

Prescott Dog

September/October 2025 • PrescottDog.com magazine



**& Adopt-A-Thon
2025**



Powered By Passion
Spaghetti Dogpiles
Meet Alayna Caswell
Posters and Pleas

**TO GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS**

Introducing Our Cover Dog – Maisey

WALK FOR THE ANIMALS



YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 2025

Visit yavapaihumane.org to register

Sunday, October 5th

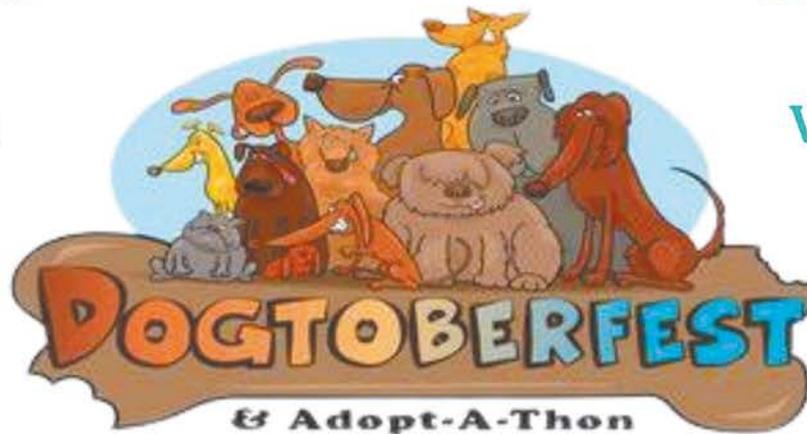
9:00 AM

Watson Lake Park

Sunday, October 5th

9:00 AM

Watson Lake Park



Prescott  Dog
magazine



Findlay
SUBARU
PRESCOTT



~~TRICK~~
OR
TREAT

Trunk

YOU'RE
INVITED

GAMES

FREE
CANDY

HAUNTED HOUSE - BALLOON ARTIST
AT FINDLAY SUBARU



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 | 3PM-6PM

JOIN US AT FINDLAY SUBARU PRESCOTT
3230 WILLOW CREEK ROAD, PRESCOTT, AZ
928-771-6900

Prescott Dog magazine

CONTENTS

Maisey, Our Cover Dog	5
Hazel Howls.....	6
DOGtoberfest's Most Wanted.....	7
Calendar	8
Rescue Resources	8
Posters and Pleas: LOST	9
<i>Shirley Culliney</i>	
Rescue Tales	10
Special DOGtoberfest Section.....	11
Dogs for Adoption	15
Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Dog That Started It All for Me	16
<i>Cherie L. Dreves</i>	
Experience a Native American Culture Hike in Tahquitz Canyon.....	18
<i>Cheryl Hartz</i>	
Animal Services Assistant Alayna Caswell is Passionate About Snakes, Dogs, People & Learning New Things.....	20
<i>Heidi Dahms Foster</i>	
Shadow's Tale: My Momma's Cats.....	22
<i>Kay Luckett</i>	
Powered By Passion: Against All Odds	24
<i>Rita Thompson Tinsley</i>	
Spaghetti Dogpiles: Symbiotic Sleeping for a Healthy Pack	26
<i>Solana Kline</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*

The Prescott Dog Magazine is published bimonthly in Jan/Feb; Mar/Apr; May/Jun; Jul/Aug; Sep/Oct; Nov/Dec by Red Dog Publishing, PO Box 11868, Prescott AZ 86304. Copyright © 2025 by The Prescott Dog Magazine. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. The Prescott Dog Magazine reserves the right to edit all material and assumes no responsibility for errors. The views presented in this publication do not necessarily represent the policies of The Prescott Dog Magazine and should not be construed as endorsements. Layout and design by Kim Prosser, Graphics Manager.



PUBLISHER/OWNER

Cherie L Dreves

ADVERTISING

(928) 445-4811

Cherie@reddogpublishing.net

CONTRIBUTORS

Cover Photo by Sawyer Lawton



Heidi Dahms Foster
Feature Writer



Cheryl Hartz
Outdoor 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



Maisey, Our Cover Dog

Name: Maisey Lawton

Age: 7-1/2

Favorite brand of kibble: Purina Dog Chow.

Favorite people food: Not much, but anything is good.

Favorite toy: Fetch balls!!!

Favorite outdoor activity: Playing fetch with my human, Sawyer.

Favorite Indoor activity: Laying on the couch.

Favorite nap spot: By the couch or Sawyer's bed.

Fitness Regimen: I like walks.

Describe your perfect canine pal: My doggy bro, Levi! I've known him for a long time, and we like to wrestle.

Describe your perfect day: Eat kibble, go for a walk, play fetch, wrestle, and make a video for my Instagram @maiseyandlevi, while hanging out with my humans!



HAZEL HOWLS

On second thought...

Perfect morning. After breakfast, a quick collective sun-bath while the garden gets watered. Then, house still cool from overnight breezes. Windows closed, sun side curtains drawn... perfect all-paws-pause nap atmosphere.

Perfect noontime. Quick jaunt into the summer heat, and return to a biscuit and a full pack surround of Mom's office chair.

In short order, Pru got us all invited to leave by refusing to stop grooming her sleek coat. It's the way she winds down, but her exuberance was distracting Mom from her phone calls.

Nobody moved at the first urging from Mom for us to "Go find somewhere else to be annoying," because we (the pack) wanted eye-contact (which we got in short order).

The reason eye contact with the pack was important at this moment was so we could collectively pretend Dad had forgotten to give us a biscuit. You know: give that wide-eyed "There's something missing in our lives" look.

Of course Mom's eyes drifted down to the bone shaped biscuit between Tucker's white paws. (On occasion, Tucker savors holding his biscuit to prove his stoic, disciplined nature. I'm thinking it's paws-heimers: he just forgets he's holding it.)

Said Mom, "Since I see you've all had your treat, move along now and go see what Dad's doing."

Tuck was the first to jump up to leave, scooping his treat with Pru on his heels, hoping he'd drop a crumb or two in transit. I unfolded and headed to the bedroom. Keira stayed behind, pretending to still be asleep. Sometimes Mom gave Keira a bit of extra grace.

With Pru monitoring Tucker's treat-progress in the living room and Keira left behind Mom's office chair, I was getting the bedroom for myself. Well... almost. Dad was lying diagonal across the bed and looking down to his laptop on the floor.

"Hey Hazel McBazel, c'mon up." Dad pretended to shift to give me more room. "You're blocking the prime slipstream, just sayin'."

Dad had taken the prime acreage below the ceiling fan. He made all the motions of sliding over while typing with his arms over the side of the bed, surrendering about three whole centimeters.

Curling up with my back against Dad's pillow, I tried my best to ignore him now rolling from one side to another, trying to figure out just how exactly he can unfold from an awkward position held for far too long. His upper-half found the will to sit up while he braced one hand on the floor. (What could go wrong, you may ask).

Pru appeared on the open corner of the bed—literally appeared—which startled and unfolded Dad and made him lose his tenuous balance.

"Why do you do that, Pru?!" Meaning silently appeared.

She ignored Dad's question and took in the sight of his head, shoulder and arm over one side of the bed, and one leg over the foot of the bed, and turned to me.

"Is Dad having a stroke?" she asked.

"No... He was typing on his laptop, which was on the floor. And before you rudely interrupted, he was doing his daily physical therapy, and now he'd like to continue. After you leave."



I know I sounded a bit harsh, but I could feel my perfect afternoon turning into a bother.

Pru looked away from me and told Dad, "You got ten seconds to show me you're okay and don't need assistance or I'll go get Tucker and Mom."

"Like what Pru, do what exactly?" Dad asked.

She didn't answer because she was counting to ten.

Having now only one direction to get off the bed because of Pru and me, Dad opted to roll slowly off the side of the bed and hoped to miss the open laptop below. (One out of two ain't bad, I guess.) Laptop collision averted, slowly roll? Not so much. Landing lacked...uh...grace.

Dad sprang up in a sitting position (hoping to display health and vigor to Pru), but Tucker and Mom were already entering the bedroom to see what had sounded like a horse being thrown to the ground.

Mom grilled Dad on why this was the second time recently of her finding him on the floor.

"Yoga channel. Don't know what I was thinking," he said.

Tucker checked him over and declared nothing broken, but a head injury couldn't be ruled out.

I gave a long sigh at the loss of my privacy and quietude. Even Keira squeezed past Mom and tossed in her two cents that maybe the heat was getting to Dad.

"It may have cooked his brain," Keira said, with all the seriousness of a daytime TV drama.

Mom (having had enough of the current distraction) signaled that it was time for our whole pack to make a trip outside. This gave Dad a chance to finish his date with gravity and join us.

Big clouds had moved in, and the wind had shifted to the north. The temperature was easing.

Dad came out, none the worse for wear, and dragged a chair into the shade. He called Pru over.

"What was so important when you bopped into the bedroom earlier?" Dad asked the attentive Maxi-Pin Pru.

Pru took exception.

"I don't bop anywhere," said she, with all the seriousness of a daytime drama. "I arrive. Like an arrow from an Apache's bow."

"Well, in the future try not to startle everyone so much with your arrivals."

Pru calculated the odds of whether this was a hard and fast rule, or another semi-goopy suggestion. Ten to one in favor of a semi-enforced suggestion, she decided.

Arrows away. "I saw part of a dog trainer video on TV and the trainer said that one of the main reasons we four and two-leggeds miscommunicate is this really long word an-thro... an-thro poor... something-something."

"Anthropomorphize?" Dad asked.

Pru spun in affirmation.

"What about it Pru?"

"Does our pack family anthro-poor-morph at all?" she demanded. "Because I think that could hinder training and stuff."

Dad adopted his wise-father demeanor (which Pru is a total sucker for).

"Well Pru. Only two-leggeds can anthropomorphize when they attribute human qualities to four-leggeds' behavior. I suppose some people can misunderstand a four-legged's reason for a certain behavior. Our pack family, on the other hand? I can't think of a single instance where I anthropomorphize. What about you Hazel, can you think of any instance of my attributing human qualities to you guys?"

I was busy trying to see what bush a lizard disappeared into and had been only half-listening to Pru and Dad.

"Nothing comes to mind." I hoped that reply would do.

Pru seemed delighted with the conversation overall and ran off to tell Mom that we didn't have to worry about that one big word.

"Nothing like setting the world right for a young mind. Right, Hazel?" Dad sounded self-satisfied.

"Nothing comes to mind, Dad." It had worked once before, now where was that doggone lizard?

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog



POSTERS AND PLEAS: LOST

By Shirley Culliney, AARF Animal Rescue and Sanctuary

Pretty sure that you've noticed lost dog or cat posters, or have read the pleas on Facebook. There are far too many. Reasons are numerous and really don't matter unless there's a way to fix the problem. Usually there is, but it takes constant commitment on the part of the owner.

This article is intended to help in those situations by offering suggestions for who to contact and what to do/not do to keep your pet safe.

Please know that your friend who always comes when you call, cuddles and can't get close enough, follows you around everywhere, and sleeps nestled against you... that pet will be a different animal when in survival mode. There are very few exceptions to this.

What does survival mode mean? It means they may not recognize you or your voice at first, even if you're close. Never call their name (the hardest part for owners to remember) or chase them.

They're in panic mode, scared, uncertain, skittish, and probably will just run farther away. This is especially important if they're close to roads and traffic.

Give your pet space, and be extremely patient. Remain calm. Sit on the ground and let them approach you. Speak softly and say familiar, random things. This often helps them recognize you.

If they get close enough, carefully reach out and let them smell you. If they retreat, let them. Follow their direction with your eyes: often, they'll circle you and come back from a different direction.

It may take numerous attempts. If you have treats, give very small pieces to get their attention and bring them closer. Have a slip lead because they can back out of a collar or harness, unless it's a martingale collar.

If they leave the area, leave something with your scent there. Search for your pet as often as needed, daily if possible.

Most important? Act. As soon as you know your pet is missing, check with your neighbors and canvass all familiar areas in case they just went to visit or explore on their own.

Shortly after doing this, contact one of the sources listed below. Give

LOST DOG

North of Strawberry AZ
HWY 87, east of Junction 260
Escaped from owner while camping

SAMPLE ONLY

Scared, DO NOT CHASE

Older Red Heeler
65 lbs.
Red & White

(000)XXX-XXXX
Call/text If Seen

good descriptions of your pet and the specific area they went missing from.

If your pet is microchipped, include that information and contact the company to report your pet missing. Have a recent clear photo handy, so a poster or flyer can be made.

Posters need to be simple and eye-catching (include only the photo and contact information), printed on bright-colored paper or printed on neon posterboard. Wrap them in protective sleeves to protect against the weather before putting them up.

Posters bring back as many pets as social media does, but not everyone is online.

If you find your pet, be sure to add "Reunited", "Home" or "Found" to the top of any post to let people know. Be sure to remove all physical posters once your pet has been found.

Immediate Contacts

- Your local animal control and the Yavapai Humane Society

(YHS), or the shelter in your area. It's equally important that you actually walk through their kennels to look for your pet. YHS also has Lost and Found Pets on their website, as well as Lost Pet Postings.

- Microchip company if your pet is microchipped.
- Nextdoor for your neighborhood. Also Craigslist, Facebook, and other social media. Make sure your posts are shareable.
- Yavapai Humane Trappers or the search and rescue team in your area for help searching for or trapping your pet.

If your pet is lost in an area that's not near your home or region, you may need help from someone local, such as:

- Lost Pets of Northern Arizona (LPONA)
- Lost and Found Pets Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Yavapai County
- Lost and Found Pets of Chino Valley and Paulden

Other Things You Can Do

Print and hand out quarter-page flyers with your pet's photo and contact information.

Walk the area and ask people if they've seen your pet. Hand them a small flyer and ask them to report any sightings. It's important to ask them not to stress the animal more by calling or chasing. Let the experts handle the search. However, the more eyes looking and giving locations, the better.

- Ask delivery people and others (mail carrier, water-delivery, contractors, gas company, security guard, meter reader) who regularly travel through the neighborhood if they've seen your pet. Ask them to be on the lookout and call if they see your pet.
- Don't give up! Your pet is depending on you to do your best to try to find them. There are many instances of dogs and cats being found after many months and many miles away from home. People who respond immediately to a missing pet and expend significant energy trying to find the animal stand a much greater chance of recovering their pet.

Tips to Make Sure Your Pet Stays with You

- Keep your pets indoors, especially when you're not home.
- Don't leave animals unattended in your yard. Check gates and fencing often.
- Don't let your pets roam free in the neighborhood. Spay and neuter: fixed animals are much less likely to roam.
- Keep companion animals safely inside your home when you're expecting visitors or repair/delivery people. Crafty pets find a way.
- Keep contact numbers and current licenses on your pet.
- Keep recent photos and written descriptions of your companion animals on hand at all times.
- Create an airlock. This is a small gated area you build in front of your main door, so if the door or the gate opens and your pet tries to escape, they're still contained in the small gated area. That is, inside the airlock.



CALENDAR

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

ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS

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

BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Shows adoptable dogs at Prescott Petco Sun 11a-1pm or by appt. 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. 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 YavapaiHumaneTrappers.org to request mtg or complete preadoption form.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- Sep 6, 12, 27 ZooLittles
- Sep 7 Zoo by Moonlight
- Sep 13 Breakfast with Eagles

- Sep 20 After Dark at the Park (Adult)
- Sep 27 Sip & Paint (Adult)
- Oct 6-10 Fall ZooCamp
- Oct 11 Breakfast with Wolves
- Oct 18 Behind the ScenesPhoto Tour
- Oct 25-26 Fall ZooFest
- Oct 31 Boo at the Zoo

DOGTREE PINES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Sep 13, 1:30p-4:30p. 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. Hazeltine Theater, 208 N Marina Street, Prescott. Tickets: \$125. Info: dogtreepines.com/events

10TH ANNUAL HAVE A HEART OPEN 4-D BARREL RACE & POLES

Sep. 27, Olsen's Grain in Chino Valley. Register/info: horseswithheartaz.org/2025-barrels-poles

CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK EVENTS

For further info or to register online, visit cvequestrianpark.org

- Sept 12-14, AZ Versatility Ranch Horse Obstacle Course Clinic & Competitions.
- Sept 13, CVEP Driving Show in New Driving Arena.
- Oct 4, Open Schooling Show Buckle Series, 8am start.
- Oct 11, CVEP Driving Show in New Driving Arena.
- Oct. 11-12, Obstacle Clinic & Buckle Series Competition w/Trainer Megan Bennett of Sunset Ranch. Info: cvequestrianpark.org or 602-565-1514.



Rescue Resources

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



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



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

LASER
 Large animal shelters & emergency readiness.
 P.O. Box 12782, Prescott • 928-713-9691
laser-shelter.org

Fur-Ever Friends are Found at...

The rescues listed below, and others, will be at this year's DOGtoberfest, ready to help you find your next fur-ever friend! Check out their websites and follow them on social media.



AARF
ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY
 aarfrescue.net
 FB: AARF Animal Rescue and Sanctuary
 aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com
 IG: AARFAnimalRescue
 928-925-7219

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY
 yavapaihumane.org
 FB: Yavapai Humane Society
 IG: yavapaihumane
 TW: YavapaiHumane
 928-445-2666

DOGTREE PINES
SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY
 dogtreepines.com
 FB: Dogtree Pines: Senior Dog Sanctuary
 IG: dogtree_pines
 OldDogs@DogtreePines.com
 667-364-8733

BLACK HAT DOG RESCUE
 blackhathumanesociety.org
 FB: blackhathumane
 IG: blackhat_humane
 Blackhathumane@gmail.com

HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG
 WickenburgHumane.com
 FB: Humane Society of Wickenburg
 IG: wickenburghumane
 928-684-8801

CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER
 chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption
 FB: Town of Chino Valley, AZ
 IG: cvaztown
 cvas@chinoaz.net
 928-636-4223 X7

BARB'S DOG RESCUE
OF ROCKY POINT
 barbsdogrescue.org
 FB: Barb's Dog Rescue
 barbsdogrescue@gmail.com
 IG: barbsdogrescue
 928-899-1426

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS
 unitedanimalfriends.org
 unitedanimalfriends
 TW: UAFaz
 IG: uafrescuemission
 928-778-2924

HELP A DOG OUT RESCUE
 FB: Helpadogoutlopezrescue
 helpadogoutrescue@gmail.com

YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS
ANIMAL SEARCH & RESCUE
 yavapaihumanetrappers.org
 FB: Yavapai Humane Trappers
 Animal Search and Rescue
 yavitrappers@gmail.com

DESERT LAB
RETRIEVER RESCUE
 dlrraz.org
 FB: desertlab
 IG: desertlabradorretrieverrescue
 Email Webform: dlrraz.org/contact/

SUNRISE SANCTUARY & RESCUE
 sunrisesanctuaryrescue.org
 FB: Sunrise Sanctuary and Rescue
 IG: sunrise_sanctuary_and_rescue
 sunrisesanctuaryrescue@gmail.com
 775-636-0710

We'll see YOU at DOGtoberfest! Sunday October 5th · 10am-3pm · Watson Lake Park, Prescott

Many dogs come in and out of our lives. When you're involved in rescue, as we've been at St. Martin's Animal Foundation for over 25 years, you meet countless abused and misunderstood animals, especially dogs with behavioral issues stemming from trauma.

My heart has always gone out to pit bulls. They carry a reputation for being aggressive, but in my experience that couldn't be further from the truth.

Through years of working with anti-dogfighting outreach programs, I saw the reality: these beautiful dogs were simply falling into the wrong hands. They were taught to fight by heartless individuals, often gang members, and bred indiscriminately, flooding shelters with frightened, unwanted pit bulls.

When I met one pit bull, he had just one day left before being euthanized. Shelter after shelter, you see it: the endless rows of kennels, the sad faces watching as you walk by. But something about this dog caught my eye. I couldn't leave him behind.

We brought him home to our rescue house and gave him the name David Cassidy after one of my teen idols. He was special, and I wanted people to see what love could do for a so-called aggressive dog.

To help raise funds for our programs and animals, I began designing hats—at first simple, then increasingly wild and creative. David became our official hat model. With his soulful eyes and glossy coat, he brought every design to life. He made people smile.



He spent the rest of his life surrounded by love, acting as a loyal big brother to other rescue dogs. He made our home feel safe, and our mission feel possible. We said goodbye when he could no longer walk, but David's legacy lives on. To this day, his image appears on our event flyers, reminding everyone that every dog deserves a second chance.

David was the face of our latest fundraiser, Fashion for a Cause, on August 13.

Please visit our website at smartinsrescue.org if you'd like

to join us in honoring his memory and supporting our cause.



Near the Arizona-New Mexico border in northwestern New Mexico stands an impressive rock formation, El Morro (meaning bluff) National Monument. It bears the signatures, petroglyphs, and inscriptions from years of historic travelers and



Happy Flea

cliff dwellers who came to rest at the pristine watering hole beneath the majestic cliffs.

The landscape is stark and striking. But behind that beauty, the remoteness also lends itself to an easy dumping ground for unwanted dogs who are forced to fend for themselves. Sometimes sympathetic nearby ranchers encounter these pups and take pity on their unchosen plight.

This was the lucky draw for two soft red and tan smaller heeler mix pups. They were both picked up by such a rancher, but she knew she couldn't keep them for long. So she reached out to Susan, a key foster for Blackhat Humane Society, for help.

After being transferred to Susan and Pete's homestead, Susan's work started with getting them socialized and vetted and teaching them that they are safe and loved. The spunky one-year old male earned the moniker Flea, after the base player for Red Hot Chili Peppers, due to his lively hop-around personality.

Flea was possibly hit by a car when he was a baby as x-rays revealed two breaks in his front leg that had long-since healed. The old injury gives him a unique, faintly upbeat gait, but doesn't slow him down a bit. His slightly older friend/relative, Doll, who was found with him, has similar coloring, but a more even temperament.

Doll has a preference for male dogs, as Flea does female dogs, but they are very fond of each other—perhaps due to their mutual struggles together. They will live with other easy-going dogs of both genders. Both pups are on the smaller side, each weighing about 30 lbs.

Flea has proudly passed his basic obedience training with flying colors, and he enjoys car rides and outdoor adventures. While his playful hot-chili personality can annoy some dogs, he's interested in toys and thrives on interactions with people. His spirited love of life is sure to be infectious for anyone who lives with him. Give him a chance, and Flea will leave an indelible signature on your heart.

Blackhat is dedicated to changing the lives of abandoned street dogs/stray cats on the Reservation, and we welcome the support of animal lovers who want to help us with this important mission. Find out more at blackhathumanesociety.org



When United Animal Friends (UAF) was contacted by Chantal at RezRoads Rescue to see if we could take in a pregnant, homeless dog from the Reservation, we readily agreed. RezRoads Rescue is a non-profit organization that assists Navajo families and their pets, and helps rescue stray dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation reservation.

Chantal had received a photo of the pregnant dog, who had been hanging around a reservation hospital. With her sweet nature, the dog had captured the hearts of hospital employees who had been doing their best to care for her by supplying food and water, but she needed a better solution for herself and her soon-to-be-born puppies.

We quickly lined up a foster home to receive her, but when RezRoads Rescue went to pick her up, she had disappeared. Everyone searched for her three hours a day over the next three days.

When she finally reappeared, the reason for her absence was apparent: she had gone into hiding to have her babies in a protected space. Now the search changed from, "Where's mama?" to "Where are the pups?" Once again, the hospital employees got involved and were able to locate them tucked under a 40-foot-long shed where, naturally, Mama had safely nestled them all the way at the back.

There was barely enough room for Chantal to crawl under the shed, and she soon became stuck. She quickly made a trip to the hardware store for a small shovel and flashlight, and tried again. Crawling on her stomach and working her way through the dirt and numerous spider-nests, she eventually reached the pups, placed them in a shallow box, and pulled them out.

You might think that the mama dog would have felt that her pups were under threat, but she wagged her tail while overseeing the operation as if she knew they were being rescued.

Mom and pups were transported from New Mexico to the UAF Rescue Ranch in Prescott, where their new foster mom was waiting to take them home. Since they arrived on July 4th, the foster named the mom Liberty (Libby), and the pups Bell, Indie, Spark, and Popper.

(Rescue Tales continued page 23)



LESS STRESS FOR PETS
Comprehensive personalized veterinary care in your home

Visiting Vet
Housecalls for pets

Ann Ferens, D.V.M.

928.778.7657

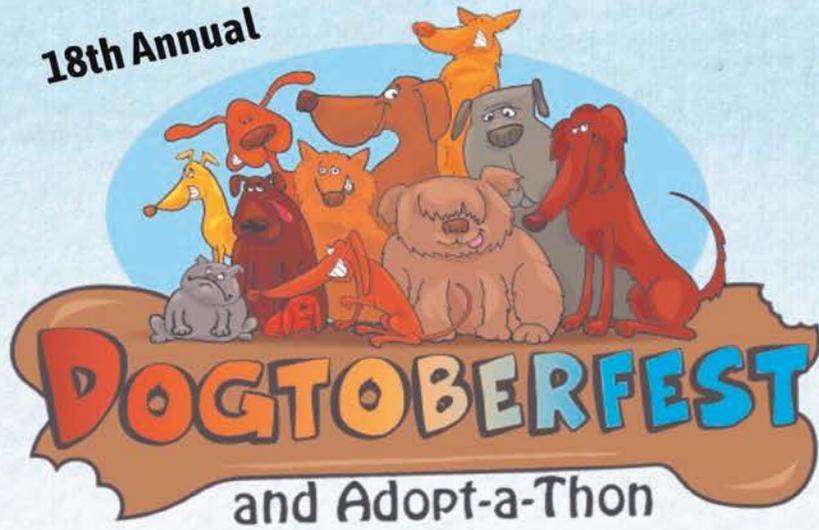


drferensvisitingvet.com • visitingvet@msn.com
P.O. Box 3099 • Prescott, Arizona 86302

Special DOGtoberfest Section

Two Great Events - One Great Place

18th Annual



Sunday October 5th 10A - 3P

Watson Lake Park, Prescott AZ

The event is FREE
Parking is \$5.00

More details at prescottdog.com
or by calling 928-445-4811

Adoptable Dogs, Vendors, Food Trucks & More

DOGtoberfest Contests

11AM Best Kisser 12PM Best Costume 1PM Best Trick/Talent 2PM Best Looking Dog



10:30 Canine Good Citizen Certification Test



Call to reserve your test today
928-463-8750
Maximum of 20 participants



9AM Walk for the Animals
Pre-registration required
Go to yavapaihumane.org
for details

Brought to you by these fine sponsors





*Wellness
Spay & Neuter
Emergency & Critical Care
Boarding & Grooming
Large Animal
Dental*



Chino Valley Animal Hospital
3601 N Hwy 89, Chino Valley
928-636-4382
chinovalleyanimalhospital.com



RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Superior Products. Exceptional Service.™

Now until December 31

Buy one window or door, get one **40% OFF**

Plus

NO Money Down **NO** Payments **NO** Interest **FOR 1 YEAR**² if paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 12-month promo period expires.

Book your FREE Window & Door Consultation today!

*Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 12/31/25 with the purchase then occurring on or before 1/10/26. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southwest Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Arizona. AZ ROC lic. #311233. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

**Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Renewal by Andersen Retailer is neither a broker nor a lender. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.



Supporting Our Community and Making the World a Better Place

Proud to support DOGtober Fest 2025
See You There!



928-534-0465
FindlaySubaruPrescott.com
3230 Willow Creek Rd
Prescott, AZ 86301



SUBARU
Loves
Pets®

Proud Sponsor of DOGtoberfest

Drop by our booth and say Hi!

We are open 7 days a week.
We welcome walk ins and urgent care.



7A - 6:30P Monday - Saturday Sundays 9A - 4P

(928) 445-2190
1318 W. Iron Springs Rd
PrescottAnimal.com

GROUP PLAY
RESORT STAY
SALON & SPA
TRAINING
CHECK US OUT!



Wags

PET RESORT AND
LUXURY HOTEL



928-923-6751
9049 E FLORENTINE RD
PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ 86314
WWW.WAGSPETRESORTS.COM

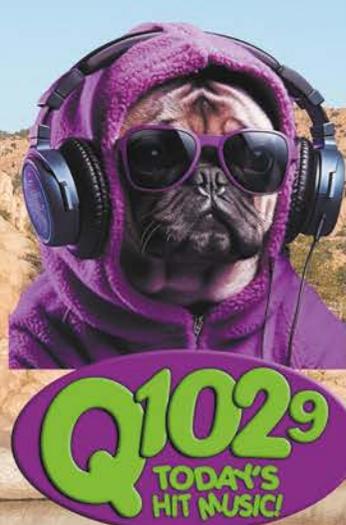


APPLE APP STORE GOOGLE PLAY STORE

INVITE CODE:
644106

**CHECK OUT
YAVAPAI BROADCASTING'S
NEWEST PACK MEMBER!**

Now on 100.1 Flagstaff, 92.1 Prescott, 93.3 Verde Vly



All stations streaming at myradioplac.com



DOGTOBERFEST
and Adopt-a-Thon
Official AKC
Canine Good Citizen
Certification Test
hosted by
A Paws to Learn
Dog Training




Call to reserve your spot today
928-463-8750
Maximum of 20 participants

Sunday October 5th
10:30AM At DOGtoberfest
by the main stage



Families seen
by appointment

SERENE WATERS

PET CREMATION

We offer compassionate, caring
and environmentally conscious
water cremation to help you
honor the memory of your
cherished companion



📞 928-582-1001 Prescott, AZ ✉ Serenewaterspc@gmail.com

Honoring animal lives. Healing human hearts.




Paws for Compassion
provides support for
all beings -
strengthening bonds,
honoring and
celebrating animals'
lives, and supporting
all in times of grief.



Paws...for Compassion LLC
ANIMAL CHAPLAIN

Jennifer Leigh Baker
(928) 899-0520



www.paws4compassion.net
jenleighaz@paws4compassion.net



Healing Trails Holistic Veterinary Services

Integrative whole body care for dogs, cats and horses
End of life care mobile and in office available
*Services are non emergent
and by appointment only*




Info@healingtrailsholisticvet.com
Healingtrailsholisticvet.com
Office located in Prescott

Dr Emily Roth



We want your four-legged family member to feel at home in our home!!

Woof Woof Ranch PV

- ✓ Daycare
- ✓ Boarding
- ✓ Extended Stay



Call to Schedule a Meet and Greet
928.830.4308
Check us out at:
woofwoofranchpv.com

Your Pet's Dental Clinic

Free Dental Exams, Vaccines,
Wellness & Chiropractic Care, Minor
Surgeries, Spay & Neuter Services,



Prescott Valley 6550 E. 2nd St.
Prescott Valley
928.772.1181
PetDentalUSA.com



Locations in:
Scottsdale
Peoria
Gilbert

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED



Granite Mountain
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

HAPPY FALL FROM DR. BASON, DR. SIENS AND THE TEAM!
WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER HIGH QUALITY, COLLABORATIVE CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY'S PETS,
WITH A FRIENDLY AND COMPASSIONATE APPROACH.





928-771-1340
3073 WILLOW CREEK RD.
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301

COME SEE US AT
DOGTOBERFEST
2025!





DR. MAY'S
VET CLINIC & HOUSE CALLS

Serving Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley & Dewey-Humboldt

- SPAY & NEUTER
- VACCINATIONS
- WELLNESS EXAMS
- MICROCHIPPING
- DENTAL CARE
- RADIOGRAPHS
- SURGERIES
- PARASITE PREVENTION
- FLEA & TICK CONTROL



Dr. Armaiti May, D.V.M., C.V.A.

- NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING
- HOMEOPATHY
- ACUPUNCTURE
- CHIROPRACTIC
- OZONE THERAPY
- HERBS/ESSENTIAL OILS
- BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT
- COLD LASER THERAPY
- END OF LIFE CARE

(310) 614-3530
WWW.VEGANVET.NET
veganvet@gmail.com

DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
CERTIFIED VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURIST





LILLIE: A lovely black and tan 4-year-old German Shepherd mix. She is an intelligent and active young lady who would love to be your hiking or jogging buddy. She is calm and enjoys belly rubs. Yavapai Humane Society 928-442-6426



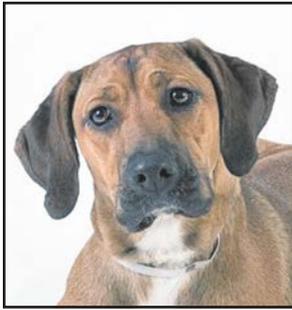
NUTMEG: A 4mo female. Best guess is Dachshund, Chihuahua, and Corgi, a unique and cute combination. Should mature at 25 pounds. Sweet, a bit shy, but very loving. Follows people around. United Animal Friends 928-728-2924



STEVIE: A 3-year-old male German Shepherd. He is intelligent and loyal, forming strong bonds with his people. He loves having a job to do, whether it's walking with you or sitting by your side. Yavapai Humane Society 928-442-6426



LEO: A handsome young male. A 76-pound mix of many breeds. Affectionate, friendly, and gets along with other dogs. He thrives on attention. Would love a home where he can soak up all the love. United Animal Friends 928-726-2924



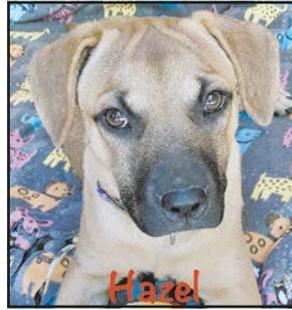
WILLOW: An 8-year-old female brown and white Hound mix. She is calm, affectionate, and would enjoy a quiet home where she can retire. She enjoys leisurely walks and sniffing the breeze. Yavapai Humane Society 928-442-6426



SNICKERDOODLE: An 8-month-old female terrier mix. She should mature at about 35 pounds. She is very loving and eager to please. Good with other dogs and cats. Crate trained and house trained. BlackHat Humane Society 575-999-6236



MOONIE: A 2yo female Pomsky (Pomeranian/Husky). A 13-lb. princess who's full of spunk & love. Moonie is warming up to her foster's dogs, but she is not too sure about cats. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



HAZEL: Young female Labrador/Heeler mix. Smart, quick learner, understands basic commands, walks well on a leash. Loves other dogs & attention. sleeps well in her crate. BlackHat Humane Society 928-899-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org



WILDER: A 7mo mini-Australian Shepherd mix. Should max out at ~35 lbs. Very sweet & listens quite well. Has mastered the doggie door. He is sleeping through the night. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



FINN: A five-month-old male Bluetick Hound mix. He is house trained, good with other dogs, cats, and children. If you'd like to meet him, please call the rescue and they will schedule a day to come out. AARF 928-925-7219



CLEMENTINE: A 7mo female Aussie mix w/maybe a dash of terrier. Remarkably sweet, sharp, & a little spitfire. Will mature to ~35 lbs. Understands the doggie door. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



HAWK: A five-month-old male Bluetick Hound mix. He is house trained, good with other dogs, cats, and children. If you'd like to meet him, please call the rescue and they will schedule a day to come out. AARF 928-925-721



The Best Care for
Your Best Friend

928-772-6069 • pvpclinic.com
9501 E. Lorna Lane, Prescott Valley

Dogs for Adoption

HONORING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOG WHO STARTED IT ALL FOR ME

K.D. Bear Born February 1, 1993 - Passed September 9, 2005

By Cherie L. Dreves, Owner/Publisher

You often hear people say, "I wouldn't be where I am today without..." Everyone's event which changed their course is personal, as is mine.

Whichever name she went by, she had many; Katie, Sugar Bear, and Bear Bear to name a few. She was my constant companion. Wherever I was, she was too. She was always right there. I often referred to her as my second child, she kind of was.

I had never experienced such anguish, as the days leading up to her passing. In my work, I called in every favor I could with my clients to get back home as soon as I could. Everyone knew what was happening.

Today, I still hold the utmost gratitude to all involved; clients, designers, bosses, for making that production week one of the easiest of my career.

After her passing, it wasn't easy either, as some how I managed to cry most days for almost six months, especially on Fridays. Which was the day of the week she passed. Like I said this went on for months. My thought was what am I going to do to honor her life?

The answer came on a cross country flight in April of 2006. Suddenly, my steno is open and I'm marking out space to lay out a Dog magazine, there was no thought to it, it just came together.

When I arrived home, I left my luggage by the bedroom door, and went to find some paper and some old magazines. I proceeded to play "paper dolls" on the kitchen table until the prototype was finished. Satisfied to get the idea cemented, I put it away in the file cabinet for future implementation. At that point I wasn't sure when that would be.

In 2007, I left the area and my idea, to go care for a friend and manage her businesses. When I returned in 2010, there in the news rack, was a similar publication to the one I had created years before.

In February of 2016, there was a major course correction in my life. I was afforded the opportunity to purchase the magazine that so mirrored my own. My deepest appreciation to Ann Herrington for allowing me to be the one that took our collective dream into the next decade and beyond.



The painting of her above my desk



K.D. Bear taken August 2005



Our photo taken by an 8 year old with a film camera in 1995

Bear's Playlist

Compiled as a tribute to her

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. State of Independence | By Mood Swings |
| 2. Been Caught Stealing | By Jane's Addiction |
| 3. Birdhouse in Your Soul | By They Might be Giants |
| 4. Trip Through Your Wires | By U2 |
| 5. Baltimore | By The Counting Crows |
| 6. Coyote | By Better Than Ezra |
| 7. This Time of Year | By Better Than Ezra |
| 8. 29 | By The Gin Blossoms |
| 9. Effortlessly | By Sister Hazel |
| 10. Around Here | By The Counting Crows |
| 11. Anchor Free | By Sister Hazel |
| 12. Until I Fall Away | By The Gin Blossoms |
| 13. Last Night | By Better Than Ezra |
| 14. Coming Home | By Collective Soul |
| 15. One Tree Hill | By U2 |
| 16. Uncloudy Day | By Don Henley |





UAF RESCUE RANCH
2600 HECKETHORN RD PRESCOTT



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25
10:00AM TO 1:00PM
\$25 FOR HIKE AND LUNCH

TRAIL HIKE & LUNCH
VENDORS & EXHIBITORS
FUN ACTIVITIES & GAMES
INFORMATION AND ADVANCE REGISTRATION AT
WWW.UNITEDANIMALFRIENDS.ORG/HIKE-FOR-HOUNDS

Sponsored by

Prescott Dog  **magazine**



EXPERIENCE A NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE HIKE IN TAHQUITZ CANYON

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz

The Agua Caliente Band of the Cahuilla Indian Reservation shares its stunning ancestral home with hikers through Tahquitz and Indian Canyons near Palm Springs, California.

Tahquitz Canyon's circular trail to a spectacular 60-foot waterfall starts from its Visitor Center and covers 1.8 miles on a rocky path with a 350-foot elevation gain and many rock steps. No pets, bikes or horseback riding are allowed on this strenuous trail.



Chuckwallas are large lizards that don't mind the Sonoran Desert heat.



Myron indulges his inner child by climbing a sycamore tree.



Myron and Brian prepare to hike rugged Tahquitz Canyon.

"You must have good balance and be able to climb up and down," the website states. You'll need hiking boots or good sneakers. Flip flops or sandals won't do it.

Be prepared for no restrooms or drinking water and very little shade. Although some incredible sycamore trees will tempt you to climb up.

The nearby Indian Canyons also include 15-mile-long Palm Canyon, with the some of the largest stands of the western United States' only native palm tree – the California fan palm, Andreas Canyon and Murray Canyon – home of endangered peninsular bighorn sheep.

The complex communities the Cahuilla built in the canyons have vanished, but remnants remain in the form of rock art, house pits and foundations, irrigation ditches, food prep areas and trails. Today, the Cahuilla 31,500-acre reservation includes about 6,700 acres in the Palm Springs area.

Purchase day hike tickets at the Tahquitz Canyon Visitor Center. They also offer free Ranger-led interpretive hikes with paid admission. Water is required to go on the trail, so if you don't bring it, you can buy it there.

During the past summer's intense heat, the website noted that the waterfalls were dry in Tahquitz, Murray Canyon and West Fork.

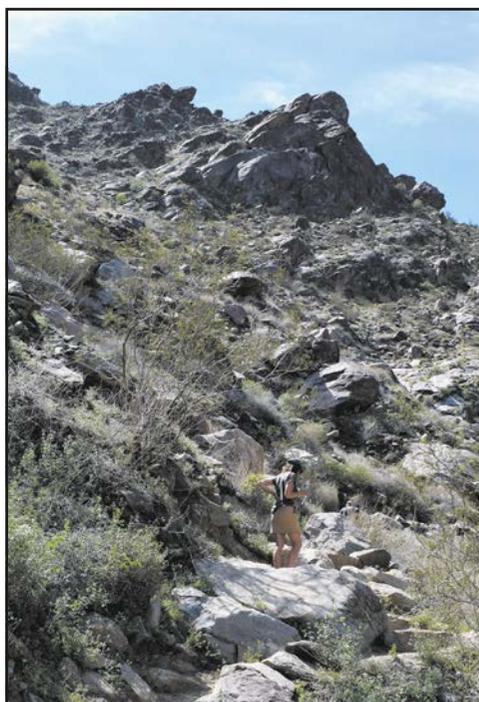
We visited Tahquitz one March as a side trip while attending some matches of the Paribas Tennis Tournament at nearby Indian Wells. We toured a bit of Palm Springs and if we ever return,

I wouldn't mind seeing more of its sights, such as the hot springs, aerial tramway and museums. Maybe even some celebrity homes touted as architectural masterpieces. Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe all lived here. Do you suppose they ever hiked Tahquitz Canyon?

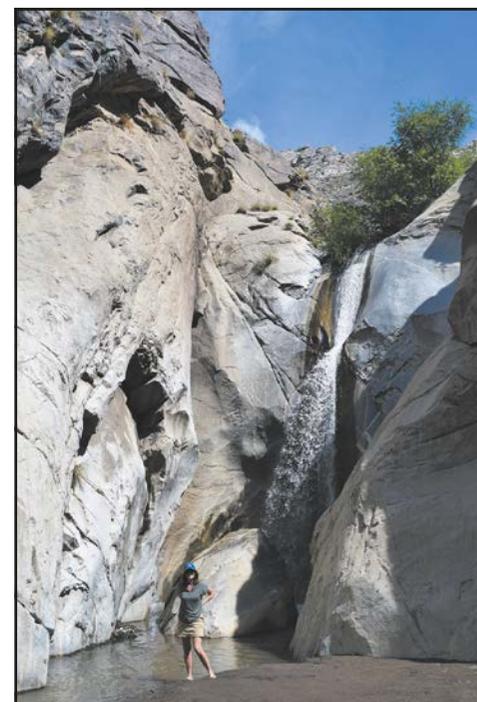
Happy historical hiking!



Shenanigans.



A rocky hike rewards Ellen with a spectacular waterfall.



Ask yourself....

Am I looking for a salon? Or for my very own personal Master Stylist/Colorist?

- ✦ Colors & Weaves
- ✦ Men & Women
- ✦ Perms (yes, they are back in style)
- ✦ Call For An Appointment



master
stylist
HOLLY LORETTE
master
colorist

(928) 460-3349
537 6th Street
Prescott

WALK FOR THE ANIMALS

Watson Lake Park

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 2025

Sunday, October 5th 9:00am
Register at yavapaihumane.org

Watson Lake Park

DOGTOBERFEST
& Adopt-A-Thon

Sunday, October 5th 10:00-3:00

**ADVANCED
CT SCANS
FOR PETS**
NOW AVAILABLE



Early Detection,
Lower Cost-
Wellness
Bloodwork for
Every Stage of
Life.

Get answers faster - our new CT scan service helps your pet get the care they need, when they need it. **Call us at 928-445-2190**

ANIMAL SERVICES ASSISTANT ALAYNA CASWELL IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SNAKES, DOGS, PEOPLE AND LEARNING NEW THINGS

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Prescott Valley's newest animal services assistant has always loved critters. But anyone who meets this well-spoken, diminutive 19 year old would never guess her favorite task on the job.

"Catching the snakes! That is my favorite part right there!" said Alayna Caswell, who said she gained experience with snakes keeping them as pets, and working at a local pet store. Her snake encounters in Prescott Valley generally are rattlesnakes and bullsnakes in areas such as the StoneRidge and Jasper developments, and relocating them to areas safer for the snakes and for people.

A Prescott Valley Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center high school graduate, Caswell also earned her Associate of Science degree through the school's partnership with Yavapai College. She finished the degree shortly after graduation. AAEC was a good fit for this animal lover. She's an accomplished equestrienne, competing in cutting horse events with her horse Cash, who she says is "too smart for his own good!" and an Australian Shepherd named Shadee.

Animals are a family heritage for Caswell. Her grandmother, Linda Searles, who introduced her to the competitive cutting sport, founded Southwest Wildlife Conservation center in Phoenix. Her grandfather Bill is a team roper, and her folks are active in rescue.

Caswell admits, like many young people, she thought a lot about leaving Prescott Valley for other opportunities. "Sometimes, with a small town, you love it, and sometimes, everybody knows everybody, and you want to go get your own freedom and go do something different. But I just love the area, and it's really nice to know so many people."

For some time, she wasn't sure what career path she wanted to take, but Caswell's love of animals was drawing her toward veterinary school. She is now working toward a degree in wildlife biology, and then plans to enter vet school.

"I've had becoming a veterinarian in the back of my mind since forever. There's been a couple things where I've kind of changed my mind, but (a career as a veterinarian) is what really what stuck," she said.

While working, Caswell can do most of her wildlife biology and pre-vet studies online through Colorado State University. She knows it will be a long road, but she's committed to seeing it through.

"It'll take two to two-and-a-half years to complete my wildlife biology degree, and then I can start my veterinary studies with them. At some point, I would most likely go in person there, but that's another four years out before I have to do that," she said.

With her father and stepmother both police officers, Caswell is no stranger to law enforcement. But she admits she never thought about having anything resembling a police career.

"I never really thought about animal control too much. My mom had pointed it out to me and said, just go do a couple ride alongs and see



Alayna with a rattlesnake she relocated. Courtesy Photo Alayna Caswell.

what you think!" She rode a couple shifts with Animal Services Supervisor Tim Yogerst, and found she was interested.

Caswell knew the hiring process was challenging, so she wasn't sure she'd qualify. She was required to pass a similar oral board interview to the one prospective police officers undergo.

"It was the same," said her supervisor Yogerst, "because we do PD and Town business. So we had a couple people from the town and a couple people from the PD on the interview. And then I invited the animal control supervisor from Prescott."

"Oh, that was stressful!" Caswell said, adding that she felt part of her success was because she came well prepared. "The questions truly were

not that difficult. I did my research on what our job is and what's expected. I think that kind of got my foot in the door a little bit. I didn't know what they were going to ask me, so I just did research on everything, because I really don't like not having an answer to a question."

Caswell is also a bit obsessive about being on time, so she made sure she left plenty early for her interview. A good thing, because on the way, she spotted a loose dog running in traffic. "I'm just driving down viewpoint one way, and I just see a dog running on the road. I jumped out and called him, and he ran right up to me, so I popped him in the truck!"

She arrived at the police station, handed the dog off to another animal services specialist, and headed to her interview. She was successful, and joined Yogerst along with two other animal services colleagues – Sarah Lemons, and Liam Edwards, in December 2024.

Aside from the snakes, Caswell said she loves seeing lost dogs returned to their owners.

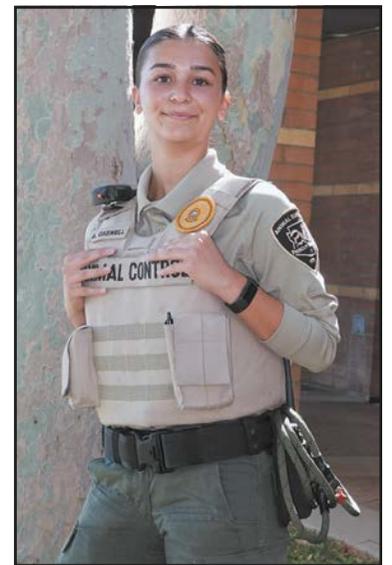
"My favorite thing is reuniting them with their owners and just seeing how excited they are. I love that. It doesn't matter how they were here at the department with us. Sometimes they're good. Sometimes they're like, I don't want to look at anybody else. It's just really nice to see them go home to someone who loves them."

One of the biggest challenges, and joys, for animal services specialists, Caswell said, is people. "I think they are

the best part of the job and also the hardest part of the job. Some people do not like animal control, and some people love animal control. We have to keep a balance. We're not here to take people's dogs, and we're not here just to harp on everybody. We're here to help people and animals, to educate people and just keep the town safe. Sometimes it's really hard to escape stereotypes or people who don't particularly understand what our job is."

She has gained more understanding for people and their situations.

"Working with so many different people, every single day is different for us. I really love that. This job has taught me patience, to have a lot more understanding for other people, their dogs and the situations that happen. Some of them can really break your heart, and just trying to find the best thing to do in really hard situations, it teaches you a lot. That sticks with you forever and it will help me throughout the rest of my life," she said.



Alayna Caswell. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.

Caswell has come to understand how important it is for people to license their dogs, and she has become an advocate for education and technology to make it easier for Prescott Valley pet owners. She has assisted with the Town's new licensing agency, DocuPet, a user-friendly online licensing option.

She also urges pet owners to adhere to the Town's leash laws and vaccinate their animals, especially for Rabies. "This job really helped me understand the importance of having a leash on your dog, having your dog licensed, and making sure your dog is up to date on those shots. Because all of that makes everybody's lives easier," she said.

Caswell said she loves working with Prescott Valley's Animal Services team, and she is focused on adding her part to the hard work they put in.

"I love the program that we have. Every single day, we're improving - getting dogs back home, keeping everybody safe, getting our Rabies education and vaccinations done so we don't ever have a breakout here. I know we've had a couple in Arizona throughout the year, and thankfully, none of that has been in Prescott Valley. I really think that's due to the amount of work that we've put into enforcing all of that. Enforcing those laws keeps everybody safe and holds people accountable for the things that go on with their dogs and the situations that occur in our job," she said.

She is sure to add to her cache of experiences and knowledge throughout her time at Prescott Valley, until she moves on to veterinary school.

"I love learning, especially when it comes to something that I'm super passionate about!" said the future Dr. Alayna Caswell, DVM.



John Casatelli and dog, Boom, meet Alayna Caswell. Photo by Heidi Dahms Foster.



The Gold Guy

We Buy and Sell

**Gold Art
Silver Coins
Guns Jewelry
Safes Collectibles**

GOLD BUYERS
OF
ARIZONA
LLC.

TheGoldGuyOnline.com

928-776-GOLD (4653)

703 E. Gurley St. Prescott

On the Corner of Washington and Gurley St.

WE OFFER:

Wellness Visits	Acupuncture
Same-Day Appointments	CT Scans <i>(via Mobile Animal CT of Phoenix)</i>
In-House Blood Work	Laser Therapy
Cardiac/Abdominal Ultrasounds	Food & Herbal Supplements
Echocardiograms	Herbal Tonics
Dental & Elective Surgeries	

826 Sunset Ave., Prescott AZ 86305 • Mon-Fri 8am-5pm



HARMONY
VETERINARY CARE

(928) 445-7499

WWW.HARMONYVETCARE.COM

DID YOU KNOW...

That a kitten can get pregnant at just four months old and can go back into heat right after giving birth?

I should have gone to the
SNIP N' GO™
CLINIC



DON'T LET YOUR BABY MAKE BABIES.

Low-cost spay/neuter is available through United Animal Friends.

Make an appointment online today!



www.unitedanimalfriends.org

SHADOW'S TALE: MY MOMMA'S CATS

By Kay Luckett, as told by Shadow

My human (aka Mom) is completely bonkers over cats. It may be odd, but she has drawings and photos of my previous siblings decorating the house.

She told me that her first cat was Tiggy, and he was just that—a picture purrrfect tabby boy. Mom grew up with him during her childhood in Los Angeles. Her mom, who was the original cat lover, let Tiggy scratch wherever he wanted because there were no cat-scratcher things around. The furniture was recovered each year, so no problem. Mom says she remembers that once Tiggy got stuck up in a tree and had to call a neighbor to rescue him.

He was a spoiled, pampered baby who never wanted for a thing,

Tiggy was always there, until he wasn't. On that fateful day, Mom's mom told her that he had crossed the Rainbow Bridge. This taught Momma a real-life lesson. Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. Then, pray for another cat—never to replace, but to add more happiness and love you're your life.

Mom always carried Tiggy in her heart, and so many different tabbies would just find her. One tabby came to her home to sit under the shade of the honeysuckle vines on the porch. You betcha he got fed and petted. He moved in and became Kiki and lived in their hearts for several years. Mom always says that happy is the home with at least one cat.

Next came Jones the tabby boy, along with Princess the Calico girl. They were California cats who ran the house, went in and out at will, and always came home for dinner. They stayed for 11 human years.

Jones was the brave one who watched over the whole family, including Mom. He was the protector of the house, and he looked out for Mom and Princess. He was impossible to keep inside at night. He'd leave by scratching open a screen or two with the excuse of being the neighborhood sentry. Princess was an elegant, proud lady-cat



who meowed to let us know she was really the queen.

Tiggy and Mom later moved to Sedona to live a new life as Tiggy turned twelve and became a senior. He didn't really mind being indoors, then. The new environment was the Wild West with hawks, coyotes, and other unknowns.

Tiggy would only poop outside while Momma watched. When it snowed or rained, he'd make his deposits indoors on the living-room rug. He was the sweetest baby boy for all his life, always the kitten of the family. Mom told me, "Some angels choose fur instead of wings."

Tiggy and Mom moved to the Mountain Club in Prescott, Arizona where they enjoyed the beautiful forest all around the house, and the company of Butch and Maggie, who were gray tabby littermates belonging to human-friend Steve. Mom and Steve were both gaga over cats, so the house was filled with food, treats, toys, sprinkles of litter, and everyone got along amazingly well.

They lost Butch too young. Then came two boys named Teddy (the ginger tabby) and Sammy Davis—two tomcats who were littermates. They were so big that little Maggie went back to live with her first human mom. Tiggy crossed the Rainbow Bridge at age 17, Teddy went too young, and Maggie lived to be a happy 21 years.

Mom moved and sadly said goodbye to Steve and Sammy. She was alone again, being a cat-less mother. But then, suddenly, guess what? Along came Bubbles, a fat tabby girl who walked into Mom's life as though she had always been there.

She was an easy cat. Mom would place her on her back, snuggle her tummy, then continue to pet her while the purring ensued. Bubbles was allowed out a bit at the beginning, but then she brought baby rabbits home as a gift to Mom. After their burial ceremony, Bubbles became a contented indoor senior kitty until the angels carried her away.

Alone once again, Mom was grieving until Steve suggested she go to Miss Kitty's Cat House (MKCH) to adopt. That was new for her, because she was used to cats just coming her way. One day she went online and saw the face of the cutest and most unusual looking tabby girl named Buttons.

Mom met Ryan during her visit to MKCH, and he'd made Buttons his personal project. Ryan told



Mom not to pet Buttons over the head, and she got scratched when she did. That was it.

Buttons adopted Mom and went to live in her forever home. Mom was Buttons' home, but Ryan was the one she trusted the most. He came to visit Buttons for 10 years, gave her monthly pedicures, and held her in a way no one else could.*

Humans always say that pets never live long enough. But the good news for them is that they don't have to lose us. Life without the love and safety that our humans provide would be more about survival, and as a spoiled indoor cat, let me say that I live the goooood life. For humans, the calming, trusting, and loyal energy of a cat is a precious gift to be carefully treasured, savored, and appreciated.

Now for me. I am Shadow. I dare say that I am the love of my Mom's life. You may have read about me before, but here I am telling about the ways I tease her, stress her, and love her all at once.

The teasing is easy. I just have to hide under the bed while playing and watch her various ways of trying to lure me out. It stresses her out when I don't eat, and that is because at six pounds, I just don't eat very much.

The beauty of this is that each day Mom sets before me a beautiful buffet of tuna, salmon,

sardines and such while I pick and choose at my leisure. Sometimes I don't want to eat at all and so, more stress!

The way I love Mom is by letting her groom me once or twice a day. After all, I am a gorgeous, graceful, long-haired domestic Black Cat—her very first black cat! I let her pet me, nap with me, and as a purring lap cat, I am the best cat of all, here to tell the happy tail of the many wonderful fur babies watching over us from that Rainbow Bridge.

Home is where cats live but really, they live in the heart. My heart is full when Mom tells me about all her angels. Do you think they are still here in their nine lives? Meow.

* If you'd like to read Buttons' story, go to [The Prescott Dog](http://ThePrescottDog.com) online at tinyurl.com/z9tpx9wf and open the January 2016 edition.



(Rescue Tales continued from page 10)



Libby

The foster says, "Libby is a sweetheart and so loving to everyone she meets and tolerant and trusting with her pups. She has a great fear of leashes or anything tightening around her neck, so my main goal

with her is to get her to know that she won't be hurt by anyone on the other end of the tether. It's slow going, but she'll be okay with time and patience."

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the hospital employees, RezRoads Rescue and UAF, Libby, Bell, Indie, Spark and Popper will soon be adopted into loving homes instead of eking out a meager existence while living under a shed.

Please visit us at UnitedAnimalFriends.org to learn about fostering, see our adoptable dogs and cats, or support our efforts to make the world a better place for animals.

Happy Tails Make Everyone Happy

These adoptions make everything we do at the rescue so rewarding and, honestly, we all need rewards these days.

Little Newman came to us over a year ago from the Yuma Humane Society. He was a very scared little boy, seemingly abused or roughly handled in his earlier life. He was six at the time and gradually made huge progress with lots of patience and care from our volunteers.

He still was unsure, but played and loved his walks. It took some time, but recently a new family that only rescues smaller senior dogs came to know him and adopted him to spoil and just let him be who he is. A true feel-good story, and we are so happy for Newman.

Tango (now Lulu) was returned to us after being adopted as a puppy in 2019. We soon learned that she had laryngeal paralysis, which is where the larynx or voice box fails to



Newman

properly open and leads to difficulty breathing or swallowing. She needed surgery to give her a better quality of life, and that's what we did.

She did fine afterward, and we were blessed that a lady who had a dog with similar issues came to see her. She knew what to watch for and how to cope with any potential problem. It was a match, and Lulu went home.

She ignores the cats in the house and as her new owner says, "She follows me around and is happy to sleep on whatever dog bed or sofa is nearest to me. She's pretty quiet and enjoys exploring her yard. I'm so happy to have found her, and thank you for taking such good care of her."

Bucky was another return after being adopted as a pup five years ago. He was a sweet boy, just happy to be around us, but we wanted to find him another home soon.

A gentleman was looking for a hiking partner and best friend, and he came all the way from Strawberry, Arizona. It was a match worth waiting for, and Peter says this about his new buddy: "He is wonderful, great on car rides, never gets into anything when left alone, is very affectionate, and super excited when I see him in the mornings.

"We are doing seven-mile hikes up to 1000 feet, covering 25 miles or so weekly, so I'm making sure he gets the right amount of food. Pretty strong prey drive once he catches a scent, but easy to control. I feel it's his enrichment time beyond just being with me.

"Funny, there is one place he just won't go to on our early morning hikes. He looks at me like, 'Seriously, I REALLY don't want to be here,' and then pulls hard when we turn around. He's smart, so I figure a mountain lion or bear must be up there. We had a mini-disaster when he got a nose full of cholla. The vet fixed him up, and we'll

be way more careful from now on.

"He's great with other dogs, even small ones. I have a hard time understanding why he didn't get adopted sooner. Glad he waited for me, so we could enjoy this partnership together."

We encourage everyone to please adopt a rescue; there are so many wonderful animals out there waiting for their happy life with a forever family.



Fall at YHS: Walk, Wag, Remember, and Welcome New Friends

The air's getting cooler, the days are getting shorter, and at Yavapai Humane Society, our hearts are extra full because the next two months are packed with special moments for the animals, and for all of us who love them. We start with a day of remembrance.

Sunday, September 14 is National Pet Memorial Day, a time to honor the pets who've touched our lives and left pawprints on our hearts. This year, it feels especially meaningful as we open the doors to our new Serenity House.

Designed with comfort and compassion in mind, Serenity House offers public euthanasia services in a peaceful, home-like setting—a place where you can say goodbye surrounded by warmth, privacy, and love. It's never easy to let go, but we're here to help make those final moments gentle and filled with dignity.

Then, as we move into October, it's time to get those leashes ready and sneakers laced because Sunday, October 5 brings one of our favorite days of the year at beautiful Watson Lake Park. We're kicking things off with our annual Walk for the Animals, a little over a mile of gorgeous lake views, fresh air, and community spirit. Do it once, twice, or even three times — your choice. Every step you take helps support the animals in our care, and the smiles (and wagging tails) along the way are guaranteed to brighten your day.

And the fun doesn't stop there—right after the walk comes Dogtoberfest. Imagine a park filled with happy dogs, delicious food, fun vendors, exciting contests, and plenty of laughter. It's the kind of event where you'll see everything from tiny Chihuahuas in costumes to big goofy Labs rolling in the grass, and you'll probably go home with a few new friends, both furry and human.

October is also National Adopt a Shelter Pet Month (though here at YHS, we celebrate that all year long). If you've been thinking about

adding a pet to your life, this is the perfect time. Whether you're looking for a hiking partner, a lap-snuggler, or a purring kitchen supervisor, your new best friend could be waiting for you right now at YHS.

And let's not forget one of the best parts about fall—the weather.

Cooler temperatures mean more walks, more dog park visits, more patio coffee dates with your pup, and more outdoor adventures together. Just remember, even in cooler weather, our furry friends still need water breaks and a watchful eye to keep them safe and comfortable.

So here's the plan: join us in September to honor the pets we've loved and lost, then lets move in to October to walk, wag, and celebrate the animals who are still waiting for their forever homes and the ones who have found their home sweet home because of you. Together, we can make this season one filled with joy, love, and unforgettable memories.

See you there—paws and all.



Desert Miracle: Katrina's Journey from Survival to Safety

Sometimes, the smallest sound can spark the biggest rescue.

While riding her bike through the Arizona desert, Kim thought she heard faint barking coming through her headset. Curious and slightly unsettled, she stopped, pulled off her headphones, and listened. But all she heard was silence and the wind.

She looked around, saw nothing, and went on her way, but something tugged at her. The sound lingered in her thoughts long after she returned home. It didn't feel like music anymore. It felt like a cry.

Haunted by that intuition, she returned to the same spot later. This time, she found the source: two dogs, dusty and scared in the middle of nowhere.

She snapped photos and shared them on a local lost-pet page, hoping someone might recognize the pair. In addition, she reached out to local rescues, igniting a chain of compassion. Within hours, a network of animal advocates had formed.

(Rescue Tales continued page 25)

POWERED BY PASSION: AGAINST ALL ODDS

Story by Rita Thompson Tinsley. Photos by Patti Morabito.



Alyssa and Rosie, partners on the run

The equestrian sport of Barrel Racing combines the agility of directing a horse around three barrels in a clover-leaf pattern with as much speed as that horse can muster. As a timed event, the horse and rider with the lowest amount of time wins. Fast horses and daring contenders make this sport super exciting to watch and exhilarating to ride.

Alyssa Tudor, who lives in Fort Mohave, Arizona, sat upon a horse at the age of one and was forever hooked on horses. She began barrel racing at the age of eleven and fell in love with the sport despite unique challenges. Tudor is a childhood cancer survivor, left paralyzed in both legs after a neuroblastoma tumor permanently damaged her spinal cord.

At a very early age, with an invincible spirit encouraged by her mother, Ro-Jeanna, Alyssa made it clear that she was going to manage her life without allowing her life's condition to manage her. Living life on her terms meant

that she would not be deprived of following her dreams.

The wheelchair she uses is abbreviated, so that she can easily slip in and out of it. She climbs the side of her trailer to groom her horse or to administer a supplement when needed. Her arms are strong and able, allowing her to move around easily and quickly.

For the record, good barrel racing demands teamwork, which means that horse and rider work together in sync, partners in performance. Such is the case with Alyssa and Rosie.

A little over six years ago Rosie was discovered at a kill pen in Texas. The red roan was transported to Phoenix, where she and Alyssa met. Rosie's journey was likely scary: she was taken from her home, moved to another state, and thrown together with other horses unfamiliar to her.

When Alyssa got her first glimpse of the mare, she didn't hesitate. She boldly wheeled herself into Rosie's area and got to know her face-to-face. They were instantly attached. There was no doubt that this was the horse for Alyssa, so Rosie went home with Tudor, and the training began.

As unique as Alyssa is, so is her saddle which is customized with a seatbelt for safety and security. Although leg cues are generally used in barrel racing, Rosie is specifically trained to follow Alyssa's

body language. Working as a teammate, she accurately performs the barrel routine.

Serving as Alyssa's one-man crew, her grandfather Norman eagerly drives Alyssa, trailering Rosie to the events and assists in all the tasks required. This dynamic duo has taken home championships in pole bending as well as barrel racing, and have celebrated many wins over the years.

Aside from their competitions, Alyssa and Rosie are the best of friends. Rosie is especially protective of Alyssa, and on occasion has proven her devotion. When a dog came after them, Rosie kicked at the varmint until they were safe. When another rider tried to pull Alyssa out of her saddle as a prank, Rosie positioned herself so that Alyssa would be safe.

As royalty goes, Alyssa has been named Rodeo Queen a number of times around her community. In 2022, she was crowned Colorado River Round Up Rodeo Queen in Needles, California, and was 2024 Andy Devine Pro Rodeo Queen.

As all-around sportsters, Alyssa and Rosie enjoy gymkhanas, trail rides, have tried jumping and have participated in a cattle round up.

All in all, this doesn't describe someone whose other ride is a chair on wheels.



Norman, a one-man crew

Alyssa Tudor at twenty is purely no nonsense, a driven force of nature who is not willing to settle for less. At 4'2" and 75 pounds, there is no one I know who sits taller in the saddle. There is no weight or measurement that calculates character. And there is no prouder mare than the one Alyssa calls her own.



Before the race. Alyssa in her lucky hat (L), and the author (R).



Rosie



Focused on the win

(Rescue Tales continued from page 23)

Yavapai Humane Trappers responded quickly, arriving on scene with the expertise and patience to help.

To everyone's relief, Katrina (a white American Bulldog mix) came willingly, tail low but trusting. Her companion, a more hesitant pup, was safely trapped soon after.

As the trappers examined Katrina, they realized she was more than just a stray. She was pregnant. That's when the call came to the Humane Society of Wickenburg. Could we help? Yes. And we did.

Katrina arrived with the quiet grace of a mother who had already endured more than her share. Tired, hungry, covered in open wounds and scars and carrying new life, she settled into her safe space with surprising calm. It was as if she knew she had finally

found shelter—not just for herself, but for her unborn puppies, too.

On a quiet morning, Katrina gave birth at the shelter to five littles: two boys and three girls. She had survived the harsh desert, but now she was safe, and her puppies would never know the fear she once carried.

They spent the first half of their lives in a loving foster home, where they learned about soft beds, good food, daily routines, and (thanks to their foster mom's sense of humor) a bit of puppy yoga.

The puppies attended a special yoga event hosted by Rooted Chiropractor. The event brought joy and laughter. It also helped fund all of the puppies' spay and neuter procedures, their vaccinations, and their microchips. What started as a lighthearted way to get the community involved quickly became something much more impactful.



Mom Katrina



Kalea, one of Katrina's puppies

It was a perfect example of how creativity and compassion can come together to make a real difference, and a beautiful reminder of how essential collaboration is in animal rescue. It isn't just about one person or one group: it's about many hands working together. Good-hearted strangers like Kim, local businesses like Rooted Chiropractor, individual fosters, Yavapai Humane Trappers, and shelters had each played a role.

All agreed that rescue work is sustained by partnership. It thrives when the community shows up—not just with donations, but with time, creativity, and heart. These five puppies and their brave mother were safe, healthy,

and loved, not because of a single act, but because an entire community refused to look away.

We are deeply grateful to Kim, who didn't just see Katrina — she saw her. Kim listened to her gut and followed her heart. Because of that, five new lives were safely born, and one brave mama dog finally got her second chance.

Thank you to everyone who saw her worth, who stepped up, and who made space for healing. This is what rescue looks like.

Momma Katrina and her babies are now available. Please visit our website at wickenburghumane.com.

WALK FOR THE ANIMALS



**Sunday
October 5th
9:00am
Watson Lake Park**

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 2025

**Register at:
yavapaihumane.org**

Proudly Serving Yavapai County



928-224-2814
Service@arizonatt.com
arizonatt.com

**Junk Removal
Hauling Services**

Arizona Trailer Trash your full-service solution for residential, commercial, construction clean-up and more!

Should you find yourself with unwanted junk: furniture, equipment, electronics, appliances, trash, garbage, or even something else, simply call us.



**LICENSED AND INSURED
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
RELIABLE HIGH QUALITY SERVICE
PROMPT AND PROFESSIONAL
ECO-FRIENDLY DISPOSAL
AFFORDABLE AND EFFICIENT**



Kachina Animal Hospital

Wellness, Medical, Dentistry, Surgery, Laser Therapy, Boarding and Daycare.

Open Saturdays

Our Monthly Specials:

**September
World Rabies Day
20% Off ALL Vaccines**

**October
Pet Obesity Awareness Month
20% Off Sr Screen Blood Panel**

850 S Henrickson Rd, Dewey
(928) 772-8225



Military, First Responder and Senior Discounts

Online scheduling at kachinaanimalhospital.com



SPAGHETTI DOGPILES: SYMBIOTIC SLEEPING FOR A HEALTHY PACK

By Solana Kline: honorary four-legger and staunch supporter of wags everywhere



Pre-dogpile trail adventures.

Budding sunrises work their way through the piñon shade that's kept us sleeping. Being it's Summer, we're out in the camper in the high country, far from concrete heat, near trails and mountain tops and memories.

"Cuckaroooooooo! Cuckaroooooooo!" I gently chorle the customary wake-up call to the pack from under the covers.

Betts (aka Snuggess) lifts her head perhaps only a micrometer from her down nest, only interested in leaving the snuggle-pile for the breakfast bell.

A head-sized blob rises up under the blankets, reminiscent of a Nessy sighting from afar. It is Mickey (aka Sir Mingsalot). He is minorly inquisitive but not inordinately concerned. Not enough to emerge from the undercover world of the dogpile.

The hounds both stretch all their appendages simultaneously and nestle back into the snug. After all, it's still before 7 a.m., and we are above 9,000 feet where the mornings hold their cool for another couple hours. This is my favorite time of day, that morning stillness you don't find anytime else.

Mickey has wedged his curled back as close as possible into the bend of my knees. Betts maintains her comical use of the human pillow and has nestled into my arm nook. This is a peace I am deliberately savoring these days with these two.

We didn't always sleep together like a giant pile of spaghetti. This is a recent development in our pack dynamics. It's recent to the last few years, anyway. All it took was two months sleeping mashed in a tiny



Cozy stations in full effect.



The pack that snores together stays together.

tent and sardine-sidecar on our back-country motorcycle trip a couple of summers ago.

Before that, I was an antsy sleeper with any tiny noise or movement waking me up. As such, I relegated the pups to their plush pillow beds under the unusually high bed-frame, their own little beast cave.

I would yell "Dogpile!" as soon as I woke up each morning, and they would come lofting up onto the bed for morning snugs and pets before the busy-ness of the day rushed in. But my goodness, was I missing out. And our pack dynamics were missing out, too.

Maybe it's the wisdom and gratitude that comes with age, or maybe it's the immense pack bonding we did on the motorcycle trip. Either way, the overnight spaghetti dogpile is our new normal, and I can't imagine it any other way.

With this new practice, I have noticed momentous shifts in our pack dynamics, especially in regards to trust and relationships.

The pups held a bit of distance from one another in their younger years due to their pre-adoption traumas. They now flop willy-nilly across and atop one another (and me!) Betty even sleeps directly on top of Mickey—who thoroughly delights in his newfound ability to have comradery, trust, and companionship. It is a daily hoot to see what warped configurations they (and me!) get into during the night.

Betts has no qualms laying across your neck on the pillows like the true pillow princess she is. Mickey used to have a firm aversion to sleeping near a human or another hound until our smooch piles. Now he is the snuggliest of all of us and will joyfully roll onto his back and rub his face around the cozy blankets, nestling in as close as possible to whoever is nearest.

Sleeping together as a pack is an ancient practice, beginning as long ago as when humans and dogs began working together to survive in the wilds. There is cultural and archaeological evidence dating this cross-species co-sleeping back to the earliest dog-human domestication practices, anywhere from 15,000 to 30,000 years ago.

Before all the modern human technologies like central heating, walls, and door locks, smooshing in together to sleep meant everyone stayed safer and warmer. "Three dog night" isn't a saying for no reason.



Spaghetti dogpiles.



Do I hear breakfast?



Full Betty squish.

In the colder global climes, there are rich histories of humans adding more dogs under the covers the colder the night got. Dogs on average have a much higher body temperature than humans at about 104 degrees.

It's more than just an effective winter foot-warming strategy; sleeping together quickly and deeply builds pack bonding and health in ways that no other ritual can. Wild dogs and wolves sleep together in dogpiles, backs and/or limbs touching. It builds community, helps everyone sleep better, releases endorphins, and causes everyone to dream more often.

Pack sleeping is natural for canines, and for humans. Early humans slept in groups for the same reasons as dogs: security, bonding, belonging and community, affirming hierarchy, and warmth. Our pups consider we humans as members of their packs, and hopefully we consider them our packmates, too.

Logically, it makes sense that we'd all sleep together and—quite literally—have each other's backs. Sleeping together means pack safety which facilitates better and deeper sleeping for everyone.

Maybe we should call it collaborative sleeping or symbiotic sleeping since, no matter our species, we all experience the physical, psychological, emotional, and communal benefits of sharing the bed.

Sleeping together as a pack allows for bonding and affection that wouldn't otherwise happen. There's even research demonstrating that humans AND dogs release oxytocin (the feel-good hormone) when they sleep together—meaning that symbiotic sleeping contributes greatly to the whole health of all the species in our pack.

As I write this, the slightest snore rumbles out of Betty, wedged between three pillows and the wall. Micks is flicking his paws and tail, sending out a quarter-strength sleep howl, deep in dreamland. It's a delight to know them in these ways; to see us all grow closer and more attuned to one another because we snuggle.

These dogpiles are essential to being a true pack. It means letting our guard down, a necessary step in learning one another as trusted and known individuals living our wonder-filled lives together, not just as generic members of some other species.

I do think that for the whole pack there is a very real healing that takes place when we sleep together. It is heart and brain healing, the ultimate rebuilding of trust, compassion, and companionship. Where we let go of our past and wriggle into the spaghetti dogpiles for just a few more minutes before the alarm goes off....

Until next time, happy trails and happy tails!

**CHECK OUT
YAVAPAI BROADCASTING'S
NEWEST PACK MEMBER!**

Now on 100.1 Flagstaff, 92.1 Prescott, 93.3 Verde Vly



80's 90's & NOW
PEAK100.1



KKLD
THE CLOUD
95.9 FM



KYRD
COUNTRY
105.7 FM



Q102.9
TODAY'S
HIT MUSIC!



ESPN
104.7FM AM600
KVNA FLAGSTAFF



YBC DIGITAL
elevate your business

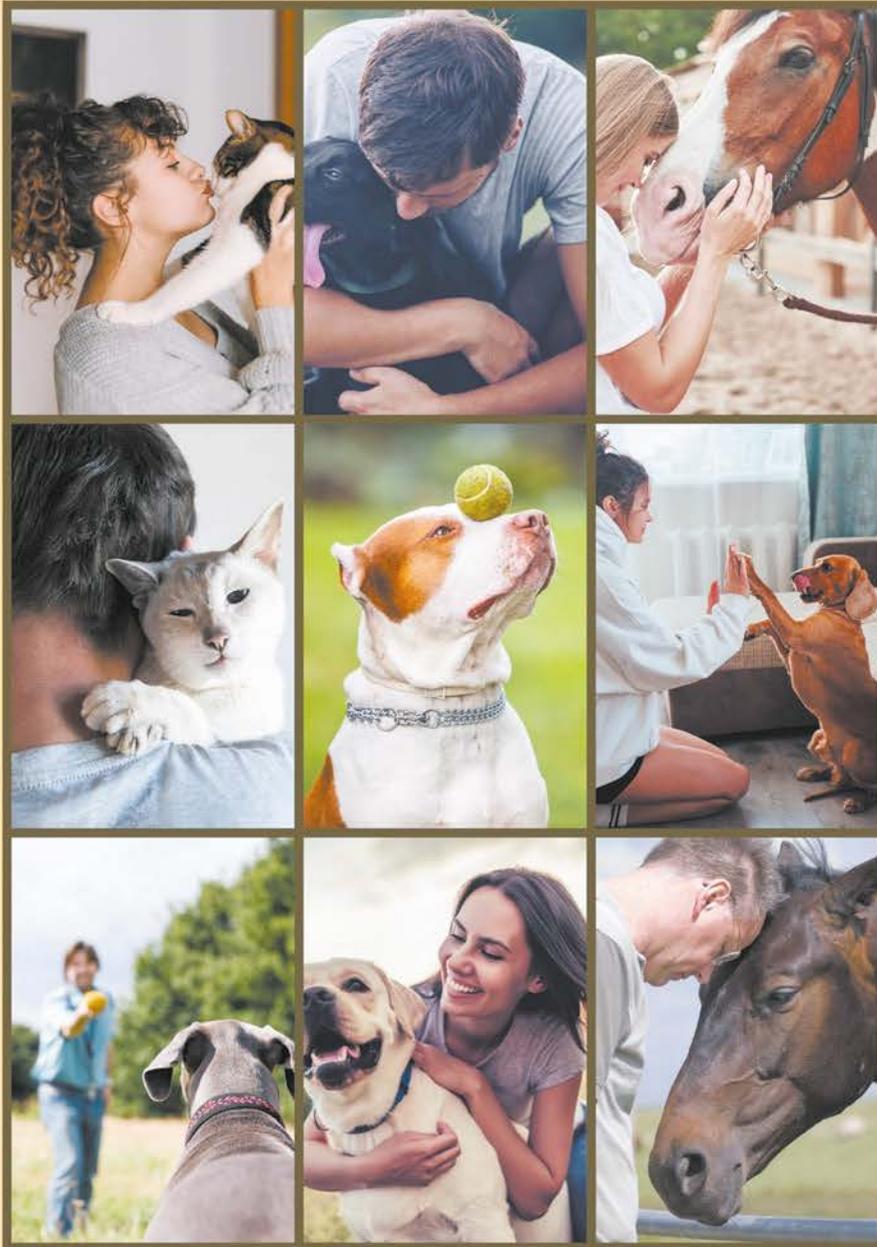


America's Best Music!
KYBC
AM 1600
96.3 FM

All stations streaming at myradioplac.com

LET US CARE FOR YOUR PETS

At Chino Valley Animal Hospital, it is our mission to provide the best patient-centered care to our community; through our commitment to encouraging a positive culture, showing compassion, and cultivating growth.



OUR SERVICES

**PET WELLNESS
VACCINATIONS
SPAY & NEUTER
PET GROOMING
PET BOARDING
DENTAL CARE
LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE
EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE**



3601 N Hwy 89, Chino Valley
928-636-4382
chinovalleyanimalhospital.com