

# Prescott Dog

March/April 2026 • PrescottDog.com magazine



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*Introducing Our Cover Dog – Charlie*

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

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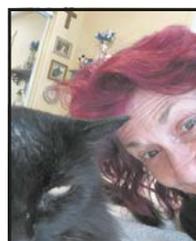
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# Charlie, Our Cover Dog

**Name:** Charlie

**Hometown:** Dewey. My Dad and I just moved here in August, and we love it.

**Age:** 2 years and 8 months

**Who took your photo:** My Dad Jason

**Favorite brand of kibble:** Purina One

**Favorite people food:** Left over pancake batter, from the bowl.

**Favorite toy:** My old, dirty, smelly stuffed Lamb Chop—which my Dad has thankfully never washed. I've had her since I was a puppy.

**Favorite outdoor activity:** Playing with my four- and two-legged friends at Mountain Valley Dog Park in Prescott Valley.

**Favorite indoor activity:** Napping and going to Doggie Dude Ranch or Wags.

**Favorite nap spot:** The bed, or under the dinette table if it's warm.

**Fitness regimen:** Walks, hikes, and Mountain Valley Dog Park.

**Describe your perfect canine pal:** Pals who play nice and make sure other dogs aren't mean to me, like Chewy, Lucy, Mike, and Sammy.

**Describe your perfect day:** Going with my Dad to a place where he talks to a bunch of people sitting in rooms. I'm not sure what he's doing, but I roam around and get all kinds of pets and attention from the two-leggeds.

Then, to Mountain Valley Dog Park for play and poop time, or to the Lazy G to see my patio friends. And we finally get home for dinner, a walk-around to see our neighbors, and then some much needed sleep.



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## Prescott Dog **COVER DOG CONTEST**



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- 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](mailto: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**

# HAZEL HOWLS

## The Journey from Dread to Balm

Well... here I go looking for an opportunity to do two things I don't want to do. Well, it's the tasks themselves... the possible total waste of time, or worse yet everything going off the rails that I'm dreading.

Dad gave me a slight nod of encouragement as I relocated from musing in the bedroom to an unseasonably warm outdoors and a possible sun nap.

My two tasks, while waiting for the youngest of the pack to appear, is to present an idea to her that I'm pretty sure she'll reject and... then... convince her to do it anyway.

Some months ago, I proposed a sabbatical or a vacation, or some thing different to do. The idea was kind of ignored, everybody thinking I was just in some kind of funk and would snap out of it.

Dad brought it up out of the blue on my birthday and asked me to really think about what I wanted to do.

"I want Prudence to fill in now and then, you know, maybe take over one day," I blurted out hoping to forego thinking about it anymore.

"Why not Keira?," Dad asked, out of a sense of fairness I guess.

"C'mon Dad, the light in the attic doesn't always work, and all she'd write about is how beautiful she is and how it's been proven that Golden Retrievers are the best breed to ever pad around the earth."

After that talk, Dad and I would break away from everyone now and again trying to figure the best way to broach the subject. All we came up with was, well, just winging it.

So here I am waiting for the Maxi-Pin to come out to sun herself and then see what happens.

I have to say, as I lay here basking, that I enjoy running stories past Dad or Mom and getting feedback from readers. Sometimes Dad reads one of the stories from the past and I'm amazed how full our lives have been, and are.

Maybe I should put them all together during what ever vacation I get



out of this possible arrangement.

"You're mumbling Hazel."

Pru has several habits that tend to annoy, and one of them is her habit of ninja appearances, followed, (every single time), with a snarky comment.

"I was deep in thought, Pru."

Pru sniffed in my general direction, "So... you're telling me your brain leaks into your mouth?"

"It's called speech, if you must know."

Pru circled her spot and plopped down on her port side to sun one side of her hairless belly. Giving a sigh of pleased satisfaction Pru countered, through an extended yawn, "So what were you deep in thought about that you couldn't form proper words?"

Without much thought or restraint, I poured out all the musings, wondering, second guesses, fears and dread of enlisting Pru's help and allowing her to mess about in a tradition that meant a lot to me.

Another Prudence yawn. Silence. Then, "Will I have super powers and be the hero and stuff like that?" she asked while stretching all her legs straight out while effortlessly rolling over.

My first thought was I might have just created a monster that is about to tear up my Tokyo in a roaring rampage and stomping over all my work and my heritage, so to speak.

My second thought was the near sinful delight I would have as Mom and Dad read Pru's work and scrambling to figure out what to do.

"Sure Pru, I don't see why not," I managed to say with a straight face.

"...and maybe I could be the victim of an inalienable abduction, but I escape their clutches and do loops over the house in their flying saucer?"

Pru rotated onto her back with all fours pointing to the sky while reciting a fairly long list of ever more outlandish story lines while I decided she could carry on without me and raised up to shake my fur straight.

On the way into the house while Pru continued on, I passed Tuck. He stopped for a second.

"How'd it go Haze?" he asked.

Tucker was headed to the front door where his kit and leash waited for Dad to gather up and take him on a trip.

"I may have just released a Pandora's box of trouble to be honest Tuck."

Tucker shifted nervously waiting for Dad. "Tell Mom to give you some pro-biotics and a little pumpkin with dinner."

I answered over my shoulder as I left him to find solace, "Yeah, got it Tuck... probiotics, pumpkin."

Pru and Keira passed me at a trot in the hallway. Pru was hot on Keira's heels and pitching more story lines. This time, they centered around saving Hawaiian school children and their pineapple patch from an avalanche.

There's only one place to go when I wonder if I've made a mistake and need help. That one single special place. Mom.

I found her in the office offering stern advice to her computer screen about how it would be in its best interest to do what it was told.

I squeezed in between her feet and the legs of her chair and plopped down hard with an obvious sigh.

She pushed back her chair a bit and rubbed my back with her stocking feet for a moment.

"I take it, Haze, that you talked with Pru about taking a turn at writing for your column, and now you're wondering what that means for you and if you made a mistake.

"Let me remind you, Haze, that both you and Pru are Rez dogs with curled up tails and pointed ears. You both started out in very difficult and dire circumstances. And.. you and Pru have a very athletic heritage, Miss Rocket Dog. You will see in the seasons ahead that it's the right time for the white mask girl to hand part of her responsibilities to the young black mask girl. Trust me on this Haze."

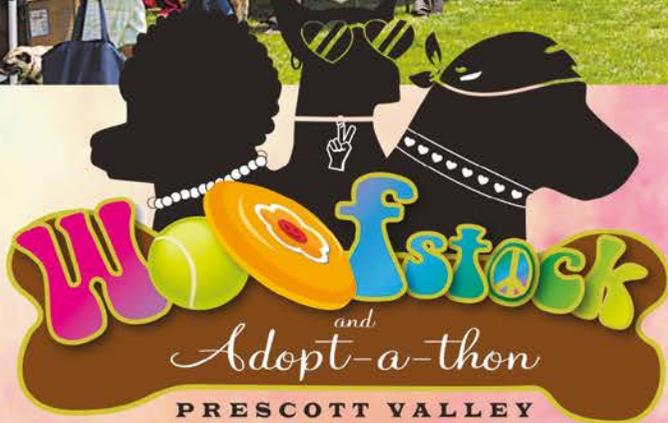
There is nothing in this world like a loving Mom, trust me on this.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket



A dog is a friend who listens  
with his heart and replies  
with his tail ❤️

# JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ALL THINGS DOG



**SATURDAY May 30th 9A-2P**

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

**ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS**

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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. 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 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: 928-445-2666.

**YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY THRIFT STORE**  
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**YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS**  
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Info: events@cvequestrianpark.org

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- Mar 16-20 Spring ZooCamp
- Apr 5 Eggstravaganza
- Apr 11 Breakfast with Ambassador Animals
- Apr 18 Behind the Scenes Photo Tour
- Apr 25 Community Appreciation Day (FREE Day)

**CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK EVENTS**  
*For further info or to register online, visit cvequestrianpark.org*  
**COWBOY CHALLENGE/ EXCA CLINIC & COMPETITION**  
Mar 28-29. Info/Register: events@cvequestrianpark.org

**OBSTACLE CLINIC & BUCKLE SERIES COMPETITION**  
April 18-19, w/Trainer Megan Bennett of Sunset Ranch at Chino Valley Equestrian Park. Info: events@cvequestrianpark.org or Megan at 602-565-1514.



**Rescue Resources**

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



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



**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

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AnimalDisasterServices.com

**LASER**  
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# The Territorial K9 Stroll

and Adopt-A-Thon

## Saturday April 25th 2026 9AM-1PM

Memory Park 1020 West Palomino Chino Valley, AZ  
Check In at 9AM Stroll starts @ 10AM



Scan To Register



Hi! I'm Officer Sirius from the Chino Valley K-9 Unit. My Handler Officer Sellers and I will be leading the walk!  
You and your canine friends should join us!



Or go to <https://cvctc.net> click on the events tab

*\$25 Registration fee will be collected by cash or check only.  
Check-in begins at 9AM*

**Presented By:**



100% of walk proceeds go to the Chino Valley Police K9 Unit





*Paws...for Compassion LLC*

## Loving With Awareness: Everyday Commitment to the Human-Animal Bond

By Jennifer Baker

A woman once told me she felt silly for grieving her dog while he was still alive. He was slowing down, sleeping more, his face whitening with age. "Nothing has happened yet," she said, "but my heart already hurts." What she was feeling has a name: anticipatory grief.

When we hear the word grief, we often think of what comes after loss. But grief can also arrive earlier, while our companion is still with us. This is a natural response to loving deeply and sensing that time is precious.

Loving an animal companion asks us to open our hearts in ways we don't always name. Animals share our homes, our routines, and milestones. They greet us at the door, sit beside us through life's ups and downs, and witness the quiet rhythms of our days.

As an animal chaplain, part of my work is helping people recognize that these feelings are a normal part of love. Anticipatory grief is not a failure to stay positive, but the heart acknowledging how deeply attached we are. When people are given permission to name this feeling, something softens. Instead of pushing fear away, they can turn toward their animals with greater presence, appreciating the days they have.

I sit with people and help slow things down, supporting them in creating small, personal practices that fit naturally into their daily routines. Caring with intention rather than reacting can be empowering for people.

Being an animal's guardian is not about perfection. It's about presence and intention. It means learning their preferences, noticing subtle changes, and doing our best to support their well-being as their needs evolve. The relationship is built on responsibility, but also on deep companionship and mutual trust.

Ritual can be a gentle and powerful part of this relationship, and it doesn't have to be formal. Pausing for a moment of gratitude, silently thanking them for their companionship can mean so much. Celebrating adoption anniversaries or birthdays with a special walk or a quiet moment of reflection can bring meaning to or-

inary time. Daily connection practices—slow breaths together, a hand resting on their body, soft forehead kisses, gentle massage, or whispered blessings shift routine care into conscious connection. These moments remind us we are nurturing a relationship, not just completing tasks.

As our companions age, rituals naturally adapt. Walks may become shorter but more mindful. Bedtime routines might include extra blankets and soothing words. These practices help us stay grounded in devotion rather than being swept away by anxiety.

Loss does not mean letting go of our companions; it means learning to carry love in a new way. The relationship doesn't end but can transform. Simple rituals of remembrance, meaningful keepsakes, or quiet moments of reflection can bring comfort and help us feel that connection still living on.

These mindful moments help us honor the bond we share, turning love into a lived, conscious commitment for as long as we are given the gift of their presence, and beyond.



## Meet Madigan

Madigan (Maddie) is a nine-month-old French Bulldog ("Frenchie").

We don't know how or exactly where her story began, we can only guess. In rescue, dogs often come to us with unknown or made-up backgrounds. What we do know now is that hers was not a happy beginning.

In early January, we received a call from a lady desperately trying to help a little French Bulldog. She told us the pup had been kept in diapers in a very small crate. A neighbor



convinced the owner to give her up, and then tried to give her away.

The caller was going to rescue the pup and wanted to know if we would take her. We said yes, but on hearing her condition, we wanted a vet visit immediately.

We were shocked when she arrived at the vet in a cardboard box covered in blood and filth. She was immediately tested for parvo (negative). X-rays were done because she seemed to have issues with her back legs. She was tested for parasites and found to have hookworms as well as giardia. Her little belly as well as her vaginal area had severe urine burns. The vet kept her for a couple days to keep an eye on her, and to let us prepare a room at the rescue. Remember, she was only nine months old.

We saw what a happy and playful pup she was despite everything. She was still being a puppy, and none of her conditions stopped her from doing what she wanted to do—run, play, and love everyone. Every morning we'd find she had relieved herself in her bed, so we bathed her every day. One of our volunteers reached out and found a specialist knowledgeable of dogs in this condition, so she took her on a long ride for an exam.

We were hopeful, but the diagnosis was spina bifida and very severe nerve damage in her back-end and sphincter. When she sleeps, everything relaxes, and that's why she can only relieve herself at night. One of her back legs also seems to drag the ground. She wore off all her toenails but doesn't feel the pain because of the nerve damage.

The specialist said that Maddie will eventually become paralyzed, and a decision needs to be made about her quality of life. We decided that Madigan, like any other dog, deserves to live a happy life as long as possible.

Since AARF is not set up for a dog to be in a wheelchair, Maddie needs either an experienced home or a sanctuary that takes in special-needs pets. Hopefully they will give her all the proper care she needs and deserves now and in the future. If you know of anyone or anywhere that might be able to do this, please contact Liz at 928-925-7219.

Until that happens, Madigan will stay with us here at AARF. We'll let her be her happy, playful puppy self and give her all the love we give every dog. And maybe just a little extra.



Every day at Yavapai Humane Society (YHS), our team walk past dogs and cats waiting for their next chapter. Some are outgoing and silly. Some are shy and still figuring things out. Some are seniors who would love nothing more than a calm home and a cozy bed. And some have very specific needs, including bonded pairs who must stay together or pets who truly need to be the only animal in the home.

Bonded animals share a connection that is unmistakable. They lean on each other, sleep side by side, and look for one another if they are separated.

Keeping them together is not always the easiest choice for finding adopters, but it is the right one that we make for the animals. Watching them leave together, still side by side, is something we never get tired of seeing.

Then there are the dogs and cats who need to be your one and only. Not because they are too much or flawed, but because they thrive when they do not have to share their person. In the right environment, these animals and their new person, blossom.

We will not pretend adopting a shelter pet is always effortless. There will be an adjustment period, new routines, patience, and sometimes training. But what we see time and time again is this: when someone commits with realistic expectations and an open heart, the transformation is incredible for both the pet and the adopter.

These animals are not here because they failed. They are here because life has changed for them through no fault of their own. Most of them are confused, scared and trying to figure out why life has changed so much for them. They deserve stability, understanding, and another chance.

At YHS, we work hard to ensure adoptions succeed. Through behavior support, our Second Chance Medical Program, Safety Net Program, Community Pet Food Pantry, and Pet Guardianship Program, we focus on keeping pets with their families whenever possible and creating lasting matches when rehoming is necessary. Programs like Pets for Patriots and Pets for the Elderly help us connect wonderful animals with people ready to welcome them home.

If you've been thinking about adoption, we invite you to visit. Spend some time. Ask questions. Let our team help guide you to the right fit. It doesn't have to be perfect; it just has to be right.

You may walk in thinking you're going to change one animal's life. More often than not, they will absolutely change yours, too.

All of our available animals looking for their forever home are on our website at [yavapaihumane.org](http://yavapaihumane.org); also keep an eye on our social media where we share stories about them. Also, you can always call us at 928-445-2666 if you are looking for your forever family member. We're here to make happily ever after stories for all of our animals... and YOU!



The saying, "It takes a village" is never truer than in the world of animal rescue.

Donors, Furr-tastic Finds™ Rescue Resale shoppers, Snip n' Go™ Clinic customers, fundraiser attendees, sponsors, and grant organizations provide the funding that enables United Animal Friends (UAF) to help those most in need.

In addition, UAF recently reached out to other local animal advocacy organizations asking for support of our Community (Feral) Cat Program, which spays and neuters feral cats for free. N.O.A.H. Thrift Store and Yavapai Humane Society each graciously pledged monthly donations to help with this important venture. All of these funding sources contribute to our ability to provide rescue programs and services for animals and those who care for them. This year we intend to spend more than 1 million dollars doing so—a number we wouldn't have dreamed of a few years ago.

And because we are a volunteer-based organization, nearly every dollar directly benefits animals in the most dire need, such as dogs in overcrowded, underserved rural shelters where they are at risk of

being euthanized due to a lack of resources. And cats who suddenly lose their homes when their owners pass away or move to assisted living. And pets in low-income households, who otherwise might be euthanized or surrendered when their owners can't afford emergency veterinary care or nutritious pet food. And feral cats living in communities where spay and neuter can control growth, reduce fighting, and improve their health.

UAF volunteers, including our Board of Directors, provide our (wo) manpower by facilitating the transfer of adoptable pets into our care, fostering or caring for them at the UAF Rescue Ranch and Kitty City, showing them at adoption events, advertising them online and in the news, facilitating adoptions, administering our Emergency Medical Program, running our Pet Food Bank and

distributing food, staffing the Furr-tastic Finds™ thrift store, running the Snip n' Go™ Clinic, issuing Low-Income Spay/Neuter Certificates, applying for grants, answering inquiries, organizing and running fundraisers, creating advertising, improving and maintaining the UAF Rescue Ranch, and so much more.

So, when we say, "It takes a village," we mean that when we all work together, we accomplish great things.

Your support, whether through donations or volunteer work, allows us to extend our reach to help the animals who most need us. Please go to [unitedanimalfriends.org](http://unitedanimalfriends.org) and see how you can become part of our village.



On January 7, Blackhat (BH) was alerted that a young female pup was hanging out at a vendor village near the Little Colorado Tribal Park near Cameron, Arizona. People saw a black truck dump three young, scared pups in the area. The two friendlier siblings were reportedly rescued by tourists, but the remaining pup's cautious behavior prevented her from being saved.

A local resident was trying to feed her, but the vendors kept shooing her away, so she wasn't getting much food or encouragement. Someone suggested she was too skittish and might need to be trapped.

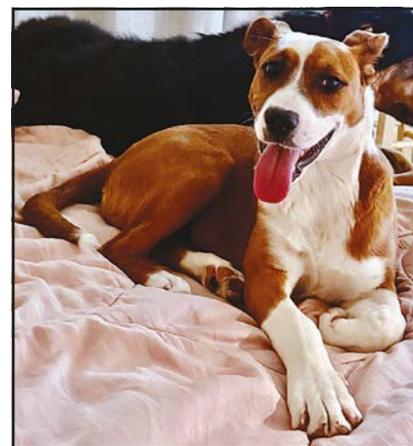
The pup was rescued with the help of DPS Trooper Brishky (who has a way with dogs) and experienced trapper Teresa Schumann of Northern Arizona Animal Search and Rescue (NAASR). Trooper Brishky slowly fed her dog food with a spoon (while the pup dodged the slip lead), and Teresa rushed up from Flagstaff to set a trap; it took less than ten minutes to secure the hungry pup in the trap.

Teresa took her to High Country Humane in Flagstaff to get her vaccinated and wormed, and a wonderful BH foster, Kendra from Gallup, drove over to get her. Kendra felt her friendly dogs would be willing participants in helping turn her around. At Teresa's suggestion, Kendra named her Cammie, short for Cameron, after the chapter of the tribal park.

She was then taken into Kendra's family to start a much better chapter of her life. With the help of a knowledgeable animal behaviorist Mackenzie, who works with BH, we drew up and put into place a plan to bring her around.

Cammie spends a lot of her time in the master bathroom, where she can decompress and have consistent familiar surroundings. She ventures out as she feels ready and is comforted by Kendra's other balanced dogs. Cammie is still cautious and needs more socialization, but Kendra is confident she will tame with some patience and time. Kendra's dogs seem happy to help with the effort.

It sometimes takes many caring, animal-loving people to put together



a story such as this, and we're grateful to Trooper Brishky for her compassion, Teresa for her trapping skills, Kendra for her big heart, and so many others—such as the determined leadership of Cindy with BH, the help of High Country Humane, and behaviorist MacKenzie.

This is one of many life-saving success stories that unfold for abandoned animals on the Navajo Nation. We invite any of you who'd love to be part of the next success story to check us out on [blackhathumane.org](http://blackhathumane.org) and let us know if you would like to help.



At Underdog, we believe every dog deserves a chance, no matter how complicated, costly, or heart-breaking their medical journey might be. For eight years, we have never turned away a medical case. We want to share one of the most powerful stories of our work last year with you: Lenny Gerald.

Lenny Gerald's story began at one of our Navajo Nation clinics, where he was surrendered with a softball-sized tumor on his leg. Our veterinary team acted quickly, re-

(Rescue Tales cont'd page 12)



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(Rescue Tales cont'd from page 11)

moving the mass and sending it for testing. The results confirmed what we feared: cancer.

The surgery was successful, but the pathology report showed no clean margins, meaning the tumor could return. We started him on supportive treatment, including Turkey Tail medicinal mushrooms to help boost his immune system, and held on to hope.

Through it all, Lenny Gerald was nothing but joy. He became a staff favorite—playful, silly, affectionate, and happiest when he was snuggled close. That joy led him to something even bigger: a forever home.

His adopters shared: "From the moment I saw Lenny's face on the Adoptable Dogs page, I dreamed of him hiking with us, snuggling in bed, and becoming part of our family.

When we learned about his cancer, we cried, but we knew he was our dog. From the first night, when he curled up on our bed, it was clear. He has brought so much joy and extra love to our lives. We are so lucky to have him."

Today, Lenny Gerald is living that dream: zoomies with his family, noodles after hikes, belly rubs, and a family that adores him. His outcome is a testament to why we never give up, and why we never turn dogs away, no matter how complex their needs.

Underdog remains dedicated to our work: to rescue and rehabilitate companion animals from the Four Corners reservations of the American Southwest, through vet care, spay/neuter, and adoption services, while supporting Native Americans in the care of their animals.

Our mission is rooted in empathy, collaboration, and a shared commitment to creating a more humane and connected world. We look forward to sharing more stories of hope, just like Lenny Gerald's, in 2026.



**Merle's Story & the Power of Compassionate Collaboration**

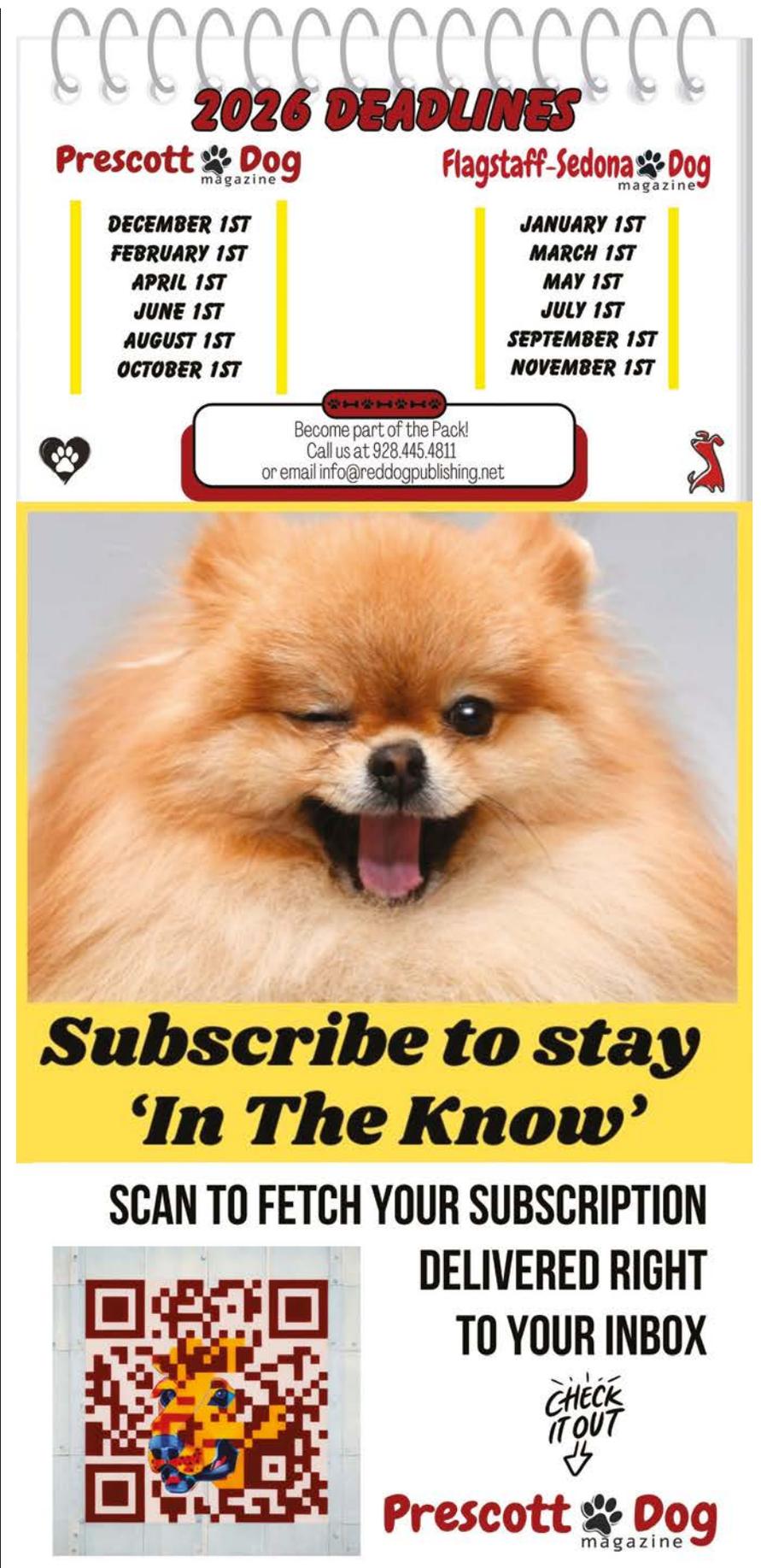
A four-year-old farm dog and proud alumni of the Humane Society of Wickenburg (HSW), Merle once found exactly what every rescue animal hopes for: a loving home, open land, and a person who adored him.

For years, he lived a steady, meaningful life, doing what farm dogs do best, keeping watch, enjoying routine, and offering quiet companionship.

Then life changed. Merle's owner was forced to move into assisted living. Through no fault of his own, Merle returned to HSW older, wiser, and still very much the same good dog.

What he brought back with him, however, was an old knee injury he'd been living with comfortably for four years.

At the Humane Society of Wickenburg, we don't define animals by limitations. We support them with solutions.

**2026 DEADLINES**

**Prescott Dog** magazine  
**Flagstaff-Sedona Dog** magazine

**DECEMBER 1ST**  
**FEBRUARY 1ST**  
**APRIL 1ST**  
**JUNE 1ST**  
**AUGUST 1ST**  
**OCTOBER 1ST**

**JANUARY 1ST**  
**MARCH 1ST**  
**MAY 1ST**  
**JULY 1ST**  
**SEPTEMBER 1ST**  
**NOVEMBER 1ST**

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**Prescott Dog** magazine

Recognizing Merle's needs, we leaned into what we do best: collaboration. Thanks to a partnership within the animal welfare community, a generous supporter—David from Pet Ortho Braces—stepped forward and custom made a knee brace specifically for Merle.

The result? A dog who moves confidently, comfortably, and happily, continuing to enjoy outdoor adventures with the support he deserves.

This is what above and beyond looks like. It's not just sheltering animals, it's advocating for them. It's finding creative, compassionate solutions instead of seeing obstacles.

It's building strong relationships with veterinary professionals, businesses, and supporters who share the same belief.

Every animal deserves a quality life, no matter the circumstance.



**BABY MAN:** 5yo Pug/Shih Tzu cross. Once he warms up, he's devoted, loving, and always ready to snuggle. He bonds deeply with his people and absolutely thrives on cuddles. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



**GAVIN:** A muscular 54-pound mixed-breed with a stunning black coat that truly glistens in the sun. He's a total people-lover who thrives on attention and affection. United Animal Friends at 928-778-2924



**BAGEL:** A 6-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix. Smart, and full of personality, he loves having a job to do and spending time with his people. He's the perfect mix of hard-working and affectionate. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



**FLETCHER:** A 1-year-old male mixed breed who weighs 43 pounds. He's loving, outgoing, and truly an all-around nice guy who enjoys making friends and sharing affection. He adores playing with toys. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**CANE:** A 3-year-old German Shepherd mix who weighs 19 pounds. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-445-2666



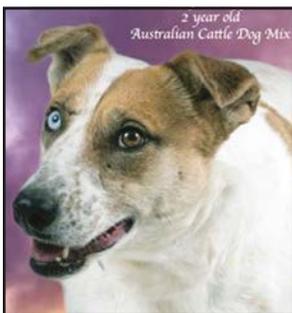
**BILLY JACK:** A Border Collie with a big personality and even bigger heart. Very outgoing and loves attention. If you're looking for a dog who wants to be involved in everything you do, he's your guy. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**DEXTER:** 5yo Chow mix; curious, affectionate, independent. He enjoys exploring, checking in often for soft petting, and happily rolling over for belly rubs. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



**ROSE:** A 5-month-old female Labrador Retriever mix. She's affectionate, calm, and loves being close to her people. Rose already knows "sit", which shows how smart and eager to learn she is. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**EMMA:** A 6-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix. She weighs 43 pounds. She is a sweet dog who enjoys receiving attention from my handlers. For more information about me, call 928-445-2666.



**TIM:** 10wo mixed breed puppy, maybe some Corgi? Great w/other dogs, loves people. Not sure about cats. Working on basic commands and potty training. 30-40 lbs. when full grown. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-913-6789



**RILEY:** 4yo female German Shepherd. Great adventure buddy, by your side through every quest whether it be the drive-thru getting pupcups or on trails while we go on some hikes. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



**ELLI:** A 3-year-old white Chihuahua mix. She's about 3 years old, sweet, house broken, sleeps in bed with people. Good with other small dogs. Walks on a leash. Working on sitting. Does great with all adults. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-913-6789



**IONA:** A 4-year-old terrier mix weighing just 10 pounds — the perfect little size for lap snuggles and tagging along on adventures. Don't let her petite frame fool you — she has a big heart full of love! United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**SPOOKY:** A 3-year-old male Chihuahua. Weighs 7 pounds. He is a little delight and loves attention. He enjoys walks on a leash, taking naps in your lap, and he does the cutest zoomies. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-913-6789



**STEWIE:** An adult long-haired Dachshund/Chihuahua mix. For more information, please contact Yavapai Humane Trappers at 928-913-6789



**KODIAK:** Adult male German Shepherd/Australian Shepherd mix. Affectionate, a heart full of love. Gets along well with other kids and other dogs. Loves cuddles, playtime, and Belly rubs! Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-913-6789



**JASMINE:** 3yo female pit bull; clearly was someone's pet. Knows several commands including sit and stay. She loves going for car rides, walks, and Pupcups. Respectful of other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society 480-203-7069



**LUIGI:** 1yo male Chihuahua, 8lbs. Fine with other dogs, ignores cats. Loves to go on walks and to be with his people. Blackhat Humane Society. Please contact his foster at littlerita2@gmail.com or via text to 928-607-6007



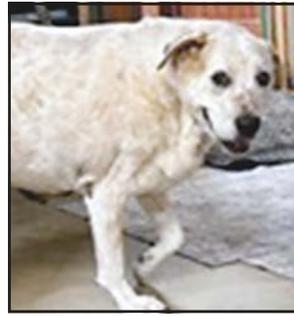
**JANGLE:** A male Labrador/Cattle Dog mix puppy. He is a happy boy and tends to go with the flow. He will be a great loyal buddy. He lives with other dogs and a few obnoxious cats. Blackhat Humane Society 928 899-3942



**CHESTNUT:** A 2-year-old Husky mix. Has dashing leopard spots and is one-of-a-kind in personality and grin. House-trained, good with other dogs, and a pro-cuddler. Good companion for active family. Blackhat Humane Society 928-899-3942



**IRIS:** Female German Shepherd. Loves people, belly rubs. Is house-broken. Enjoys walks, gives lots of attention to the volunteers, and lounging on her dog bed. Dog Tree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary at olddogs@dogtreepines.com



**MEEKO:** 8yo male White Labrador/Red Heeler mix. Extremely overweight, otherwise healthy. Good with other dogs, cautious about rescue life. He craves attention. Dog Tree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary at olddogs@dogtreepines.com



**EMMY:** A sweet girl of mixed breeding. Her owner recently passed away. She is quiet, well-mannered, and in great shape. Loves her walks Gets along well with other dogs and cats. Dog Tree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary olddogs@dogtreepines.com



**GRACE:** An Australian Shepherd mix, about 13 years old. She is sweet and has a certain calming grace about her. Grace is now fostered by a knowledgeable dog person. Dog Tree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary at olddogs@dogtreepines.com



**JEWELS:** A 3-year-old female Heeler mix. Weighs 30 pounds. Jewels is quiet and affectionate. Never met a cat. Travels well in a car, loves her walks. AARF 928-925-7219



**DOODLE:** A 2-year-old male chocolate brown Chihuahua mix. Weighs 15 pounds. He has a very sweet and affectionate personality. He's a big shy with men but wasn't raised around men. AARF Rescue 928-925-7219.



**ZIGGY:** A 2-year-old male chocolate brown Chihuahua mix. Weighs 15 pounds. He has a very sweet and affectionate personality. He's a big shy with men but wasn't raised around men. AARF Rescue 928-925-7219.



**POPPY:** A long-haired adult female. For more information, please contact AARF Animal Rescue at 928-925-7219



**CLOVER:** A most handsome 4-year-old white with grey male. He is charming with a lovely smile. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-442-6426



**LICORICE:** A 3-year-old Tuxedo female with the most unique face. She is sweet and quiet, but a bit shy. For more information, please contact Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com



**PANINI:** A 2-year-old female Tuxedo cat with the most charming and unique face. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-442-6426



**ASTRID:** Beautiful silver-grey lady, ~18mo. She wants attention but is a little shy at first. She has been warming up to people more. Hobbies are chasing wand toys and interactive toys. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com



**HONDA:** A 4-year-old orange male cat with huge golden eyes. He is handsome and charming. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society at 928-442-6426



**ONI:** A sweet female Tuxedo cat who enjoys attention and forms strong bonds once she feels safe. In her previous home Oni was playful and active, showing off her fun and engaging personality. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



**BINX:** A handsome 4-month-old black male kitten bursting with energy and curiosity. He loves to climb, explore, and survey his world from his cat tree. Binx is a fun-loving little guy who keeps life entertaining. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



**KIKI:** A sweet 2-year-old tortoiseshell female. A gentle soul with a heart full of love. A sweet, gentle soul with a heart full of love. A bit shy at first, she truly adores affection and attention once she feels safe. United Animal Friends 928-772-2924



**CALLIE:** A gorgeous short-haired calico with a bright personality to match her beautiful colors. At just 1 year old, she is playful, smart, and endlessly inquisitive. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



**MUNCHIE:** A 6.5-year-old male tabby, he is a rather independent guy. He has been a bit shy, and it took a while for him to show his curiosity and demonstrate his playful side. United Animal Friends 928-772-2924



**PATCHES:** An adorable long-haired tortoiseshell with a unique little face and a heart full of love. About three years old, she is sweet as can be and truly a total lovebug. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



**IRIS:** A 13-week-old Tuxedo female. She is good with other cats, adults, and respectful children. Once she knows you, she is a lover with big purrs. Very playful. Loves wand toys she can jump to catch. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-713-6789



**TOFU:** A sweet brown tabby male. He is always on the move with playing on his mind. He will settle down for cuddles but only after playtime. He is curious and helpful. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com



**NELLIE:** 9mo female brown tabby. Tends to be a bit more reserved and shy at first, but given time to adjust, she becomes very social. She enjoys exploration and playing, especially with other cat friends. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-713-6789

# SARA Could Be Your New Best Hiking Buddy

Story and photos by Cheryl and Myron Hartz

SARA Could Be Your New Best Hiking Buddy



The trail starts easy on loose rock and sand.



Rugged terrain contains winding trails.



Just call her SARA: the Special Activities and Recreation Area is a regional county-leased park just five miles south of Lake Havasu City. We love exploring here as a sideline to camping expeditions at Lake Havasu, Cattail Cove, River Island or Buckskin Mountain State Parks.

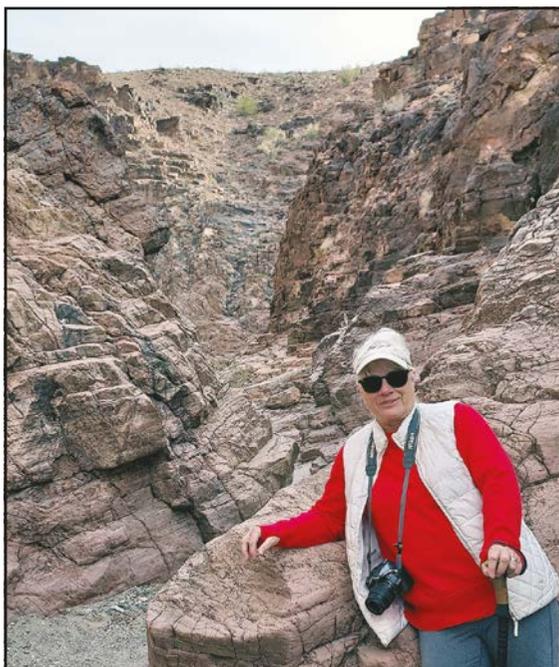
That's because SARA is a generously sized lady who has it all. Her softball and baseball fields, covered playground, rodeo grounds, picnic areas, motocross course, BMX track, r/c vehicle track, an area to fly model planes, shooting and archery ranges, dog park—and even a motor speedway—cover 1,100 acres. Whew!

Because we visited on a weekday in early December while school was in session, we missed all of that busyness. But the many parts we saw appeared well-maintained and a wonderful offering for the locals and tourists alike.

Oh, yes, SARA has several miles of hiking trails, too, over a variety of desert terrain. You can hike in soft dirt, loose rock, smooth rock plates, over and between boulders, up and down mountains and all the way to the cool blue Colorado River.

The Crack in the Wall Trail is a 5-mile round trip which starts out easy and becomes more strenuous as it takes you through a slot canyon that is arguably one of the most famous on the Lower Colorado. We weren't prepared for a long hike the day we chose to explore for the first time, especially with the boulder climbing we were starting to do. So we didn't make it all the way to the river and its scenic cove featuring Balance Rock.

Some day we will hike to that monster rock balanced precariously on a slender and eroding pillar. We've



The author takes a break.



A vigorous hike requires a lunch break.

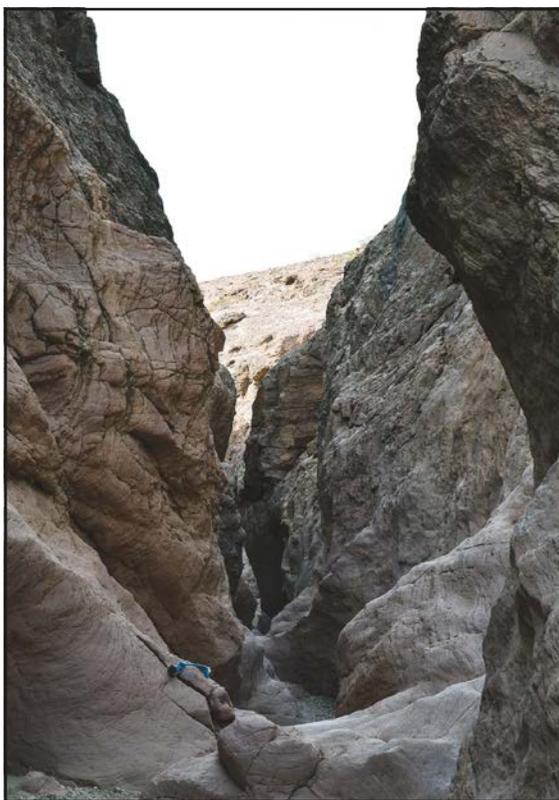
seen photos of the spectacular river view at trail's end and think it will be well worth the effort.

We did experience several of the desert landscapes and found a pleasant spot for a picnic while exploring a side trail on the return hike.

Several people were hiking with their dogs. One hapless gentleman had a toy poodle that couldn't quite manage areas of the boulders. Since we had turned around already, we gently warned him it got worse. He conceded to the inevitable, picked her up and turned around also.

Did I mention there are no admission or parking fees? There is plenty of parking, along with decent restrooms. Take plenty of water and sunblock as you explore this surprising park.

Happy hiking with SARA!



The trail narrows dramatically into a slot canyon and becomes steep over boulders.



Lizard Peak Trail is a fun offshoot.

# SMALL RESCUE WITH A BIG HEART: ARIZONA WORKING PAWS

Arizona Working Paws (AWP) is a small nonprofit rescue with a big heart. Founded by two first responders who share a passion for rescuing dogs, the organization has been helping animals long before officially becoming a 501(c)(3) in 2024. For years, our focus has remained simple: providing second chances for dogs in need and placing them with families who will love them for life.



took eight dogs directly into rescue and fostered four additional dogs from a euthanasia list rescued by a partner organization, resulting in twelve successful adoptions. For AWP, each one of those placements represents a life changed and a family made whole.

We are incredibly grateful to the adopters, fosters, donors, and supporters who make every save possible. Community encouragement,

Arizona Working Paws primarily rescues working breeds and herding breeds because of our deep appreciation for their unique personalities and drive. Our team dedicates time and care to each rescue through hands-on training, learning, and enrichment.



These highly intelligent dogs often have behavioral traits that can be underestimated, requiring experienced homes and sometimes contributing to overcrowded shelter systems. By investing in each dog's growth and development, AWP provides the strongest foundation for successful, lifelong placement. Still, our passion for animals doesn't stop there. When a dog is in need, we do what we can to help, regardless of breed.

Even as a small rescue, our impact continues to grow. In 2025, AWP

supplies, and contributions keep our mission moving forward, and we wouldn't exist without that support.

As we continue growing, our focus remains on quality over quantity. Our goal isn't just numbers—it's lifelong, lasting matches between dogs and their new families who will love them forever. With steady, thoughtful growth and a strong community behind us, we're proud of the difference we're making, one dog at a time.

**EVERY DOG  
DESERVES  
A HOME!**

Rescued dogs are waiting for a loving home. Is it yours? Adopt, don't shop. Make a real difference in someone's life. Most Dogs become homeless through no fault of their own. They need our help.



**Give them a home,  
and they'll give you  
endless love in return.**



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Small Rescue with a Big Heart: Arizona Working Paws

# DOG SPORTS HELP TO CREATE BONDS

Story & Photos by Heidi Dahms Foster



One of the best developments of the past three or so decades is the ever-increasing number of organized activities you can do with your dog. Many of those activities are available locally or within a reasonable drive from the Quad Cities area, and opportunities are continuing to expand.

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

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

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

Physically challenged handlers have learned to direct their dogs from a scooter, or with minimal movement. This requires training the dog to take direction from a distance, and many do it phenomenally well. Adjustments in time and obstacles are also made for more senior dogs and handlers. Whether your challenge is to simply make it through a course within the time limit, or to compete at the highest levels, it's all great fun, and a great run is a thing of beauty.

Several agility competitions go on during the year. A search online will show many local dog trainers that agility skills. The best way to find a trainer suitable for you and your dog is to attend local trials and ask people who are competing.

**Obedience:** Long a staple of trainers who want to enjoy a little competition, obedience is still a great test of your handler/dog relationship.

Obedience is a stepping stone to so many other sports, because control of your dog is crucial not only for success and safety in daily life, but even more so in activities where your dog will be off leash, and often in unfamiliar areas.

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

ity, where a dog must perform scent work and directed work away from the handler.

Prescott Arizona Kennel Club and Chino Valley Canine Training Club hold competitions in both Obedience and Rally Obedience, and CVCTC also holds classes throughout the year, as do many local trainers.

**Rally Obedience:** While some encourage the sport of Rally Obedience as a precursor to Obedience, this wildly popular sport is a wonderful challenge in itself.

In traditional obedience trials, the dog/handler team completes a standard course on the judge's direction, with the only interaction between dog and handler the initial command at the beginning of each exercise.

In Rally, each trial is made up of a timed course of signs. The team is given a signal to begin, and the handler/dog completes the course on their own. In all but the most advanced levels, the handler may talk to the dog and use hand signals to help things along.

The courses offer fun interaction with your dog and a great sense of accomplishment at mastering the varying courses and the dog/handler relationship needed to complete the Rally levels.

**FastCAT:** FastCAT is a popular sport in which dogs essentially run a 100-yard dash within a set course, chasing—wait—a plastic bag? The bags, or lures, are drawn by a motorized line. Dogs find this fast-moving target irresistible, and hilarity ensues when you see their expressions of excitement and joy as they engage in the chase.

American Kennel Club Fast CAT trials have been conducted in the greater Prescott area through local clubs. Competing dogs can earn points and titles in FastCAT,



Barn Hunt. Photo courtesy GoDogPhoto.

with their average times converted to miles per hour and taking into account their height.

## Resources

**Chino Valley Canine Training Club:** Chino Valley Canine Training Club offers Basic and Rally Obedience, along with Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog classes and certifications. Trials include Obedience and Rally Obedience, Scent Work, FastCAT, FETCH, and community activities. The club works to educate people about good health and training practices. Meetings are third Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Chino Valley Senior Center next to Memory Park. For more information visit the website at [cvctc.com](http://cvctc.com).

**Prescott Arizona Kennel Club:** The Prescott Arizona Kennel Club has been conducting all breed championship conformation shows in the tri city area since 1987, and numerous years of obedience and agility.

On September 20-22, 2019, PAKC will offer two All Breed shows and two days of Rally and Obedience (mixed breeds can compete in obedience trials) along with single breed specialties at the Findlay Toyota Center in Prescott Valley.

The shows usually host numerous activities to introduce people to dog events, so it's a good place to learn about local activities and meet dog people. The club also offers conformation classes for those who have purebred dogs and would like to learn how to show. For more information visit [prescottarizonakennelclub.com](http://prescottarizonakennelclub.com)

**Top Dog Performance Club of Northern Arizona:** Agility Trials, Facebook Top Dog Performance Club of Northern Arizona

**K9 Synergy:** Dock Diving and more. [k9synergydog-training.com](http://k9synergydog-training.com)

(Please visit [prescottdog.com](http://prescottdog.com) to read the rest of the story)






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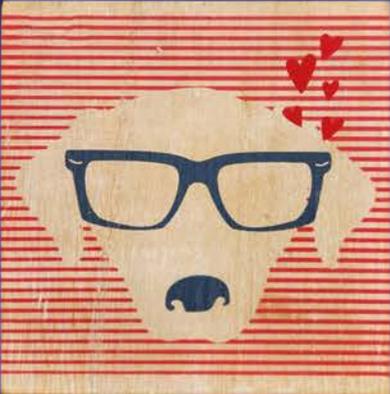
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# MALACHAI & LEVI: BELOVED SPRING SENIORS

By Kay Luckett



Malachi (L) has a white stripe called a priest's collar. His first owner was a priest.

Meet The Boys: two big boys born in the springtime. They will be eleven years old this May.

When they arrived at Miss Kitty's adoption, they appeared to be one huge black lump cuddled in the farthest corner of their new abode, well hidden under a cat tower. They protected each other. Their previous owner, Father Norman, had left them at his home at Sacred Heart Church while he travelled to Cincinnati on a church assignment. Sadly, he never returned home as he had passed away after a fatal auto accident.

The Boys were at the shelter for three months before Bill knew about them, and then he immediately called to find out if they were still available for adoption. Bill became the hero of the shelter because of his open heart and willing to adopt.

In his words, "Black cats are the least likely cat type to be adopted, and the brothers were four-time losers in that they were black, they were a pair that could not be split up, they were older (nine years at the time), and they had health issues.

"Both were obese, plus Malachi suffers from chronic bronchitis. This requires his parent to get him a shot every month to manage his condition."

Bill stepped up on all four counts, and they currently reside happily



with their Forever Dad.

Bill continues, "It's been quite an adventure unlocking the boys' characteristics and personalities. After almost two years, I'm still surprised when a new trait or behavior emerges.

"Suffice it to say, they've done a marvelous job at training me and have learned to tolerate me quite well."

Please note, that in addition to being an attentive full time cat dad, Bill donates his time to The Museum of Indigenous People in Prescott. He publishes their *Talking Sun Newsletter* for members and sits on their Board of Trustees.

Bill describes his first meeting with them The Boys. "I went over to visit Miss Kitty's to introduce myself, and it was over. Yes, these were my future roommates.

"Levi wouldn't even come out from down under and kept scrunching himself further and further away from the stranger. Malachi, on the other hand, was wide-eyed at the stranger who seemed to understand the value of a good ear rub.

"When I returned a week later to pick them up, no one could get Levi out of the kitty igloo he was hiding in. So we just picked him up, igloo and all, and put him in an over-sized cat carrier. That's how he arrived at this new home."

Bill continues, "I have to admit that I was a little nervous at first, because these two big boys were the first time I've had two cats all by myself.

"The first few months were a bit tense and somewhat arduous at times as both were on prescription diet food to address their weight issue. Levi was almost 21 pounds when he came home, but with proper control, he has arrived at this somewhat

optimal weight of 16 pounds. He looks the part of ginormous.

"Comparatively, Malachi fluctuates at around 18 pounds and looks more like Notch, the black jaguar at Prescott's Heritage Park Zoo."

"Other than being siblings and both black, Malachi and Levi, like so many brothers, I suppose, could not possibly be any more different from each other.

"Malachi loves brushing, Levi not so much. Malachi is outgoing, where Levi is still rather shy and reserved. However, Levi is far more vocal than his brother except that when Malachi has something to say (like 'It's couch time: pet me'), you know it.

"Malachi enjoys a good belly rub, but I cannot recommend trying that with Levi unless you are wearing plenty of arm protection."

"Levi is sitting in front of the screen door celebrating springtime, enjoy-

ing the fresh air while surveying everything and anything that moves. Malachi, on the other hand, has a total aversion to the front door.

"When I open the front door, or even unlock it, Malachi is gone. I suspect this may have something to do with a past experience."

Bill is a most conscientious cat dad and will readily stop to tell a tale about the boys. He tells a funny story that of all the brands of cat food he has tried—especially the most expensive gourmet brands of all—his boys tend to like Friskies.

He laughs and says that his boys run the show and that their vet, Dr. Baxter, seemed to feel that as long as they really liked the food, it was okay.

So Happy Spring to all and to cats, good eats, and good naps.

Meow.

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# LET'S GET PHYSICAL!

## SPRING INTO ACTION THIS SPRING BY LETTING YOUR POOCH EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Njeri Dean



With Spring weather comes blooming flowers and the shift from a cold atmosphere to a warmer one. No one wants to miss out on the opportunity to be outside and not worry about being frostbitten.

Spring is also an opportunity to bond with your pet, especially if you have a dog. With the warmer weather in spring, many dog owners take advantage of such opportunities to go outside by taking their dog on a simple walk or venturing to the dog park.

Dog walking is probably the most common form of exercise that a dog can partake in. In the wintertime, it can be difficult to walk your dog due to inclement weather. But usually during springtime, a dog and its owner can have a stress-free walk around the neighborhood without worrying about too much.

Walking your dog not only gets you and your dog out of the house but creates a routine and makes you and your furry friend healthier in the long run. Walking your dog can also make you and your dog grow closer.

When spring rolls around your dog will be tempted to go on walks not only because of the nice weather and companionship, but because of all the new sights and smells that will be stimulating to your dog.

Many plants and animals are present during the springtime, so it will be exciting not only for your dog but pet owners as well.

Dog walking, although it can be carried out any time of year, is es-

pecially joyous when spring rolls around because the weather is beautiful, and you never know what you may encounter.

Another enticing activity that dog owners will enjoy is going to the dog park. Dog parks are not only great for your dog but great for dog owners as well.

If you have ever been to one, you know that it yields great opportunities for social interactions. For dogs, socializing at a dog park can be very exciting because they get to meet other dogs and see dogs that they have been interacting with for a long time.

Dogs are usually pack animals and are very sociable. Establishing relationships with other dogs is great for a dog's mental and physical health. Having your dog as your companion is nice, but not giving your dog the opportunity to socialize with other dogs can lead to depression and anxiety in some cases.

It's good to know that dogs are man's best friend, but it is also good to remind your dog that they are dogs and they should interact with their own species from time to time.

For dog owners, frequenting the dog park can be beneficial. Meeting other dog owners can be fun and educational, because you can have fun and bounce ideas off each other about how to best care for your dog.

Learning from other dog owners can also be helpful when you want to get different ideas of how to enrich the life of your pet.

Spring brings forth numerous possibilities for outdoor activities with your dog, whether it's going on a simple walk or making time to frequent your local dog park.

Spring weather should be taken advantage of to its fullest extent. Just wait and see how a few outside trips can make a difference!

Participating in more outdoor activities with your pooch during warmer seasons like the springtime can affect a dog and its owner significantly.

With more opportunities and available occasions for a dog and its owner to be more fit, many positive results will start to occur.

For instance, a dog and its owner will probably start to notice significant weight loss, better stamina, and greater energy.

Taking care of one's physical health usually leads to better mental health outcomes and awareness.



That's why making sure you and your pooch have some time outside your residence is crucial. Your dog's life is bigger than the inside of your home and your own backyard.

Spring has sprung, and it's time to get your dog's tail wagging by treating them to the great outdoors. Life is meant to be lived, and it's crucial that your dog gets to experience what life has to offer for their physical, mental, and social wellbeing.



# CHINO VALLEY CANINE TERRITORIAL STROLL ON AGAIN

By Heidi Dahms Foster

The Chino Valley Canine Training Club is getting ready for its second annual Chino Valley Canine Territorial Stroll from 9am to 1pm on April 25, 2026 at Memory Park. The Stroll is a dog-friendly 5K walk. Registration is \$25 with 100 percent of proceeds donated to the Chino Valley Police K9 Unit.

Law enforcement K9s are super cops in the war on dangerous drugs in our communities, but many people don't realize that the expenses for these canines aren't always covered by police department budgets. Many K9 units rely on donations and fundraising from a generous public.

The Stroll is a great opportunity to bring your 4-legged best friend and walk alongside Chino Valley's local K9 Officer and his partner, Sirius, while helping to support this important law-enforcement team in our community.

The Chino Valley Canine Territorial Stroll was



created and hosted for the first time in March 2025 by the Chino Valley Canine Training Club. Proceeds from the successful event at Memory Park benefited Officer Sellers and K9 Sirius.

Organizer Donna Armstrong deemed the event "a huge success and great fun!" The event raised \$5,000, and club members presented a check to the Chino Valley Police Department in September 2025, earmarked for

Sirius and Officer Sellers.

A registration form for this year's Stroll can be found under Events at CVCTC.net. Teams may also register on the day of the event. Please note that all dogs must be securely leashed, up to date on all vaccinations, and at least eight months old.

Businesses and individuals are invited to support the Stroll with donations and sponsorships! For more information or questions please contact Prescott Dog at 928-445-4811.



## MARCH 22: CHINO VALLEY CANINE TRAINING CLUB INTRODUCTION TO DOG SPORTS

If you've always wondered if you could do what those talented handler/dog teams accomplish in agility, Obedience, CGC testing, FETCH, Scent Work and more, the Chino Valley Canine Training Club's spring Intro to Dog Sports is just the way to find out.

On March 22, from 9am - 2pm, members of the club will be doing demos of different sports available to participate in with your dog, including Rally, Fast-Cat, FETCH, Scent Work and more. The event will take place at Memory Park in Chino Valley.

The event is free to the public, with



additional CGC and FETCH tests available for \$10 per test.

Owners who want to enter the CGC & FETCH tests may bring their dog. Otherwise, please leave pets at home. Mixed breed

AND purebred dogs may enter but will need to be registered with AKC in advance (akc.org/register/dog) or on your phone at the event.

Demos will be performed throughout the day and the club is working on a few other special guests too. For more information and registration, please visit the club website at CVCTC.net, and click on Events.

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Chino Valley Canine Territorial Stroll On Again

# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK-ING EQUITATION

By Rita Thompson Tinsley

Let's face it. Every horse needs a job. They know it. We recognize it. This might just be the most fun, dynamic, and adventurous collaboration where you and your horse can apply.

Meet Swiss-born Tessa Nicolet, founder of Cohesive Horsemanship. She began her journey with horses very young in life. Tessa, as early as 11 years old, was putting first rides on many a young horse that she was working with in her family's New Mexico business. She spent countless hours with these horses face to face, on the ground, before ever sitting in the saddle. It was important to build a foundation of trust with them to ensure safety for both her and the horse.

Today, that foundation has helped Tessa's focus on building a genuine partnership between humans and their horses based on mutual trust, confidence, and respect. Her program is amazingly designed to teach both rider and horse to become integral partners accomplishing specific goals which translate remarkably to Working Equitation.

Modern day Working Equitation is a sport borrowed from the old world, rich in history, reflecting riding traditions originating from Spain, Portugal, France, and Italy. Each country has contributed their influence, such as the skills of the traditional vaqueros, referred to as Spanish cowboys. Working Equitation tests the partnership



Tessa Nicolet of Cohesive Horsemanship with Garrocha pole. Photo by Nick Fornwalt.

skills of both horse and rider in four categories: dressage, ease of handling (manageability), speed trial, and cattle-work trials. (Go to [usawe.org](http://usawe.org) for specifics.)

USA Working Equitation is a fairly new sport which is growing in leaps and gallops. Why is it becoming so popular? According to Amy Star, a WE Masters Level rider serving also as a US and Canadian judge for the events, "Because it's fun and safe with a dressage foundation and (uniquely) a speed trial."

She applauds Tessa Nicolet's launching of Cohesive Horsemanship, stating "She helps peo-

ple to progress and preserves the integrity of both rider and horse." Amy is responsible for forming the Arizona Working Equitation Club, which you can find at [azwec.com](http://azwec.com)

Michele Sharp came from Endurance Riding with her Arabian horses. She was ready for a change and participated in one of Tessa's workshops to learn more. She and horse Abel began at Level 2 but are going to be moving up to Level 4.

Michele loves the French Classical Dressage training, where the horse is more symmetrical. She doesn't do a warm-up practice on obstacles with Abel, claiming that "If you do the dressage work well, the obstacles will go well too."

Besides competing with Abel, Michele has also entered WE events riding her buckskin Lusitano Pingamor. Michele and Abel recently traveled to California for the US Working Equitation Regional finals.

Melody Smith grew up on working ranches in Wickenburg, where she learned first survival riding, "cuz if you fall off, it's a long walk home, and there weren't cell phones!"

Later in life, when Melody's 7-year-old daughter wanted to learn to ride English, they not only learned English riding together but spent the next nine years competing in Eventing (a rigorous sport that includes dressage and jumping).

After Melody's daughter went off to college, Smith was left with

two young Warmbloods that still needed to work, "yet hubby didn't want me to continue Eventing," she states. So, she tried Working Equitation with first Zorro and Cruz, and now also 5-year-old Warlander, Eldorado. Melody and her horses have done tremendously well, starting at Level 3, but now two horses are moving to Level 4.

Regarding the obstacle course, "The goal is to make your ride look effortless with a forward-balanced horse," says Melody. She has won the Speed Round on Cruz at least five times, who despite being a huge Canadian Sport Horse, is extremely athletic.

The Working Equitation community cordially welcomes riders from all disciplines and horses of all breeds with unrivaled support and camaraderie. Quarter Horses are common as are mustangs, and many others.

In earlier times, Spain brought its Doma Vaquera tradition and the vaqueros working their Pure Spanish Horses. France's Gardians were managing their Camarque horses. Italy had the Butteri expertly handling their Murgesen horses, while Portugal's skilled riders sat their amazing Lusitanos, bred over centuries as war horses.

A sport that brings to life the old world's magical mounts performing traditional farm and ranch work, could be you on your backyard beauty with endless effort and sensible schooling.



Michele and Abel at Region 2 Championships in California. Photo by Brooke Louise



Melody Smith with Cruz preparing to Spear a Ring. Photo by Richard Smith.



Tessa schooling a horse to go over the bridge obstacle. Photo by Kevin Kidder.

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# MUST LOVE DOGS: CANINE INTUITION AND THE WILD WORLD OF DATING IN YOUR 40'S

By Solana Kline, Dog-rescue advocate, honorary four-legger, and hopeful romantic

Yes indeed, these are the days of miracle and wonder as Mr. Paul Simon once crooned. But these are also the days of Cat Dad.

Cat Dad is an unfortunately common phrase found on dating profiles of men in their forties. I had hoped I left this behind when I moved from the Pacific Northwest, assuming it was a Portland Hipster fad, but no, Cat Dad persists. Now, this is nothing against the cats themselves, of course. Cats ain't no canine, but they are miraculous creatures, too.

The rub with Cat Dad lies more in the type of man that proudly proclaims himself as such in the online dating world. He usually sports some sort of ironic tie-dye t-shirt with a unicorn blazoned across the front, or dons an old ugly Christmas sweater sourced from the nearest over-priced thrift store. Both tend to be paired with an ironic mullet and mustache duo.

Cat Dad symbolically represents all of the unbelievable strange of dating in your forties with our current technologies: endless online marketplaces to shop for your mate, people catfishing and ghosting one another, assuming their date miraculously won't notice they are seven inches shorter, fifteen years older, and fifty pounds heavier than their profile, avoidance to actually meet in real life, or (heaven forbid) speak on the telephone instead of texting.

Jeesh, I'm exhausted just thinking about it.

Now, you might be asking yourself, what in the world does this have to do with four-leggers? Well, after many years trudging through the sea of divorced-dads-finding-themselves, I have come to the conclusion that my dogs are definitely the best Chuck Woolery I could hope for!

The wise older feller in the movie, *Must Love Dogs* said: "Why one human being is attracted to another is one of the great mysteries of the world". (You know, the film with Diane Lane and John Cusack.) Lane's character wrote "Must love dogs" in her first online dating profile, and Cusack's character pretended he had a dog to curry favor. Lane's dog likes Cusack right off the bat and she trusts her pup's judgement and intuition, even more than her own.

I consider it a legitimate scientific experiment now, after many rigorous trials. I send Betty and Mickey over to greet my date before I even meet them. And boy, do they read the room right. It's definitely a curiosity to see men interacting with new dogs and the pups reacting to their energy, actions, vocal patterns, and scent. And, while I like to think that I am a fairly good read on character, the dogs have pointed out red flags in the first thirty seconds of meeting someone that would have taken me months to weed out.

Our pack has seen it all: The man who is offended that Mickey won't come say hi; the man that the dogs pile on top of for snuggles immediately; the man that both dogs listen to the first time he calls them; the man that the pups are alert and on edge around; and, of course, the man who is so grounded and present that the pups play in the same relaxed joy as if he'd been in our pack for years.

A small part of it, of course is me knowing these hounds so dang well, being familiar with their behaviors and reactions. But the rest is all them. They allow themselves to be fully in tune with their instincts and real-time observations.

While humans are preoccupied with the physical attractiveness of their prospective mate, or daydreams of love at first sight, or lost in the oxytocin highs, our pups remain



*Pups keeping an eye on the horizon while I cheese our family photo*



*The pack enjoying time off judging people with a milk shake*

vigilant to their instincts—sniffing out all of the juicy realities of this new human.

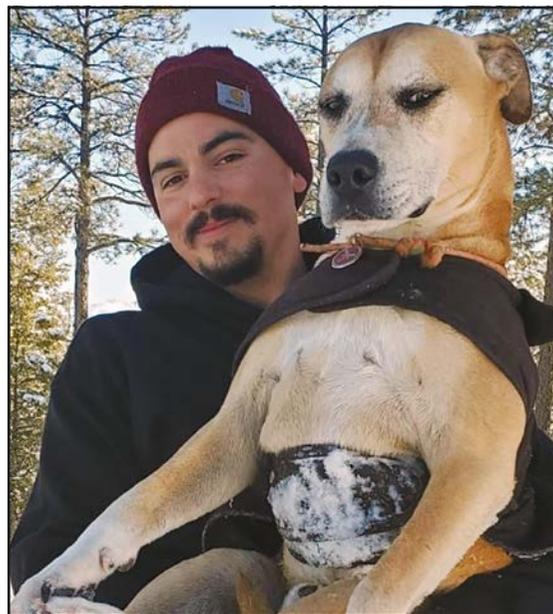
Canine intuition with new humans is very similar to how they read other dogs: they use their senses, past experiences, and the setting to guide their interpretations. Their senses are acutely attuned to the visual bodily cues, scents, movement patterns, energy states, and sounds of a new animal they encounter. They are experts at reading body language of their own species as well as that of humans.

Pack animals (dogs and humans alike) survive because we can read each other in these ways.

Have you seen your pup react to another doggoe that's bristled and on high alert? Or interpret the slightest of growl from a packmate when they get too close to their new knucklebone?

Aside from what they are hearing from their fellow canines, their sense of smell is particularly interesting in that all animals emit varied scents depending on the which emotion they are feeling, and this happens nearly immediately when their mood changes—with humans being a particularly odiferous bunch due to our external sweating mechanisms, like armpits.

Our pups combine these sensory inputs with their own past experiences to make a judgement on this new animal in their presence and determine how they are going to inter-



*Shy-Boy Mickey fully relaxed and happy with his calm-demeanored Uncle Nate*

act with them. When they are with us, they also sense our emotional state when a new human or other animal comes into our pack's sphere.

If you're the pack leader, they'll usually adopt the energy that you're feeling, demonstrating the emotional intelligence and awareness far superior to most humans, I reckon.

When they're gauging the trustworthiness of new humans specifically, canines are particularly adept at reading facial expressions and seeing if those match the energy state and vocal tones that the human is enacting. If a human is feeling anxious and scared but is trying to convince their pup that everything is okay by smiling and speaking in a high tone, the dogs won't fall for it—they can smell you.

Essentially, they can sense the regulation or dysregulation of a human's nervous system—that is, whether a person is calm and predictable, or high-strung and unpredictable. And they behave accordingly.

Notice the next time your pup is around a new person, how much distance do they keep from that human? What does their body language tell you? Are their ears and tails in a relaxed position or perked in alert or emergency modes?

Depending on our doggoes' past experiences with different types of humans and other animals, they'll act and react in a myriad of ways based on their intuitive read on any new person you bring into their world. If you're in tune with your specific pup's behaviors and body language, they'll tell you everything you need to know about a person in your presence.

In the dating world, this really is the ace-up-your-sleeve. I have seen my shy-boy Mickey immediately lay on top of one of my first dates that had the kindest energy. And the ever-vigilant warrior Betty walking or standing between me and a new date that had anxious mannerisms and tones.

In every dating scenario, the pups' interpretations of these new people were dog-gone spot-on with my gut reactions (even if I didn't listen to them right away because he may have been a particularly good lookin' cowboy).

Needless to say, I now make all of my first dates dog walks.

So, when you're out there looking for love, remember to bring your four-leggers and learn to tune back into our own animal instincts by learning from our tail-ed pack-mates and trusting our guts again.

Until next time, keep on spreading the love and good vibes with happy tails and happy trails.

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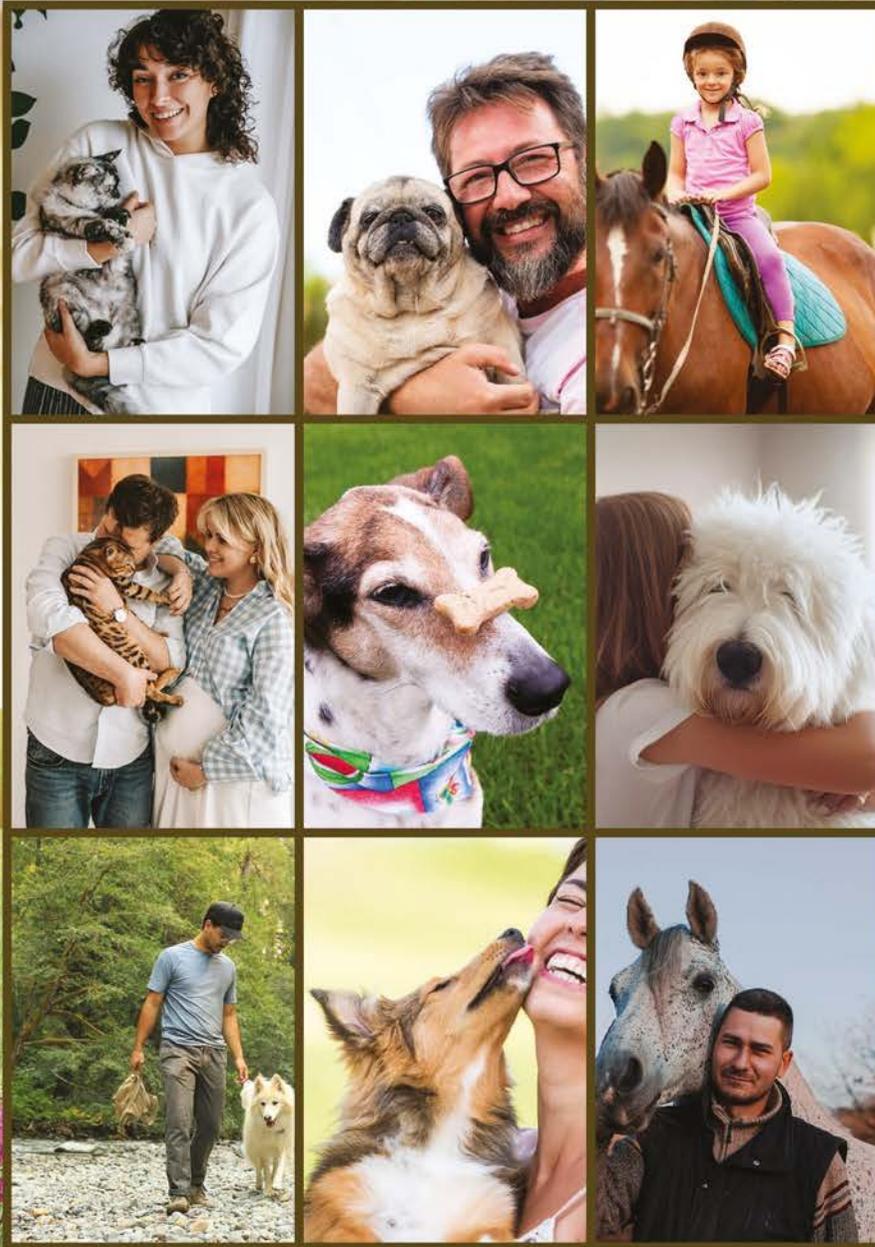


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