

Prescott Dog

November/December 2025 • PrescottDog.com magazine



**Adventures
In Learning**
Certified To Love
Common Holiday Hazards
Prescott Dog Inspires Book

TO GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS

Introducing Our Cover Dog – Ivy

thank you



thank you



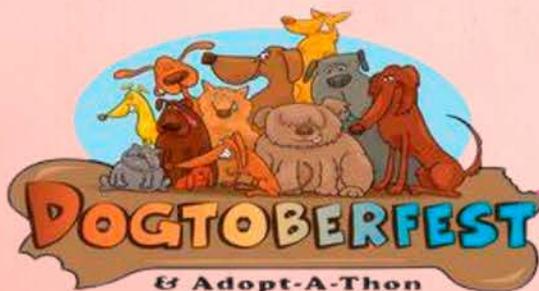
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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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COVER DOG PHOTO CONTEST



It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

- 1) Choose a backdrop for your picture. Set your camera on large or high and capture a quality shot of your canine pal.
- 2) Send your picture to

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



Ivy, Our Cover Dog

Name: Ivy McMahan

Hometown: Prescott, Arizona

Age: I'm two years old

Favorite brand of kibble: Zignature, but can't forget my raw food mixed in.

Favorite people food: I don't get much people food, but my favorite has to be meat of any kind.

Favorite toy: I love stuffed toys, but I destroy them in a few days so I don't get to have many now. Next best is balls.

Favorite outdoor activity: Paws down, its hiking with my Mom and Dad anywhere.

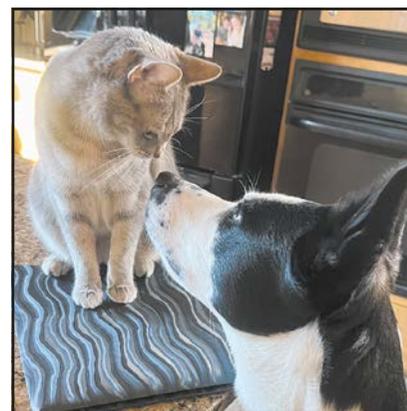
Favorite indoor activity: Trying to herd my furry kitty sister, Mia, or play keep away from Mom and Dad.

Favorite nap spot: The couch.

Fitness regimen: Hike, Prescott dog-park play, wrestling with all my friends at Run-a-Muk, and hike some more.

Describe your perfect canine pal: My perfect canine pal has to love to play, chase me or wrestle with me anywhere. I'm full of fun and energy.

Describe your perfect day: Sleep in, eat, hike, nap, chase Mia, nap, go for a car ride to the square, play tug, nap, play keep away with Mom or Dad, nap, eat and then crash.



HAZEL HOWLS

No Report Needed. This Time.

Misty wet morning with Dad exclaiming as he stepped outside with four thankful waking bladders hustling past him, "Hey, we're flying through a cloud!"

Anything more than 200 feet away would disappear and reappear as thick, drifting wetness wafted past us. Regular morning neighborhood noises carried an odd, otherworldly quality. And although the pack was having a great time flying with the fog cloud, Mom came outside with bath towels and the chase began.

We were pretty wet even though it wasn't really raining. Mom asked Dad to help with giving me a second rubdown with a fresh towel. The reasoning being that I'm known to head straight to the master bedroom to ruminate on philosophical matters and enjoy a comfy nap on the bed. Hence, extra dryness required.

Mom says I adopt "The Regal Pose of a Wise Canine of the Court" when I wrestle with matters of the mind. Head raised, staring out of the bedroom window and across the backyard to the wild hills is the posture I've taken during many epiphanies and... many interruptions.

The first interruption was Mom complaining about the "eau de wet cur" hanging about the house, which she remedied by going from room to room with some sort of spray. Every time she uses that stuff, I have the uncontrollable urge to find a fresh pile of road apples to roll in. Unfortunately, there's none around here that I know of. Ahh but those memories.

Up on the Rez, when I rode the big truck with Dad, once in a while he'd give me a bit too much leash and—as luck would have it—sometimes a wild-pony pile would be nearby. I enjoyed the paper towel rub down in the truck more than the bath that followed later at the Hotel. Still... worth it.

The second interruption was Promise Prudence Pepper who had a slew of questions about upcoming events for the family, and whether it was true that certain events actually repeat every year.

"So... uh... Hazel, run the calendar for fall past me again?"

From the bed, I looked down with more curiosity than annoyance at our youngest member of the pack. Wouldn't Tucker have gone over this with her numerous times as is his habit being Sheriff of the pack?

"Now that Dogtoberfest is past, it's prepare the garden for winter," I said patiently. "Dad will button up a lot of outdoor chores, visitors will come more often, then Thanksgiving..."

When the Maxi-Pin's upright ears heard Thanksgiving, she rose up on all fours and dropping her tennis ball, even ignoring that it rolled out of her immediate reach.

"That's the big chicken Mom fusses over, right?"



I assured Pru that was the case. Before I could continue into December's moon calendar, she adopted a serious look.

"So... if the Big Chicken Day comes around every fall, do certain other things repeat too?"

"Well, during the next month we do Christmas, and two days later it's my birthday and..." I suddenly found myself along and could hear Pru.

"It's true, it's true! KEIRA... KEIRA!"

Pru had shot out of the bedroom on full afterburners. I'm glad we weren't outside because, with that kind of launch, she would've thrown a pawful of rocks and dirt. (Ask me how I know.) Truth be told, Promise Prudence Pepper is my successor in the Rocket Dog department. Sure, I can still "Light 'em up buddy," but at my age I pay a price the next day.

Pru reappeared at the bedroom doorway after her declarations had been heard throughout the house.

"Tortillas and mixer-machine whip-cream cake, Hazel?"

"That's the usual course Pru, but sometimes—"

Off she went again, barking up and down the hall with happy fervor. That brought Dad inside from his chores to see what was going on. During times of uncertain curiosity, he usually comes straight to me before he talks to Tucker, as my answers are shorter and to the point.

I heard a couple admonishments to Pru to, "Watch out, make way, Loca" as Dad tried to navigate the hallway and not get taken out by the black missile racing back and forth.

Dad appeared in the doorway.

"I guess Pru didn't know holidays and birthdays reoccur every year," I relayed without waiting for him to ask.

Before he could acknowledge this insight, he dropped to all fours unexpectedly.

Keira decided that instead of watching Pru's histrionics, she'd join the fracas and execute one of her patented bucking-bronco golden-retriever spins right behind Dad's knees.

Cue gravity.

"Dog-gone-it, Keira Bear, watch what you're doing, will ya?"

Keira stopped dead in her tracks to await further instructions from Dad (while wagging her Golden flag). Dad, however, had no further comments for Keira at that moment, as Pru took the proximity opportunity to get in Dad's face.

She placed one front paw on each of his shoulders, furiously licked his face, and asked, "Is my birthday tomorrow, the next day, or next week maybe? Huh,

Dad? Today maybe? Is it before Giant Chicken Day, Dad?"

Dad managed to worm his way out of Pru's tenacious grip (and her questions), standing up and wiping his face on his sleeve.

"Mom knows all that stuff, Pru. Go ask her."

Mom had left the house and was out shopping, but Pru had forgotten that for a moment. Keira followed Pru in her quest for answers.

Dad and I were alone. He grabbed a swath of tissues in an attempt to get the dog spit out of his left ear.

Tucker came up from behind him, obviously having woken up from a grandpa-nap and still yawning.

"What do the two of you have to report about the commotion that just woke me up? As witnesses, I'll need you to write out your statements." He gave another big yawn.

I saved Dad the trouble of answering while he concentrated on drying his ear.

"All good, Sheriff," I reported. "Just a happy pack expressing themselves."

Tuck looked up at Dad. "Do you agree with that, civilian?"

Dad got annoyed. "Stop calling me that, Tuck. And yes, there's nothing to report."

Tuck left satisfied.

With that, Dad sat on the edge of the bed. "Hazel, I have this nagging feeling that a certain birthday is going to be the unending topic in the days ahead."

At that I sensed an opportunity. "Dad, you know how you use reframes and redirects with Pru when she's obsessed or about to get in trouble?"

He stared at me. "Yes Hazel. And?"

"Well, a little bird told me that taking us for a ride is one of the best ways to redirect the pack."

"Oh, really? And what little bird told you that?"

"The one who lives in my vivid imagination, of course."

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog (in spirit)

PRESCOTT DOG INSPIRES FUTURE BOOK

By Mike Rothmiller

There's something about the pure, joyful chaos of a puppy's greeting—the frantic tail, the gleaming eyes, the incredibly soft ears, its loving licks on your face as it uncontrollably wiggles in your arms, sweeping away those melancholy days that sometimes encroach on our daily lives. In those moments, laughter emerges from within, and everything feels simple and filled with unconditional love.

Puppies and dogs are the best antidepressant medicine on earth. All a person needs to do is open their heart.

Like so many dog lovers, we have felt the exuberant whirlwind of a puppy's arrival, followed by years filled with steadfast companionship. Our journey began with Brandy, a Golden Retriever and Chow mix, continued with Kona, a gentle English yellow Lab, and then Coco, a spirited Pomeranian.

When age finally claimed them, our home fell into a hush—the lively echoes of paws and the memory of their playful bark slowly faded into the background.

Although our beloved companions have passed, they remain ever-present in our hearts and thoughts. One afternoon, inspired by the joy and laughter our dogs had brought into our lives, I had a spark of an idea: What if the next book I write was a humorous tale told from a dog's perspective? An aged, clever canine imparting wisdom to young pups on the fine art of training their humans.

Enthusiastically, I shared the concept with my writing partner, and together we approached our publisher. The response was immediate—our publisher adored the idea. Within a week, the manuscript for *Old Dog's Guide for Pups: Advice and Rules for Human Training* was underway with St. Martin's Publishing.

Looking back on our life with our dogs brought both laughter and a touch of sorrow, yet it was an adventure filled with delight. We never imagined that our book would spark heartfelt letters from these remarkable individuals. The first arrived from President Bill Clinton, just a week after I handed him a

copy during a private meeting.

Next, I heard from the legendary actor Charlton Heston, who joked that Old Dog was wiser than I ever could be—which, I must admit, was true. Soon after, President George Bush and Laura sent their greetings, along with a signed photo of their beloved Scottish Terrier, Barney.

The final surprise came from Buckingham Palace, where Queen Elizabeth's First Lady in Waiting shared that "The Queen loved the book!"

When the Queen passed away, Fox 10 Phoenix invited me for an interview to discuss the book and her fondness for it.

After saying goodbye to Kona, we allowed ourselves a period of reflection before welcoming another canine companion. We debated between an English Labrador and a Golden Retriever, uncertain which would be the perfect fit.

That uncertainty faded when Hogan—a gentle, majestic cream English Golden Retriever from our own neighborhood—entered our lives. Hogan's kind spirit and steadfast presence won us over instantly, convincing us that a Golden

Retriever should be our next adventure in companionship.

Hogan became the heart and soul of *Old Dog's Guide for Pups, Volume Two*. I wanted to open the book with a photo of Old Dog, and Hogan fit the role perfectly with his wise scholarly expression and professor's glasses. Over time, Hogan joined me during several television interviews, sharing his gentle wisdom and playful charm with both audiences and reporters.

His warmth and amusing quirks made him a favorite, both in real life and in our stories. Though Hogan was a big, affectionate boy, we were saddened when he said goodbye and crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Inspired by Hogan, we knew our next dog had to be a Golden Retriever. Wishing to rescue a pup, we applied to Rescue a Golden of Arizona (RAGS) and were thrilled to be approved. It wasn't long before we learned a breeder's pregnant female would be arriving in Arizona. When offered the chance to adopt one of her female puppies, we happily said yes!

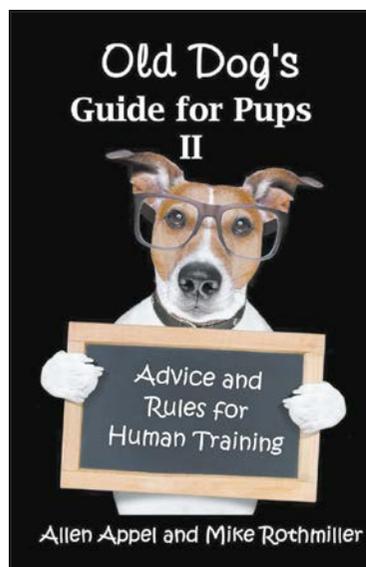
Choosing a name for our soon-to-arrive puppy proved challenging. But everything clicked when we met her for the first time—she was six weeks old and adorable beyond belief, as all puppies are.



Brandy



Bella



On the drive home, we marveled at the coincidence of her birthday falling on our wedding anniversary.

The name Bella came to us because a week earlier, we dined at our favorite restaurant, Ciao Bella in Prescott Valley. The restaurant celebrated her arrival by posting her photo on Facebook and dubbing her their mascot.

At eight weeks, we brought Bella home. She quickly taught us the ins and outs of her routine; yes, she was now our boss! But it was a joy. As with all pups, she was curious, a quick learner, playful, and enjoyed her three favorite things in life: tummy rubs, eating, and sleeping. Before bringing her home, we made everything puppy-ready, laying artificial turf and removing some plants to create a safe space.

A few months later, we submitted Bella's photo to the RAGS calendar contest. To our delight, she was crowned Ms. July 2026! Proudly, we shared the calendar with all our fellow dog lovers.

Like every pup that's graced our lives, Bella has filled our days with happiness, laughter, and her fair share of mischievous antics. Now eighteen months old and a proud graduate of puppy school, she's patiently guiding us through the art of being attentive doggie parents. We're convinced she's secretly studied *Old Dog's Guide*—her most recent lessons for us align perfectly with the advice on page 93.

I've written several books since *Old Dog's Guide, Volume Two*. Inspired by Bella and Hogan, I'm outlining a book based on the loving kindness of Golden Retrievers.

As with both volumes of *Old Dog's Guide*, we donate 100% of the profits to dog rescue organizations.

The 2026 Rescue a Golden of Arizona calendar is available on their website.



Bella at six weeks



Kona and Coco, our two dogs



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
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BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY
Shows adoptable dogs at Prescott
Petco Sun 11a-1pm or by appt. 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.

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Road, Prescott. Register: meetup.
com/UnitedAnimalFriends.

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302 N Alarcon, Prescott,
928-445-5411. Offsite: Petsmart,

Sat & Sun 11a-3p.
misskittyscathouse.com

UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS
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please visit: [unitedanimalfriends.org/
adoption-events/](http://unitedanimalfriends.org/adoption-events/). To volunteer or
learn more about us:
unitedanimalfriends.org or
928-778-2924.

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY (YHS)
Onsite Adoptions and Lost & Found
Department M-F Noon-5:30 by appt.
Sat 11:30-4:30. 1625 Sundog
Ranch Rd., Prescott. Please call for
additional details or info:
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SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

- HERITAGE PARK ZOO**
- Nov 8 Dollar Day
 - Nov 11 Veterans Day
 - Nov 27 Thanksgiving with the Lemurs
 - Nov 28-29 WildLights Opening Weekend
 - Nov 28-30 WildLights Holiday Cheers!
 - Nov 30 Members Only WildLights
 - Dec 5-6 WildLights
 - Dec 12-13 WildLights
 - Dec 14 Santa with the Animals
 - Dec 19-20 WildLights + Holiday Cheers!
 - Dec 22-26 Kids Week Free
 - Dec 26-27 WildLights



Rescue Resources

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



<p>AARF ANIMAL RESCUE 6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com 928-925-7219, aarfrescue.net</p>	<p>CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY Daytime 928-925-1926, Prescott Valley</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg 928-684-8801 wickenburghumane.com</p>	<p>SUNRISE SANCTUARY & RESCUE Prescott, sunrisesanctuaryrescue.org sunrisesanctuaryrescue@gmail.com</p>
<p>ARIZONA BORDER COLLIE RESCUE Tempe, 480-422-5366 azbcr.org</p>	<p>COCONINO HUMANE ASSOCIATION 3501 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff 928-526-1076, coconinohumane.org</p>	<p>LITTLE ORPHAN ANIMALS Mayer, 678-206-7505 orphananimals@aol.com</p>	<p>TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY 928-793-2364, tubacityhumanesociety.org</p>
<p>ARK CAT SANCTUARY Parks, 928-635-5909 arkcatsanctuary.org</p>	<p>DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Glendale, 480-899-5227 dlrraz.org</p>	<p>MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE 928-445-5411 misskittyscathouse.org</p>	<p>UNDERDOG ANIMAL RESCUE & REHAB Moab, 435-260-8033 underdogrescuemoab.org info@underdogrescuemoab.org</p>
<p>BARB'S DOG RESCUE Puerto Penasco, MX barbsdogrescue.org, 928-899-1426 barbsdogrescue@gmail.com</p>	<p>DOGTREE PINES SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY 1525 S Dogtree Lane, Prescott olddogs@dogtreepines.com 667-364-8733, dogtreepines.com</p>	<p>PEOPLE FOR PAWS AZ RESCUE peopleforpawsaz.org Info@peopleforpawsaz.org</p>	<p>UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS Prescott, 928-778-2924 unitedanimalfriends.org</p>
<p>BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Native American Reservation Animals 928-899-3942 blackhathumane@gmail.com</p>	<p>FREEDOM FRENCHIE RESCUE Mesa, (630) 345-0493 freedomfrenchierescue.org</p>	<p>PETEY'S PLAYGROUND 22448 State Highway 89, Yarnell peteysplayground@gmail.com 928-713-1375, peteysplayground.org</p>	<p>VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood 928-634-7387 VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org</p>
<p>BLUE MOON RESCUE & SANCTUARY 1851 E Perkinsville Rd, Chino Valley 928-925-7724, bluemoonrescue.org</p>	<p>HEELING HEELERS HEARTS Surprise, 623-226-2749 azblueheeler.com</p>	<p>RED ROSE INSPIRATION FOR ANIMALS Thriftique: 31 Bell Rock Plaza, Sedona info@redroseinspiration.org 928-282-5278, redroseinspiration.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott 928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org</p>
<p>CATTY SHACK RESCUE Prescott, (928) 778-6951 cattyshackrescue.org</p>	<p>HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff 928-526-0742 highcountryhumane.org</p>	<p>RESCUE A GOLDEN OF ARIZONA Phoenix, 602-404-9663 golden-retriever.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY EQUINE CENTER (928) 515-4947, Chino Valley yavapaihumane.org</p>
<p>CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER 1904 Voss Drive, Chino Valley cvas@chinoaz.net, 928-636-4223 x7 chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA 2115 Shelby Dr 928-282-4679 humanesocietyofsedona.org</p>	<p>SAVING PAWS RESCUE SHEPHERDS & MALINOIS Glendale, 480-737-6089 savingpawsrescueaz.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL RESCUE Chino Valley yavapaihumanetrappers.org</p>



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PO Box 10793, Prescott • 928-642-0758
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When Lenny Gerald arrived at Underdog's Navajo Nation clinic, the odds weren't in his favor. He was surrendered at the last minute and carried a heavy burden—a tumor the size of a softball pressed against his rear leg. Our veterinary team acted quickly, removing the mass and sending it off for testing. The pathology report came back with sobering news: cancer, with no clean margins.

And yet, Lenny Gerald wasn't defined by his diagnosis. He greeted the world with a tail that never seemed to stop wagging, and bright eyes framed by the cutest tufts of fur around his face—like a scruffy halo. There was something extra special about him, a mix of resilience and charm that seemed to say, *I'm still here, and I've got so much love to give.*

Underdog gave him that chance, starting him on Turkey Tail medicinal mushrooms to help strengthen his immune system and hopefully slow the cancer's return. But the true turning point came when a couple met him and simply couldn't walk away.



From the beginning, his adopters say Lenny Gerald felt like theirs. "He'd been through so much, but his joy was contagious," they said. "We didn't hesitate. We knew he belonged with us."

Lenny Gerald has blossomed in his new home. He rips around the house in exuberant zoomies, his happy tail bouncing as he does. On hikes, he charges ahead with the confidence of a dog who finally knows he's safe. And one of his greatest pleasures? Being offered new treats—including noodles—which he accepted with the kind of wide-eyed delight that makes his family laugh every time they recall it.

"He's such a happy, goofy soul," they said. "We're grateful for him every single day. He's not just a rescue dog. He's family."

Today, Lenny Gerald's story isn't about the cancer that threatened to cut his life short. It's about a dog who got a second chance, a rescue that refused to give up, and an adop-

tion that turned out to be the perfect match.

Thanks to Underdog's care and his family's love, Lenny Gerald isn't just surviving, he's thriving. Noodles and all.



These Words Have True Meaning: Spay/Neuter and Networking

AARF will hold its final spay/neuter clinic of 2025 at Chino Valley Animal Hospital on November 1st. Vouchers are still available. This will be our tenth since the initial amazing donation was given to us to initiate the program.

Once again, we cannot thank the vets, vet techs, and volunteers who have really stepped forward in this partnership. We are very proud to be able to offer the service and cannot stress enough how important it is for pet owners to take full advantage of the low-cost program. We applaud all those who took their responsibilities seriously to keep unnecessary,

unintended, or unwanted litters under control.

It's heartbreaking to see how many pets are being brought to shelters today. Those numbers can be reduced with cooperation from all our communities.

Please watch for our 2026 schedule. If you haven't signed up for our newsletter, you can do that on our website aarfrescue.net.

Spay/Neuter Saves Lives

Now, a happy story of networking resulting in a Happy Tail. If you get our newsletter, you may recall the story of Scarlet, our hound mom found in a ditch pregnant and having her 14 babies. She was briefly adopted after the kids were weaned but was not given enough time to acclimate to new surroundings.

Local interest in our girl was just not happening. So one of our amazing supporters took the next step. She posted Scarlet with a southwest hound rescue group, received the okay, and folks soon called to ask about a meet and greet—all the way from Colorado. And, yes, a match happened. We are so grateful to them.

Her adopters have had hounds in the past and know their personal-

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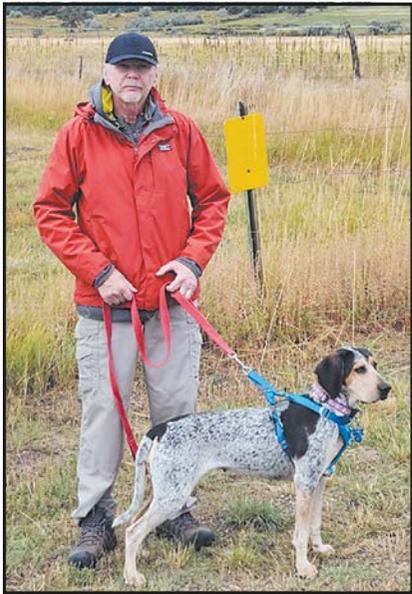
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Scarlet and her new dad

ities. They plan many adventures with her, so she is now living the life we dreamed of: jeep rides, hikes in the Colorado countryside, watching Dad pump gas, smelling all those wonderful outdoor scents, and dreaming of hound wonders to come. We could not be happier.

As of this writing, four of her puppies are still hunting for their forevers, but we are sure their right one will also come along.

Networking Works

Especially with a rescue pet, it is so important to remember that critical Rule of Three: 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months. That comfort and trust building can often take longer—even up to a year—but don't give up.

You can find the entire 3-3-3 rule online, but remember every dog is an individual and unique in their experience.



"It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness" is a familiar proverb with a powerful message. Animal rescue work can feel overwhelming and hopeless. But responding with positive action when encountering animals in need is the equivalent to providing a lit candle to break through the darkness. Such is the story of one of Blackhat's dedicated volunteers who lives in the southeast area of the Navajo Nation.



Susan has some distant neighbors whose homestead burned to the ground a number of years ago. With no place to go, the neighbors continue to struggle in the damaged structures with their unsterilized dogs. The situation got worse as the dogs continually produced babies after babies. The dogs, and the people, had little to eat and no hope for a better future on their own. Many neighbors were frustrated and annoyed, but few were willing to step away from judgement and lend a hand.

Susan had a different perspective. She felt the people were unable to change their situation, and the dogs were trapped in a cycle of starvation, reproduction, and hopelessness.

With the help of Blackhat, some neighbors and Susan's own resources, she started bringing dog food, some people-food, and tried to get some of the female dogs spayed. But it came to a head faster than she had planned.

One of the pups was severely attacked, and both her front legs were badly mangled. At that point, Susan took in the three female siblings, including Zelda, who had sustained the severe wounds.

Zelda was rushed to a vet, but she had been suffering after the fight for almost two days before she was discovered. One leg was beyond repair and badly infected. The vet only had time to quickly remove one leg, so Susan was left with the cleaning and disinfecting and medicating to save the other leg and heal the amputated leg.

The three girls—Princesses Rosalina, Peach and Zelda—finally found a safe, warm place to sleep and healthy food to eat every day. Susan and her husband took it one step further and provided the girl's care, training, grooming, and socializing. Meanwhile, more female dogs at the compound were slowly getting spayed too.

With Zelda's new outlook and training, she was able to thrive for the first time in her life. She and her sisters are now looking for their next lucky charm by getting adopted into a home of their own.

Zelda may be missing one leg, but her heart is big and happy. She's crate trained, rides well in a car, is house broken, and plays trustingly with other dogs. She loves

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her newly discovered squeaky toys and is ready for her next adventure with a family of her own.

Thanks to people who are willing to step beyond their world and offer a meaningful solution, hope will come for neglected animals. Many caring people cannot foster or adopt, but you can still help by making a donation dedicated to food or the sterilization of a dog now living at the compound and be that candle they desperately need.



Dexter is an older chihuahua mix who was relinquished to United Animal Friends (UAF) after his owner died. The only thing we knew about him was that he had been adopted from a rescue and had lived with the woman for three years. His veterinary evaluation at our Snip n' GoTM Clinic uncovered major dental infections and thyroid abnormalities.

He was placed in a UAF foster home with a doting foster mom. The first month in his foster home was mainly devoted to frequent visits to the clinic. Once he was cleared with a clean bill of health, he was taken to his first adoption event where he made a grand appearance by snarling, lunging, and biting a UAF volunteer.

Over several weeks, attempts were made to socialize Dexter in various homes and at UAF adoption events, to no avail. UAF Dog Trainer Sammi Maon was called in to help. She was able to identify his issues and train volunteers in specific techniques that would help. Dexter was fitted with a special muzzle and controlling slip-lead to keep volunteers safe while they worked with him in group training sessions.

When Dexter became protective of his foster mom, she was banished from his classes so that others could more effectively interact with him.



And because he was especially aggressive with men, several male volunteers stepped up to participate in his rehabilitation. After weeks of working the prescribed training activities, Dexter's aggression decreased. He was able to remain balanced around volunteers and other dogs, although still with his muzzle in place.

Then a couple submitted an application to adopt him. He went to his first ever meet-and-greet with the approved adopters, Scott and Amy, with the understanding that he was not quite ready for a new family, but that experiencing new situations would be beneficial.

It took four carefully supervised visits to get Dexter acclimated to the wheelchair used by Scott. Meanwhile, the group sessions paid off when volunteers were able to interact with him without a muzzle.

The couple's interest in Dexter grew with each visit. The moment of truth arrived when Sammi finally removed his muzzle and gave him some freedom. Dexter sniffed around in Amy's vegetable garden, then got right in the wheelchair with his new dad. Sammi happily completed the adoption papers.

After five long months and the concerted efforts of our volunteers, Dexter is no longer a snarling dervish and has become a cherished member of

(Cont'd on page 12)

(Cont'd from page 11)

his new family. Dexter's foster mom said it best: "This is the best reward in rescue—training a challenging dog for a new life with a loving family."

If you'd like to learn about the joys of fostering or see our other adoptable pets, please visit unitedanimalfriends.org.



How Pets Help Our Veterans Heal

Our veterans have given so much to protect our country and our freedoms, but for many of them, coming home brings challenges most of us can't even imagine. The shift back to everyday life isn't always easy. Some face physical injuries or chronic pain, while others battle invisible wounds like post-traumatic stress, depression, or anxiety. And for many, there's a deep sense of loneliness and loss of purpose once they hang up that uniform.

That's where the incredible bond between people and pets can make all the difference.

Animals have this amazing ability to comfort, calm, and connect with us without ever saying a word. A dog who senses when someone's feeling anxious and gently leans in for a hug... a cat who curls up close and purrs away the noise of the day... Those moments can truly be life changing. For veterans who might be struggling to find peace again, that kind of unconditional love and steady companionship is priceless.

At Yavapai Humane Society, every day we see how pets have this way of healing hearts and changing lives. That's why we're so proud to partner with Pets for Patriots, a nonprofit organization that helps veterans and service members adopt shelter pets who need loving homes. It's such a beautiful program because it's not just about adoption; it's about creating new beginnings for both the veteran and the animal.

Pets for Patriots helps remove some of the obstacles that might keep veterans from adopting, such as the cost of pet care or finding the right match. They help cover some initial expenses, offer discounts through partner veterinarians, and provide ongoing support to make sure both the pet and the veteran are thriving.

Even better, the animals they help place are often the ones overlooked—senior pets, larger dogs,



or those with special needs. It's as though these two souls, each searching for healing, find exactly what they need in each other.

The stories that come from these partnerships are nothing short of amazing. Veterans talk about how their dogs get them out walking again, how they feel calmer, happier, and more connected. Many say their pets give them a reason to get up in the morning, to laugh, and to keep going on the tough days. It's hard not to smile when you think about how a rescued pet can rescue right back.

Our veterans have already given so much for us. The least we can do is help give them the kind of love, support, and companionship that only a pet can offer. Through our partnership with Pets for Patriots, Yavapai Humane Society is honored to help make those connections—giving hope, healing, and a whole lot of love to the heroes who deserve it most.

For more information on the Pets for Patriots Program visit petsforpatriots.org or call 877-473-8223.

Which Famous Dog Are You?

By Njeri Dean

Old MacDonald had a farm, and do you know what the most iconic animal he had on that farm was? A dog, of course.



Dogs have been man's best friend and constant companion for centuries, and have proven to be reliable for the workforce as well. They're smart and can adapt to almost any situation, given the right temperament, training and patience. If you ask anyone who their favorite canine is, they will most likely say their own pet, but others will most likely pick recognizable screen icons like Beethoven and Lassie.

Have you ever wondered if your personality matched one of your favorite famous pooches? Well, you've come to the right place to find out. Let's see what famous dog you line up with.

Lassie

You love to get involved no matter what the cost is. You also love to save people from dangerous situations, and you're a good friend. Once you're friends with somebody, you always have their back and always show up for them.

Your downfall is that you become too invested with people and almost nev-

er give people their space. They might feel suffocated by you and tell you to back off. You love the countryside and love to run around. You like waking up to sunsets and following orders, even though you do have a mind of your own.

Beethoven

You don't always go with the flow. You have some rebellion in you, and when you are told to do something you do the opposite. People look up to you because you're a misfit and ride your own wave. You're definitely not a sheep, and you don't play wolf either.

You love to get into things, but you have trouble getting out of the mess you make. You can upset a lot of people because you want to do things your way and think your way is best. You love the city because you never know what will go on there, and you love that certain places are open all night. You aren't great at making friends, but you hold on tight and respect them for what they bring to the table.

Wishbone

You're always out to solve a mystery whether there is one or not. You like to get to the bottom of things because you like to have things resolved. You're curious, and even if something doesn't involve you, you need to check it out for your own sanity. You're nosy and love to call people out and rectify situations.

You can make friends but sometimes choose not to because you're in your own head and always making something out of nothing. You're very adaptable and can live almost anywhere because you're curious and down for a great adventure.

Toto

You're whimsical and dramatic. You like being from a small town where everybody knows your name, but when you go somewhere else you feel like a little fish in a big pond. The people from your hometown know you best, and they have your back.

You're very defensive of your friends, and when someone wicked tries to break your friendship bonds, you stand up for your friends and don't back down. Working on being outside of your comfort zone is what you need the most if you want to make new friends and thrive.

Balto

You love to be around people. When you hear danger coming, you run to defeat it in full force. Loyalty is the name of your game. If you feel disrespected, you comfort the disrespect and keep everything in line. You're a natural born leader, you can make people listen to you in a heart beat and go with your instructions in no time.



Your downfall lies when people have different opinions than you and want to take a different direction than the one you are taking. You have to let yourself know that not everybody will agree with you, and that other people matter as well. You love being outdoors and love any environment you're in because people flock to you no matter what.

You're a good friend and love that people think you're the top dog.

Lady and the Tramp

You're a hustler, but you strive to be a park avenue princess. You know how to work hard, and you know how to manage your money. You're responsible, but you do let loose and know how to party. People try to take advantage of you, but when they do your street smarts kick in and you know how to dismiss them right away.

Reaching your goals is your number one priority, and you won't let anybody get in your way. Your hustle and elegant nature draw people toward you, and that's a good thing in the long run. You can make home anywhere, but in the future would love to find a place to call home.

101 Dalmatians (Pongo and Perdita Family)

You thrive in a pack. You've always had good family values and come from a large family. Standing out is your goal because you feel like your family and people around you look and do the same thing. You want your voice to be heard, but you also want to stay between the lines because you don't have a rebellious nature.

Having a tight-knit family has its perks, and you like always having a partner in crime. Your home is with your family at the moment, and they don't want you to move out any time soon. You're a diamond in the ruff because although you and your family are alike, you do have key differences.

Old Yeller

You're old school—set in your ways, and you love it that way. Millennials and Gen Z get on your nerves, and you haven't adapted to the newer technologies everybody is talking about. You make friends in person and don't hide behind a screen. You take in the day and don't rush yourself to smell the roses. If you have a chance to give good advice you share it and you're not ashamed in doing so.

You're a good friend because you're loyal, and you don't cut corners. You've lived in the same house as your parents, and you don't plan on changing that anytime soon. You're early to wake and the last one to leave, making you dependable and trustworthy.

CERTIFIED TO LOVE: NO BONES ABOUT IT

Are service dogs only man's best friend, or everybody's constant companion?

By Njeri Dean



types of animals like dogs that can do service-related activities for humans, but it's our canine friends who are the most used and recognized for service out of any other animal on the planet.

Just like humans, dogs need to go to school to perform tasks related to their profession. There are three main ways a dog can earn their certification

Are you certified to love? That's a tricky question. Some people love unconditionally, and some people love with intentions of getting something out of it. Animals, in most peoples opinions, are certified to love because their love is unconditional and overflowing. Even when they are working, they're selfless and care about the safety of their human counterparts. You don't have to give a bone to a dog for them to serve and protect their owner. It's innate and natural.

There's a common misconception that dogs can't perform services related to assisting human beings, but that's simply not the case. For hundreds of years, dogs have helped people with services related to work, disabilities, and emotional support. Dogs are smart and can be trained to do almost anything depending on the breed and their temperament.

Don't get me wrong, humans have contributed a lot when it comes to service. We've served the military, helped with numerous types of manual labor projects, and have given our lives for causes that we believe in, but we can't dismiss what our four-legged friends have done and still do for people every single day.

You might have seen a service dog working during your life. Most wear harnesses identifying them. Some help guide the blind. You may have seen one walking in the mall, in a department store, or even on the street. Dogs of service are all around us, and they perform unique tasks to help their owner get through the day.

By definition, a service dog is a dog that is a skilled companion and working animal that requires extensive training to perform activities that benefit their human counterpart. Not to be dismissive, but there are many

for service: professional training programs, owner-training, and the hybrid choice of owner-training and professional expertise.

In professional training programs, puppies are taken in puppy fosters from professional training programs and raised to learn basic obedience and social skills. Once the puppy is ready, they're taken back to the organization. Then the puppy goes through advanced training and is matched with a handler.

With owner-training, a person with disabilities trains a dog on their own with a professional handler.

Lastly, the hybrid method of owner-training and professional expertise allows a trainer to raise and train a service dog on their own with expert guidance. This option is more costly to perform.

With the right training and expertise, dogs can thrive and do almost any job their human needs help with. Although there are many types of service dog jobs out there, the main types of service occupations for dogs are: cardiac service, mobility service, allergy detection service, psychiatric service, and guide service.

Cardiac service dogs sense and alert owners to changes in their heart rate or blood pressure. Allergy detection service dogs detect allergens that are harmful to their owner. Mobility service dogs make it easier for their handlers to walk, pick up objects, and do other useful tasks. Psychiatric service dogs help people regulate their emotions in cases such as PTSD. Guide service dogs help the visually impaired.

People might wonder where they can get a service dog if they're disabled and in need? If you're disabled and in

need of a service dog, you must qualify for services or train a dog on your own or with a professional.

So, the question is, are dogs only a man's best friend? The answer is no. Dogs serve all types of people in different situations, demographics and regions. It's safe to say that man is not the only one getting attention from our four-legged friends.

The number of people with disabilities, and people who need services in our country and overseas, have risen astronomically. The help from our canine friends has taken the load off

of humans in need and given them a constant companion to turn to in their time of need. Service dogs are everywhere, and they are now more prevalent than ever before.

With the help of our four-legged companions, we can get more done, and they can help improve the lives of the people they're helping and the people around us. Never underestimate the power of the dog and their resilience. Service dogs are truly certified to love, but you don't have to give them a bone to have them give back to you.



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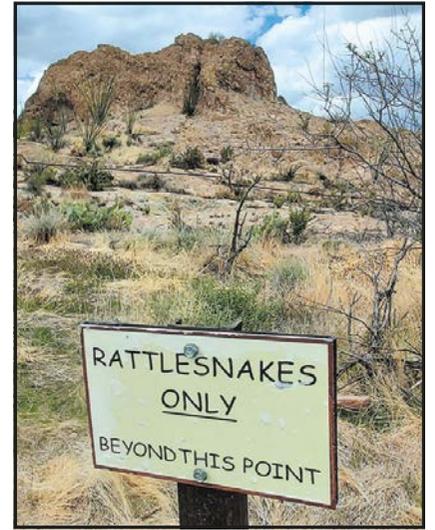
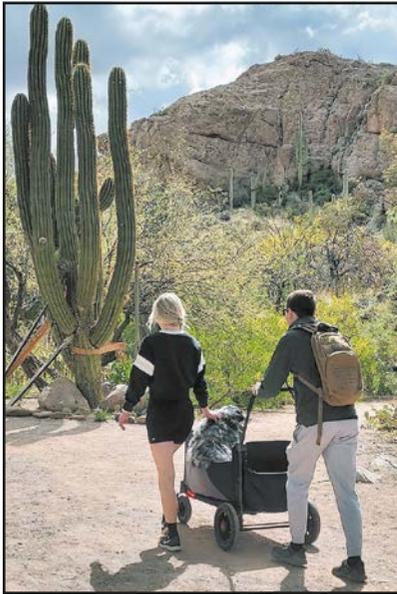
Prescott Dog magazine

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

Certified To Love: No Bones About It

HIKE GLOBALLY AT BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz



A humorous but true warning for human and canine visitors to stay on trails.

Some dogs ride, some walk and some just rest at the pet-friendly arboretum.



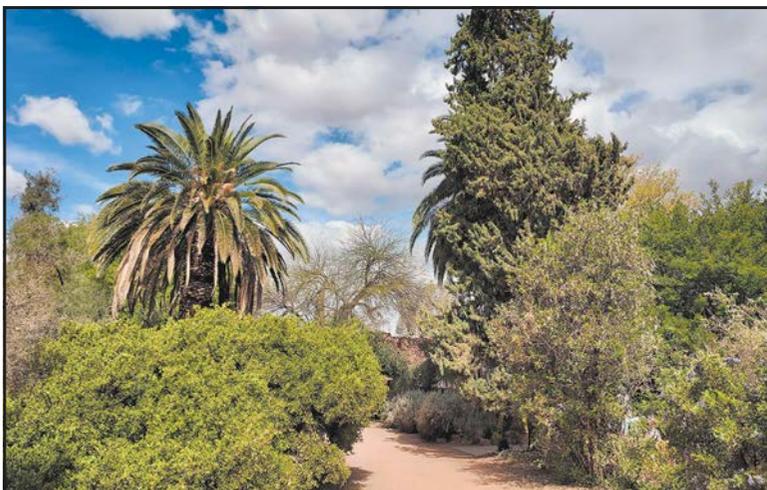
Ayer Lake was created in 1925.



A suspension bridge spans Queen Creek.



The arboretum is in Queen Creek Canyon.



Just one example of the lush diversity of foliage.

With an American Red Cross relief mission, he observed crop failure and starvation in Russia after its 1917 Revolution, while noting how its ingenious residents used its scarce plants. This led to philanthropic projects centered around plants and plant science.

The arboretum became the first non-profit institution for scientific purposes when it incorporated in 1927.

When Thompson died in 1930, the arboretum lost most of its financial support, because the stock market crash of 1929 had left it with only one-third of the value of its assets.

From 1976-2019, the arboretum became a functional part of Arizona State parks. It became an independent non-profit in 2019.

Winter is the perfect season for extended hikes in the arboretum, with its mild Valley temperatures. If it's still too warm for you, shade trees abound. This includes North America's largest and most diverse stand of eucalyptus trees.

The Main Trail is easy and most of it is wheelchair accessible. The High Trail is more strenuous, with a bridge crossing where it meets the Wallace Desert Garden Trail.

Pets are welcome as long as they are leashed. Because of a recent outbreak of canine distemper in park wildlife as of this writing in September, you might want to leave your dogs at home. If not, make sure their vaccinations are current. Check the website for recommendations.

The arboretum offers a number of tours and walks, if you'd rather not explore on your own. Find these on the website, also.

Happy global hiking!

Travel to Australia, Japan, Mexico, India, Madagascar, Israel, South American, Africa, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Arabian peninsula without ever leaving Arizona when you hike nearly five miles of trails at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior.

Each of the arboretum's five regions sports a system of trails and offshoots. It features a mind boggling array of the world's flora with some 19,000 plants in more than a dozen gardens over 135 acres. And as an Audubon Important Bird Area, winter bird watching is especially rewarding.

Col. William Boyce Thompson (1869-1930) founded the arboretum in 1924 on 400 acres around the 7,000-square-foot winter home, Picket Post House, he built above Queen Creek. Locals called it the "castle on the rock."

Thompson was a mining engineer and founder of Arizona's Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company in Globe-Miami. He purchased Magma Mine in Superior in 1907 after becoming a millionaire.

**FROM OUR FAMILY AT
YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY
TO YOURS...**

**HAPPY
Thanksgiving**

*Together,
We make a
Difference*

A close-up photograph of a dog's face, likely a pit bull mix, holding a small orange pumpkin in its mouth.

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A small dog sitting on a wooden deck, enclosed in a circular frame.

A logo featuring a heart shape with a dog's head and a human profile inside, surrounded by paw prints.

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A logo for the Compassion Consortium Chaplain, featuring a colorful animal silhouette.

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A logo for Prescott Animal Hospital featuring a horse and a dog silhouette, with the word 'PRESCRIPTION' in large letters.

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DON'T LET THESE COMMON HAZARDS RUIN YOUR PETS' HEALTH, OR YOUR HOLIDAYS

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Holidays are for spending time with loved ones and making memories, but one thing sure to wreck your enjoyment is a trip to the emergency vet hospital, or worse, the death of a beloved pet. Holidays carry more opportunities for sickness or injury to your dogs and cats than any other time. With a little care, you can keep your furry friends safe during the festivities.

Holiday Foods

So many of the things we love during the holidays can cause harm to our pets.

Xylitol: Sugar-free candies and peanut butter are great for those who cannot tolerate sugar, but alternative sweeteners can be deadly to your pets. The sweetener Xylitol, used in many sugar-free items such as gum, mints, candies and even peanut butter, can cause severe low blood sugar in pets within minutes, presenting with weakness, lethargy, liver failure, coma and possibly death.

It's important to read labels and make sure no xylitol containing items are left within reach of pets. Xylitol is also listed as **birch sugar** on labels.

Chocolates are another holiday food that dogs and cats may find attractive. The theobromine, methylxanthines and caffeine in chocolates can cause stomach upsets in small doses and seizures and heart arrhythmias in large amounts.

It's hard to not treat your pet with holiday goodies from the table, but **fatty foods** such as ham, bacon and even chicken and turkey can result in pancreatitis, which sends many pets to the emergency vet during holidays. Nuts are a staple on holiday tables and around the house, but these high fat foods can also cause pancreatitis, and macadamia nuts in particular can bring on neurological issues.

Alcohol is quickly absorbed in your pets' bloodstream, and can cause drops in blood sugar, body temperature and blood pressure. Watch for discarded, half emptied glasses of alcohol left unattended during holiday parties.

Left the **bread rising** or the **cookie dough** awaiting the oven in an accessible area? The yeast can cause life-threatening bloat. Watch the **raisins, grapes, and currants** common during the holidays. These can kidney failure in both dogs and cats.



Onions and garlic are favorite holiday flavorings, but whether raw or cooked, they can be toxic to dogs and cats. Watch for foods you might share with your pet that contain these items, such as turkey stuffing, which generally contains onions, garlic, fatty butter and other spices.

Meat bones are a holiday no-no for pets. Cooked bones can splinter when chewed, especially those from fish or poultry, and cause lacerations or blockage to your pets' intestines. Hard, large bones from beef are generally safe, but if your dog is not used to them, they can cause digestive upset. As always, monitor your dog when they are chewing to watch for problems.

Always know what to do if your pet consumes any toxic food. The more quickly you obtain help the better your chances at a good outcome. If your dog ingests a toxic food, especially if you see any illness or other symptoms, call your veterinarian, a pet poison hotline or a vet emergency hospital immediately.

Holiday Decorations

Decorative plants such as poinsettias, mistletoe, holly, and lilies are toxic to pets and should be kept out of reach.

Christmas trees can topple over if pets, especially cats, climb and play on them. Water additives at the base of your Christmas tree can be toxic if ingested, and light cords can cause shocks or burns if chewed. Make sure your tree is well-anchored and keep your pets away from it unless supervised.

Breakable Ornaments, or those made from food-based materials, are hazardous to pets. Keep ornaments out of reach of pets. **Tinsel and ribbons** are especially harmful as they can cause choking or intestinal blockage. **Candles** should be kept out of reach of pets and children, as a fire can easily result if they are knocked over.

Potpourris can leave a wonderful scent in your home, but can be dangerous to your pets as most contain essential oils and other ingredients that can damage your dog or cat's mouth, eyes or skin. If eaten, they can cause digestive problems.

Toys and Gifts

Many popular holiday gifts and toys are attractive to pets as they contain small parts that can be ingested. **Batteries** are a holiday gift staple and if eaten, can quickly kill your pets. Batteries contain corrosive chemicals that are particularly dangerous to pets.

Any toys that are small enough to fit inside your pet's mouth are dangerous, such as Legos or small bouncy balls. Small stocking stuffers and other toys with small parts should be picked up and kept away from pets.

Make sure batteries are stored out of reach of pets at all times.



Holiday Guests

Do you have family or other holiday guests visiting? Make sure they have a place to store their **personal items** where your pet cannot reach them. Medications, beauty products and bath items can all be hazardous to your pets if ingested.

A place of quiet and rest is important for your pets. When guests are in the house, your pet can become over excited or stressed. It's best to have a room or a crate that your dog is comfortable in and familiar with so they can rest away from all of the holiday upheaval.

Children, especially those unfamiliar to your family, can cause your pets to become stressed and nip if frightened or anxious. Avoid a bite and keep your pet calm by providing a safe place when your animal needs space. **Always supervise** when guests or especially small children are present during holidays. Try to keep your pets' routines as normal as possible during holidays.

Plan Ahead

It's always good to be prepared for holiday emergencies. Yavapai Emergency Animal Hospital at 7876 Florentine Rd. in Prescott Valley is open and staffed 24 hours a day, and can offer advice on whether your pet needs to be seen if it has ingested a toxic substance or is ill. YEAH is also a walk-in clinic for emergencies, and has a handy resource page on its website at www.yeah.vet

The Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661 is another resource to get timely advice for your pet in case of emergency. There is an \$89 consultation fee for this helpline.

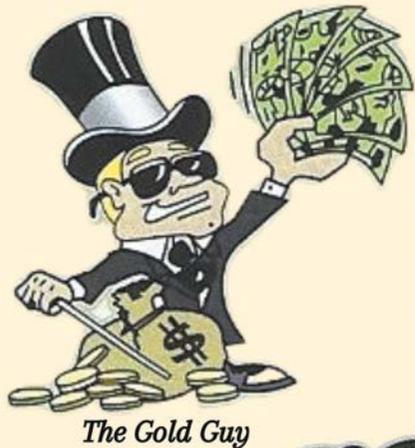
With a little forethought and planning, your holidays can be enjoyable for you and your pets.

Resources

Yavapai Emergency Animal Hospital
7876 Florentine Rd. Prescott Valley
928-460-7282 (24 hrs, 7 days/wk) • yeah.vet
Pet Poison Helpline
855-764-7661

American Veterinary Medical Association:
tinyurl.com/2zu7afuj

ASPCA
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GENTLE GIANTS: SPOOKY TAILS AND HAPPY HOWLS

By Kay Luckett

Gentle Giants: Spooky Tails and Happy Howls



Barb with Tilly the twin sis, along with the family dog.

"One cat leads to another" certainly applies to this cat-lover, whose affection for her furry family is demonstrated by the fact that she now has three cats belonging to one of the sweetest known breeds.

Meet Barb, busy mother of a small Maine Coon tribe: two guys and one gal, while being a devoted stepmother to the family dog. A Prescott resident with tastes in gourmet food and gourmet cats, she has been owned by Siamese, Abyssinians and, currently, by Maine Coons. Over the years, she raised four children, all of whom continue to show inherited qualities as cat-loving adults.

Along with mothering this small flock, she leads a group of cat-sanctuary volunteers and manages to keep medical and personality records of each of the 15 plus residents. Not one to sit on the sidelines, Barb, along with her crew, jumps in to help whenever litter boxes need cleaning, cat foods replenished, and most importantly, giving each and every cat personal attention. She knows the names and history of each resident cat even as the population changes from month to month.

Barb shares a list of her previous cats including childhood kitties with names of Pyewacket, Whistle, Kura, and Taji--a partial list of 20 or so, not including her present brood of three. Meet the babies:



Riley ready for grooming and hugs.



Riley just being his sweet self.



Riley just relaxing on the kitchen counter. (Shhh)



Sparky up close. Look at those whiskers.

Sparky, Riley, and Tilly, all happily luxuriating at their desert digs after being born in cooler climates.

Settled in the Southwest, but born in Detroit, Barb started cat-sitting at a young age and her first cat, Pyewacket, was a black cat which inspired her to name him after a cat character she saw the movie, *Bell, Book, and Candle*.

A creative person by nature, she's constantly inspired by her art, decorating skills, and a passion to learn—all of which compliment her extensive medical background. This gives her the perfect personality mix as she mothers, manages, and continually contributes in service to both her cat and her human families. She appears to magically incorporate all into a creative life and, as she often comments, her ongoing projects are "big and busy", just like each of her days.

Her current feline family of three exhibits the gentle-giant attributes that Maine Coons are famous for. Upon your arrival, Sparky is at the front door with a gentle howl of greeting, Riley is sprawled and purring in his special space, and sister Tilly cat-naps on a custom sized cat-tower—the size of which can easily accommodate a small dog or two!

Sparky, the expert cabinet door opener, leads the way into the kitchen with a few soft howls and paws rhythmically at the cabinets to in-



Sparky has his white sox on.

dicating his desire to eat. Each kitty has their own dining domain and gets a healthy portion of foods especially designed for this special breed of cats.

Sparky and Tilly are 8-year-old litter mates who have lived half of their lives with Smoosh, who sadly passed away last year at age 15. These two darlings are twins wearing gorgeous long-haired coats of dark and gray while sporting big white paws that look like socks. Big white whiskers adorn their large cat eyes, showing off a look of both joy & mystery. Both roll over in a second when offered affection of any kind.

Riley, the younger brother, has a coat of light gray with layers of white, looks out at his world with stunning green eyes. He's often lying on his side, ready to be stroked and brushed. He plays his grooming game by grabbing the brush with both paws and shares a laid back, easy-going nature. He's the baby of the family, Sparky is in charge, and Tilly is the water-cat who likes to sit in the sink. They each weigh between 20 and 25 pounds, and all are bakers who love to make biscuits and insist on coveting any available lap.

Barb explains why she keeps up a three-plus day work week with cats other than her own, saying that she experiences being a cat magnet. She clarifies further, saying that she finds felines "fascinating, that they choose you, and because cats know who their people are." Barb also says that dogs give their love unconditionally and allow themselves to be governed by their people, while cats demand to be free and give love only on their terms.

Barb agrees with the philosophy that a person must love being a cat slave, and that you can't demand love from a cat. "We must be grateful for whatever the cat gives us because we love them". Cats know who has affinity for them as she quietly confesses, "I was a cat in another life."

As these loving felines patiently vibe into the spooky Halloween season, they may also be secretly conjuring up who will be returning to join this enchanting and curious pack. Please stay tuned-in as the mystery unfolds and see who it will be, because... it could be you...

Meow.



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BELLA: A stunning 4-month-old calico lady with a sweet personality. This charming girl loves playing, sitting on laps, and snuggles. She gets along with other cats well. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



MAX: An adult male Tuxedo cat who is quiet, affectionate, and playful. He is about 18 months old. He has a very sweet personality and is quiet, but he loves to play, have cuddles and pets. Catty Shack at: cattyshackrescue@gmail.com



WILLIE: A charming 1yo longhaired male orange cat w/white trim and big green eyes. Sweet, affectionate, loyal, friendly and playful. He loves to be brushed and play with toys. Good with other cats. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com

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ANGEL: A 4-month-old female dilute calico, absolutely adorable. Angel is the perfect kitten for an active family. She loves fishing pole toys and lots of attention. Also a lap cat when sleepy. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com



GREYSON: A 12yo longhaired male w/a lovely smokey coat and the most unique face. Loves being a couch potato, getting pets and love, and has impeccable litter-box skills. Yavapai Humane Trappers at traceyegggers29@gmail.com



WISH: A 6mo elegant house panther. Friendly w/loud purrs & very playful. He loves catnip mice and wand toys. Very sweet, very playful, and will be a wonderful addition to any family. Yavapai Humane Trappers at traceyegggers29@gmail.com

Cats for Adoption

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING: THE ARIZONA AGRIBUSINESS & EQUINE CENTER HIGH SCHOOL WAY

Story and photos by Rita Thompson-Tinsley

The Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center (AAEC) High School is a chartered school system for grades 9-12. As the name implies, there is an emphasis on agricultural and equine studies, programs, and clubs. AAEC is considered an early college high school with curriculums designed to satisfy high-school requirements while offering students the extraordinary opportunity to take college courses and receive credits. Additionally, the college tuition is actually paid by AAEC.

There are five Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center schools beginning in 1997 with the opening of South Mountain in Phoenix. Next came Estrella Mountain, Paradise Valley, Prescott Valley, and finally Mesa.

I had the extreme pleasure of touring our local Prescott Valley AAEC school, located off of Skoog Boulevard near the City of Prescott Valley Civic Center. My tour guide, Monty Soto, is horsemanship director for three of the schools and develops curriculums. He also oversees their newly formed breeding program, assists in the selling and purchasing of horses, and coordinates horse transport to and from the schools with horse facilities.

Our first stop was at the office of long-time principal Patrick Wellert. I couldn't help but notice how courteous and inclusive he was while dealing with approaching students. There's such a positive and supportive mode that it's unmistakable throughout



Principal Patrick Wellert with Horsemanship Director Monty Soto

the hallways and corridors of the establishment.

Monty showed me to the classrooms, which are accessible from the outdoor courtyard. There were the basic high-school classes you would expect, as well as specialized classes with hands-on opportunities. Instructor and FFA Advisor Kate Rousseau's veterinary-science class was in session in a room with equine physiological posters and the like.

The Animal Science and Agri Science room is where I met instructor Rob Davis, who is also an FFA Advisor. He accompanied us outside to the student Landscaping Lab. This consists of the student garden, which is overflowing with vegetables and flowers blooming. There's an adjacent greenhouse and a beautiful fruit tree orchard nearby.

ing with vegetables and flowers blooming. There's an adjacent greenhouse and a beautiful fruit tree orchard nearby.

Some of the harvested vegetables and fruit are donated to our local Yavapai County Food Bank, and students participate in the food bank's annual food drive. Students at AAER are required to perform 30 hours of community service per year.

Instructor Davis believes that agriculture is part of the roots of this community. He told me that a school bee project will soon be unveiled, complete with all the equipment and knowledge the students need to handle bees. We met up with some of the AG students cheerfully conducting maintenance duty around the Landscaping Lab. This is truly an environment where enthusiasm lives.

The next tour stop was my favorite. The school stables and covered arena are a sight to behold. There are six horses, and the students were gathered around

Dewey, the school's gelding, who was be-

ing groomed and saddled by two classmates under instructed care. Hailey Porter is the horsemanship program instructor, and it's obvious that her class is a favorite of many students. (It would have been mine.)

Aside from the pleasures and opportunities these students enjoy, achieve-

ment is an important factor as well. The Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center High School of Prescott Valley was named a 2024 Blue Ribbon School for High Performance out of 356 schools in our nation. This coveted award was only received by six Arizona high schools.

In addition, and according to school advisor Rob Davis, the school's Prescott Valley FFA chapter is one of the finest, reflecting extraordinary leadership qualities. Several of the school's FFA students have proudly been selected to top leadership positions in the Arizona association of the National FFA Organization.



AG student Elaina with class insect specimen project



Student Lilly with Rock Star



Horsemanship students with Dewey, saddled and groomed

With such a successful venue, it's not surprising to see the AAEC Early College model aspiring to

new heights. According to Monty Soto, they have aspirations of opening a location in Show Low and plan to focus on new growth at existing schools. With an inspiring idea that became the Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center High School, it's clear that taking the reins into the future, the sky is the limit and there is no end-of-trail.



AG Instructor and FFA Advisor Rob Davis

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XENA: A 4-year-old female hound mix with the most striking blue eyes. She has a gentle nature and playful spirit, and she will make a loving companion and devoted friend. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



MERCY: A 2-year-old female white German Shepherd mix. She is affectionate, walks well on a leash, and is housebroken. She also knows basic commands. Yavapai Humane Trappers at: yavitrappers@gmail.com



APOLLO: A 3-year-old male Siberian Husky mix. He is a striking and energetic dog, intelligent and loyal. Loves the outdoors and would make a great trail buddy. Always eager to play or just hang out. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



LUKE: A 1yo male Catahoula Leopard Dog mix. He is a fairly mellow guy and would be a good fit for a family with kids. He is very smart and learns commands quickly. Good adventure buddy, too. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



HALO: A 2-year-old male Shiba Inu mix. He is a playful and spirited pup. Like most Shiba Inu, he is also independent with a sassy personality, but fiercely loyal to his person. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



TONY: A 4-month-old male Chihuahua mix. He is frisky, curious, and charming. He is crate trained and working on paper training. He lives with dogs of all sizes and sassy cats. Blackhat Humane Society at: 4lvdch@gmail.com



BENNY: A 9-year-old male Maltese/poodle cross. He is a sweet and well-behaved companion, housebroken and good with all dogs and cats. He rides well in the car and walks nicely on a leash. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



BUSTER: A 9-month-old male Labrador mix. He is playful, friendly, and smart. He learns quickly. He gets along with dogs and ignores cats. Blackhat Humane Society 575-999-6236



PIP: A 9-year-old female Chihuahua. She weighs 7 pounds. The ultimate cuddle bug, she loves laps, blankets, and being your little shadow. Good with other dogs, but a bit bossy sometimes. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



CYRUS: A 1-year-old male Cattle Dog mix. He is friendly, playful, curious, and calm. Active and athletic, he is a great agility prospect. Good with other dogs and cats. Blackhat Humane Society at: 4lvdch@gmail.com



ROXY: A 2-month-old female Shih Tzu with maybe a splash of poodle. She is an energetic puppy, loves to play and also cuddles. She is a sassy little fluffball. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



HAWK: A 5-month-old male bluetick hound mix. He is learning basic manners and commands. He loves to play ball, go for walks, and play in water. He's a very sweet boy. AARF Animal Rescue 928-925-7219



PAISLEY: An 11-month-old female Rez dog who weighs 32 pounds. She is a bit shy at first but is very sweet and really loves people. She is good with other dogs and cats. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



COWBOY: A 5-month-old male bluetick hound mix. He is learning basic manners and commands. He loves to play ball, go for walks, and play in water. He's a very sweet boy. AARF Animal Rescue 928-925-7219



Dogs for Adoption

HIGH-ALTITUDE HOUNDS: UNCOVERING DOG'S UNCANNY SPLENIC CONTRACTIONS

By Solana Kline—Honorary four-legger and avid dog-rescue advocate



Pika just over the next rise



A pika doing what it does best



Our first 13'er

There is frost this morning. It's July, but that late-October tang is in the air—that dry crisp that perks the pups and rustles the excitement for first snows and less haphazard sweating of summer.

Mickey's svelt pibble ears perk, his forehead scrunching into an infinite ripple of wrinkles. He holds his breath to focus his full attention on geolocating the pika over the next ridgeline. Betty, in true terrier fashion, is already hot on the trail and has morphed into her alter-ego: the little baby mountain goat, adeptly traversing the jagged and skittery granite shards, barely touching ground.

The chirps of pika and rock chucks have been the most irresistible for these hounds, and their warning calls echo across hill and dale in the high country. If you've never been privy to the screech of a pika, it is immense for their size—a high-pitched squeal unmistakable for any other animal.

Pika are in the rabbit family and are about the size of a softball. They live in and below the rocks and boulders between 8,000 and 13,000 feet in the Western United States. Adorable and fierce little buggers, they resemble an amalgam of bunny and mouse.

Much like the prairie dogs, they rise up on their squat hindquarters and scream out warning calls when they sense danger. From atop their talus perches, they can easily dart down into the strewn boulders for safety. The pups wear their bear bells to give the ground-dwellers far/fair warning. And, while I never condone dogs chasing wildlife, for the pups, this is the ultimate game of whack-a-mole, where the pika have the upper hand and truly seem to enjoy taunting the dogs, drawing them back and forth across the foreboding terrain.

As my four-legged packmates sprint effortlessly across the plant-bare, toothy mountainside, I take stock of my own relative weakness and inefficiency as a two-legger.

Here we are at 12,500 feet, and my breath is short and stunted—telling me to take 'er easy so that the miniscule amounts of oxygen can find their way into my blood. So, here I am, in slow motion while the furry wonders are leagues ahead on full charge.

What's going on here? I can't help but feel the lesser species, which of course, I already assumed...

Are the dogs really more adept and adapted physiologically to high altitude? The short answer is: sort of...

Extreme or sudden changes in altitude is difficult for all mammals, but with our varied physiologies, all species

have a different bag of tricks to deal with it. When we humans go trapping into higher altitudes we aren't used to, our body's immediate response is to breath faster and deeper in an attempt to bring more oxygen into our flailing humanoid systems. The more time we spend at altitude, our bodies respond by increasing red blood cell production—a complex process where the kidneys, having sensed less oxygen, produce EPO to signal our bone marrow to pump out more red blood cells that will transport more oxygen. And our muscles grow more capillaries (the tiny blood vessels that grow in tissue) for better oxygen delivery, and the amount of plasma in our blood decreases so that the hemoglobin (the protein that carts the oxygen around) can increase in our red blood cells.

And what about our canine companions? What super powers do they have that keep them in top-gear while we loll behind at tractor pace?

Like humans, dogs also experience an immediate increase in breathing and heart rate to try and pull in as much oxygen from the thin air as possible. They can experience altitude sickness, with similar symptoms to people—like headaches, lethargy, intestinal distress, and dehydration. Dogs adapt slowly over time to eventually be efficient at any altitude, the same way that we do. And, just like us, they produce extra red blood cells and EPO. The key difference lies in their spleen.

The spleen is a curious little organ living within the abdomen of humans and dogs—near the stomach for pups and near the heart for humans. It's charged with various tasks that keep our lymphatic and immune systems healthy, like filtering and storing blood, producing blood cells, and sifting out bacteria and viruses.

Fun fact: we humans don't actually need a spleen to survive, but it's the spleen that gives dogs an acute advantage over humans in high altitude adventures.



Mingleberries high on pika

Doggoes have a much more muscular spleen than humans. This increased muscularity allows it to store more blood and, with it, more red blood cells. With this muscularity comes the magical feature of the *splenic contraction*, wherein the spleen contracts while dogs are exercising or stressed. And with this contraction, the spleen releases the stores of fresh red

blood cells almost immediately when they are needed—like at high altitudes. This process is miraculous in that it serves as a self-transfusion of sorts, immediately boosting the blood's oxygen capacity, natural canine blood doping, wouldn't Lance Armstrong be jealous.

We crest the last false summit to find a peak marker surrounded by dozens of pika sirening the pups presence in all directions. We had just summited our first 13,000-foot mountain—an accident by all accounts, as we just rambled up a trail we happened upon while putting about... just another feral Saturday for the pack.

I attempt to wrangle the pack for the obligatory family photo, and we turn our backs to the wind, gingerly descending the steep hard-scrabble. The trail leads us through a grove of ancient Bristlecone Pines—the 2,000-year-old grandmothers, experts at adaptation to the high country, letting time and wind and sun shape their forms.

We weave in and out of their windswept bodies, basking in their grounded calm and stark beauty. We rest within them to catch our breath, letting our spleens recharge while admiring the pines' view and envying their processes of photosynthesis.

Until next time,
Happy tails and happy trails!

Editor's note: Solana's original panoramic photos are breathtaking, and we wept when we had to crop them for this article. To see their—and her—original brilliance, please visit Solana's article under the "Current Edition" tab at the top of prescottdog.com.



Obligatory family photo



The pack that squirrels together stays together



Ancient bristlecones



Bristlecone bathing

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