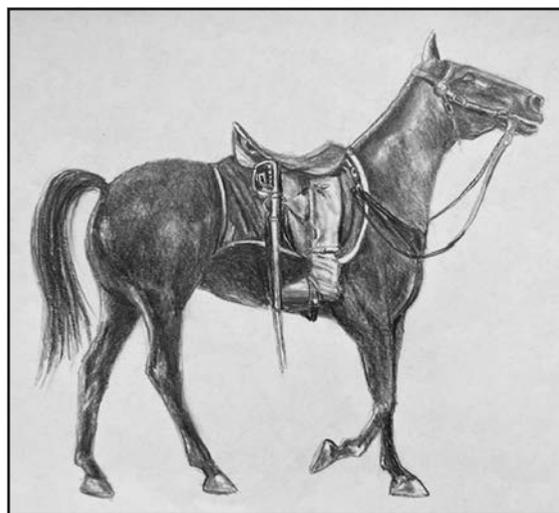


2013 Prescott parade featuring a 19 riderless horse tribute to the Granite Mountain Hot Shots.

After Black Jack retired, he was purchased by Jacqueline Kennedy, along with his comparison (traditional riderless horse wardrobe) which included his saddle, bridle, saddle blanket, sword, boots and spurs.

The horse served in the caisson platoon as a riderless horse for more than a thousand military funerals. He lived to the age of 29, and it's said that he never lost his fiery spirit. Black Jack was buried with military honors.

Abraham Lincoln was the first president to have a caparisoned horse as part of his funeral procession. The caparisoned horse is the riderless horse which is appropriately decorated to honor and pay tribute to a beloved fallen national hero or leader. Lincoln's own horse, Old Bob, was draped in a black mourning blanket. The horse followed the funeral procession and led mourners to Lincoln's burial spot.



Likeness of Sergeant York, Reagan's Riderless Horse. Illustration by Candace Weatherly Coyle.

In the summer of 2013, Matt's Saloon arranged for nineteen handlers to lead nineteen riderless horses in Prescott's Frontier Rodeo Days Parade to honor our beloved fallen Granite Mountain Hotshots. Each saddle horn was

donned with the wildland fire fighter's helmet, and his name was proudly displayed on both sides of the saddle skirt. As one of the most heavily attended parades in the area, it was amazing to witness such quiet reverence from the massive crowd as they paid their respects.

The caisson-horse program has been on whoa for a period. But after a serious overhaul, the 3rd Infantry Regiment is bringing back the tradition by formally resuming military funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery.

Draft horses such as the Percheron are a preferred breed for the job of pulling a caisson because of their enormous build and passive demeanor. Plus, the Percheron adds a majestic presence to a cortege of grand importance.

On June 9, 2004, Reagan's caisson horse-drawn casket, draped with the American flag, began its journey to the Capitol. Riderless horse Sergeant York—an American Standardbred—was in attendance on behalf of the US Army Caisson Platoon serving as the comparison horse.

What made this procession a step more significant is that Sergeant York had in his stirrups not just any boots in reverse. He had the original, personal riding boots of the equestrian and avid rider President Ronald Wilson Reagan.

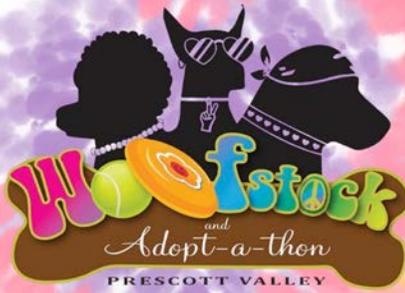
Here's to heroes and horses, and Commanders in Chief who are as comfortable in the White House as they are in their saddle.

Forever remembered.



Riderless Grace with handler Cari Gorman decked out for the 10th anniversary memorial for the Hotshots.

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**Flag/Field Take Down**

Saturday, 9/13/2025  
7:00a.m

**Blessing of the Field**

Saturday, 9/6/2025  
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**9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony**

Thursday, 9/11/2025  
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# BORED DOGS, NOT BAD DOGS: NEUROPLASTICITY AND NEW ADVENTURES

By Solana Kline, four-legger and grateful packmate to Dr. Betty Sausage and Dr. Mickey Wiggles



*Basquing in the 14ers*

"You guys, seriously, COME ONNN!"

I attempt to cajole the furry duo to hurry the heck up on the trail for our morning walk. I tell them how cute they are, convince them how many sniffers are just ahead. But Betty and Mickey have decided they have smelled and seen all they need to on this trail. After all, we have walked it a few times and apparently they are over it.

They are putting about 50 meters behind me, sitting down in the trail, picturesque amongst the fierce yellow of the Bird's Foot Trefoil, meandering SO SLOWLY it is making me bazooka.

Here we are in the middle of Colorado Collegiate Peaks 14ers country, Springtime, the newborn wildflowers blasting through the decomposed granite soil, eager to meet the sun and bees and April showers. The Ponderosas are waking up, faint aroma of vanilla beginning to radiate off their orange skin. The mountains behind carry their snowpack still, even a fresh dusting last night, it looks like. Crispy white peaks just beaming in that early morning sun, contrasting heavy with the blue-bird skies behind.

A raven's nest floats just above us, cradled in the Pondo's arms, little baby squawkers insisting mama bring them some more snackies, RIGHT NOW.

All this, and Betts and Micks show no interest. Off-leash, US Forest Service land, all the acreage they can explore, perfect 60-degree temps, and they just can't be bothered to come on the morning walk. What is going on??

I know what you're thinking: they're middle-aged now, maybe they're tired?

That was my first thought also, and I may have suffered a minor panic attack that they didn't feel well, or that they all of the sudden got too old for mountain adventures, THE HORROR! But then, I discover their trickery: they are bored of this same trail.

The second we get to the trail fork half a mile up, and we go a new direction, they bolt off down the trail and into the forest! And if we go to a new trailhead, they sprint ahead into oblivion. What little poopers! But as frustrating as it might be in the moment, I get it! I feel the same muted enthusiasm and lack ofumph when we repeat trails often.

There's actually a science to all of this, for humans and for doggos. Exploring new places is good for our brains, psyches, health, and soul. It wakes up our imaginations, our senses, our energy levels. A new adventure piques our presence, alerts us to being right here, right now, grounded in this moment because we are not routinized to it.

When we go about the same daily to-do's, we do not build new neurons in our brains, leaving them stagnant

and on autopilot. When we switch up our routines (even just brushing our teeth with the other hand or taking a new route to work), it triggers neuroplasticity: the process of our brains forming new neurons and neural pathways—being malleable and plastic. This actually releases dopamine in our brains.

Basically, when we aren't doing/learning new, our brains are lazy: they choose the most efficient routes to fire the signals, even if those existing pathways are not the healthiest. For example, a person or dog might be stuck in a fight/flight response because their brain got used to firing that response in reaction to everyday life traumas.

This happens because every time a neural pathway is used, it becomes the go-to for the brain. What this ends up doing is putting us (and the dogs) on autopilot, victims of a pre-programmed learned reaction. And when we're on autopilot, lost in routine or lost in thought, we don't make new memories because we aren't present or alert enough to do so.

But what's incredible is that through neuroplasticity, the whole pack can learn new responses to old triggers. We can break out of autopilot by doing new things.

Human and hound brains may be a little too good at adapting to everyday routine, succumbing to its safety and mechanized malaise, its surety of distance or difficulty.

While some humans and dogs may feel they thrive in routines, they're actually a source of controlled boredom, where a walk becomes a task or a chore instead of exploratory adventure. And this is unhealthy for our brains (and our soulshine, if you ask me).

This is where neuroplasticity comes in. Dogs and humans have extraordinary brains—brains that thrive on being engaged in new input, new problem solving, new joy, new challenges! And this can be done while still staying within the whole pack's safety comfort and physical abilities.

Neuroplasticity is linked to improved learning and memory, cognitive function, mental health, adaptability, and brain health. It's also central to systemic healing from inflammation, chronic illness, PTS, OCD, dementia, Parkinson's, depression, and many other syndromes



*Mountain Top Pack*



*Oh, the drudgery of the same trail every day*

related to our brains and autonomic systems. And these are all true for our canine companions as well.

I've heard people say a dog was bad, that it chewed the house or dug up the yard, that it was aggressive or hyperactive. The question is, is the dog bad or are they bored?

Canines are wonderfully intelligent, they have big fat brains like us humans, brains that thrive on new experiences and new sniffs, brains that continue to grow and reform throughout our lives. And brains that get bored, brains that get depressed when they aren't engaged and activated, just like us humans.

Scientists have debunked the old adage, "Old dogs can't learn new tricks", finding that throughout hu-

man and hound lives, our brains will continue to learn and grow as long as we continue to do new, to challenge them. And when we encourage daily neuroplasticity for the whole pack, we get to create new memories together, building all of those new neural pathways for our mental and physical health.



*Betty fjording raging rivers*

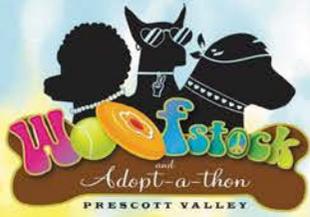
Yesterday, I promised the hounds a new hike. The joy emanating from each of us was palpable. Betts was in chipmunk heaven—launching up and over, under, across, and into the dead fallen firs who had toppled across the massive granite boulders. The afternoon sun flitted in and out across her silverback sausage hairs as the breeze dance with the fresh aspen leaves above.

Mr. Mickey galloped along the stream bank hot on the gamey musk of last night's bear or deer or moose or beaver. My own senses were here, present instead of meandering off some old neural pathway not serving me right now. Dr. Betty Sausage flies past my right side on the trail, open-mouth booping my hand as she passes, Dr. Mickey Wiggles is already 25 yards ahead, looking back with that big boy smile.

They are so happy, the happiness you just feel radiating out of pups on a new adventure, the kind of happiness our human souls recognize because it means we are free and it means we are alive.

Until next time, happy trails and happy tails!

~Solana, Betty, and Mickey



# RESCUE ROUND-UP

SATURDAY, MAY 31ST

WOOFSTOCK WAS A TAIL-WAGGIN' GOOD TIME!

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY HAD AN ABSOLUTE BLAST AT WOOFSTOCK, WHERE THE DOGS WERE DRESSED TO IMPRESS, TAILS WERE WAGGING, AND LOVE WAS IN THE AIR! THIS GROOVY EVENT, PUT TOGETHER BY THE AMAZING CHERIE DREVES OF PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE, BROUGHT LOCAL SHELTERS AND RESCUES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE ALL THINGS DOG. FROM FUN COSTUME CONTESTS TO PAWS-ON INFO ABOUT NUTRITION AND PET CARE, IT WAS ALL ABOUT HELPING PUPS FIND THEIR PEOPLE. A BIG THANKS TO CHERIE FOR HER HUGE HEART AND PASSION FOR BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO HELP ANIMALS THRIVE. PEACE, LOVE, AND PAWS FOREVER!



SEVEN OF OUR DOGS FOUND HOMES AT WOOFSTOCK WE HAD SO MUCH FUN. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR DOGTOBERFEST! THANK YOU FOR HAVING US!

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THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE INVITE—WHAT AN AMAZING DAY AT THE WOOFSTOCK ADOPT-A-THON! WE WERE THRILLED TO BE SURROUNDED BY SO MANY INCREDIBLE DOG FRIENDS, BOTH NEW AND FAMILIAR.

FROM WIGGLY PUPPIES TO WISE SENIORS, EVERY WAGGING TAIL TOLD A STORY OF HOPE AND LOVE. IT WAS A JOY TO SEE SO MANY HAPPY ADOPTIONS, ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE RESCUE DOGS AND THE FAMILIES WHO LOVE THEM.

WE SNAPPED SOME UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS—ZOOMIES IN THE GRASS, BELLY RUBS GALORE, AND THE SWEET CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE EVENTS LIKE THIS TRULY SPECIAL. WHETHER THEY WERE WAITING FOR THEIR FOREVER HOMES OR ALREADY LIVING THEIR HAPPILY EVER AFTER, EVERY PUP LOOKED LIKE A ROCKSTAR!

THANKS AGAIN FOR HAVING US. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE!  
WYNNE ERDMAN  
CONTENT CURATOR  
HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG



OUR RESCUE, UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS, HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AT WOOFSTOCK 2025. WE SHOWCASED SEVERAL OF OUR RESCUE DOGS AND PUPPIES. AFTER APPROVED APPLICATIONS ONE PUPPY AND ONE DOG WERE ADOPTED. UAF VOLUNTEERS WERE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR RESCUE, SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO THE HUGE CROWD OF PEOPLE THAT ATTENDED THE EVENT. WOOFSTOCK IS WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL ATTENDED BY VENDORS AND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS. IT'S AN EVENT WE LOOK FORWARD TO EVERY YEAR!

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CARLA MANTICK  
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# ZOILA: A LITTLE DOG WHO HAD US WRAPPED AROUND HER LITTLE PAW

By Anita Rosario

It was the month of January in the year 2011 when I met up with my dad at a park in San Dimas California. This is a day that I will replay in my head for the rest of my life.

My mom and I started walking through the grass where we saw my dad sitting with his back turned to us. Once we got close enough, he stood up, and that's when this teeny tiny little puppy started running towards me.

I really couldn't believe it, I asked my dad, "Whose puppy is this?"

"She's ours," he said. "Her name is Zoila, but we can call her Zee for short."

I was so excited and just couldn't believe she was OUR dog. She and I played the whole time we were at the park, and every time I'd go down the slide, she was right there at the bottom waiting for me.



Zee was a Teacup Yorkshire Terrier who never weighed more than five pounds. She was so small as a puppy that she would sleep inside my dad's shoes. I didn't even know dogs could be that tiny.

Growing up, I always wanted a little dog that I could carry around and dress up in cute doggie outfits like the rich girls in movies and TV shows—except Zee absolutely hated wearing clothes and

was a pretty independent girl who'd rather walk herself than be carried around.

She was one of the sassiest little dogs I've ever met, and she had no regrets after snapping at you. She always wanted attention, but if you touched her feet or her butt, she'd try to bite you, and it didn't matter who you were. I can't count how many times she snapped at me for trying to move her from MY spot in MY bed. I think she



thought she was the queen of the house, and my dad and I definitely treated her like she was.

Zee also loved exploring and loved to explore our front yard. She'd leave the yard and start walking down the street, and when we called her to come back, she never so much as looked back, but just kept walking. When she got older and wasn't as fast as she used to be, I took her to a park and let her roam all the way to the other side. Then I'd run over and bring her back so she could do it all over again.

Like every other dog, Zee loved food. Every night at dinner, she'd get something special from my dad. She'd stand and watch him prepare her meal, and as soon as he lifted the plate, she'd spin around and run to the spot where she'd eat.

She was so spoiled, but how could you not spoil such a cute little dog like her?

Mine and Zee's relationship was pretty much like big sister and little sister. I called her my sister, and I loved her like one. She was also one of my best friends. Even though she was sassy, she was also very loving and was a great listener.

My dad and I would talk to her and have conversations with her like she'd actually say something back. She knew us better than anyone else, and we both loved her so much.

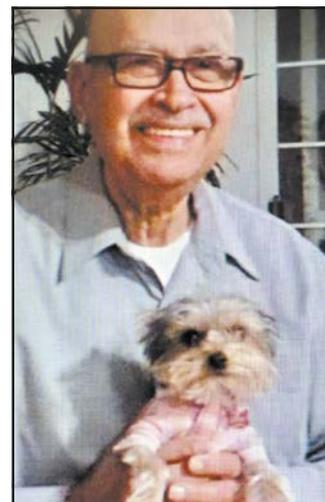
Zee and my dad were the definition of "a dog is a man's best friend." She always looked at my dad with so much love, and even though she also snapped at him many, many times they had the greatest bond. She was his little coconut head, his big dummy... she was his dog.

Seeing the bond they had made me want to love all dogs and not want to live a life without one. My dad would sing to her and even played happy birthday on the piano for her one year.

My dad was Zee's person. Every time he'd go somewhere, she'd always wander over to the door and wait for him to come back. When he did come back, she'd run to him and growl—which was her way of saying hello.

Zee also had another favorite human: our grandpa. When my family and I first moved to Arizona, our landlord didn't allow dogs so Zee had to stay behind with my grandma and grandpa.

She really did love it there. She had a huge yard to chase lizards, bark at the neighborhood cats, and had a



lot of grass to get the zoomies in.

Zee and my grandpa had a great bond as well, so when Zee was able to come to Arizona and live with us, they missed each other so, so much. So much that my grandpa even sent her a card in the mail.

They were able to see each other when we would go visit, but Zee had a lot of anxiety in the car so we

ended up having to take her to a dogsitter most times when we'd go out of town.

It's been seven years since my grandpa has passed, and now he and Zee are reunited in heaven. I know he's still giving her all his table scraps, and she's giving him kisses all over his bald head.

As I said earlier, Zee was super sassy, but under all that sass she really was a sweet, loving girl. One thing about Zee was that she wasn't a fan of other dogs: she was an only dog for the first seven years of her life, until I decided I wanted to start getting my own.

Over the years we ended up having a pack of five dogs. Of course Zee was the pack leader, and she was sure to put all the other dogs in check when things were getting too crazy. She was also half the size of everyone else, but they all took her very seriously.

Once I moved out of my parents' house, I thought Zee began to actually miss my dogs. When we came over to visit, Zee's little numb tail would wag like crazy. Every time I came over, I'd look for her and say "Hi, my Zoil! How are you doing today?" And she'd instantly ask for pets.

Zee ended up having to get all of her teeth removed. She was all gums after that, but it didn't stop her from wanting to eat rib-bones or snapping at us and the dogs.

I could go on and on about our special Zee dog. I was nine years old when she came into our lives, and she was a part of our family for fourteen years. I had Zee in my life longer than I didn't have her, and now I have to learn how to live my life without her.

She was the best dog and the first dog who felt like family, and she's the reason I love dogs so much. I'd do anything in this world to relive the past fourteen years of my life over and over again, because that way I wouldn't have to live a life without her.

Zee was sassy, silly, funny, loving, sweet, beautiful and definitely a one of a kind dog. She was also so strong, I believe she held on for us.

She was loved by our family and many friends. Everyone who knew us knew about our Zoila. I'm forever grateful that my dad picked her. She was the perfect girl for our family and definitely the best surprise ever!

I miss you so much Zee. We all do, and we will miss you forever. I know that I'll see you again once it's my time, and you'll be waiting for me just like you waited for me at the bottom of the slide like you did the first day we met.

Thank you for being the best dog, sister, and the bestest friend. We love you Zoila, fur-ever and always.

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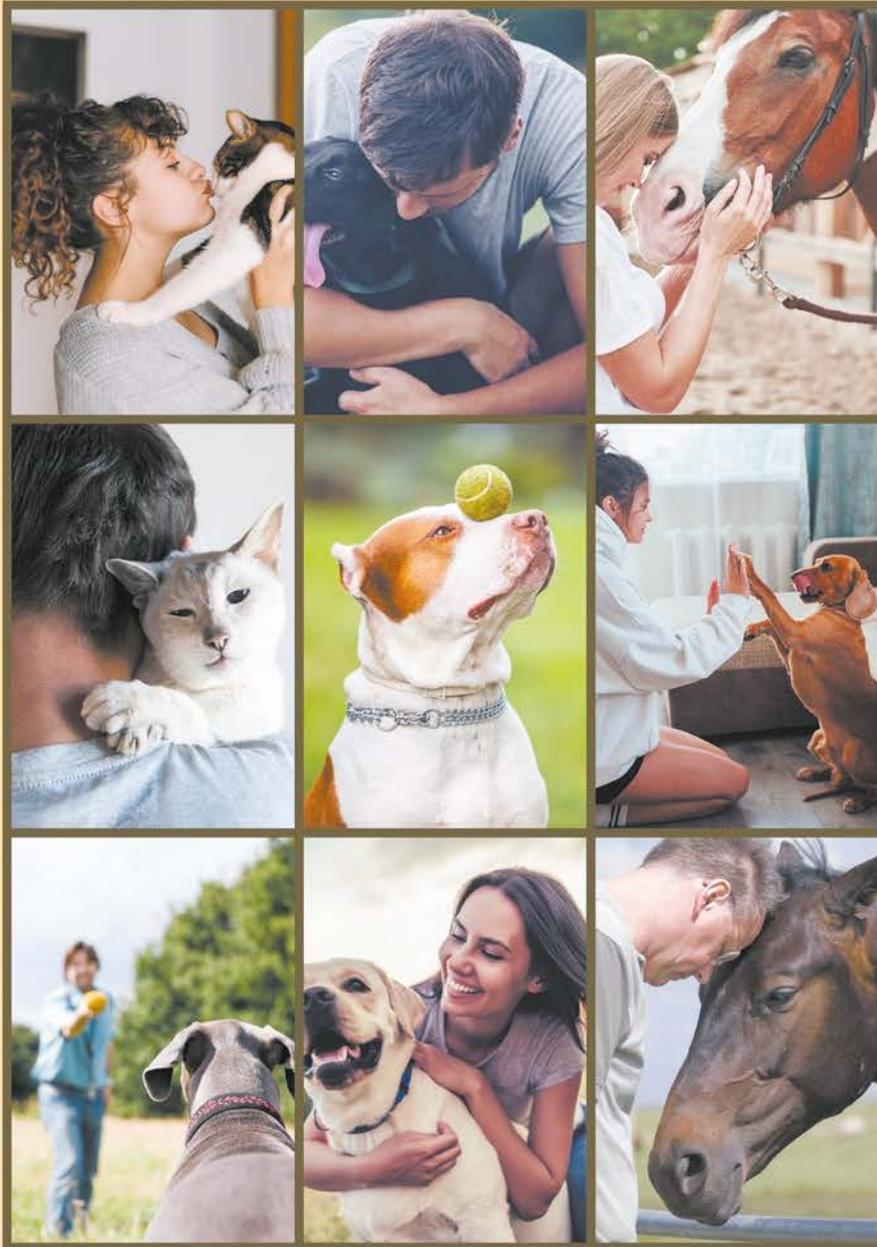


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