

Prescott Dog

magazine

May/June 2026 • PrescottDog.com



**WOOFstock
Event Guide:
All Things Dog**

**Heat, Fire
& Storms**

Time to get Animated!

**Legends are
Made of these**

Nature is Nurture

Introducing Our Cover Dog – Mimi

**TO GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS**



Yavapai Humane Society

We're more than just adoptions...



yavapaihumane.org

YHS SECOND CHANCE MEDICAL PROGRAM

Our Second Chance Medical Program was created for those heartbreaking moments when a beloved pet is injured or critically ill, and their family is faced with the impossible — knowing their pet needs immediate care but not having the financial means to provide it.

Because of the generosity of our community, this lifesaving program steps in to provide urgent veterinary care for qualifying pet owners based on income. It gives pets the second chance they deserve and gives families something just as powerful — relief, hope, and the ability to keep the bond they cherish intact.



YHS SAFETY NET PROGRAM

Our Safety Net Program protects the bond between pets and the people who love them during life's most difficult moments. Whether facing financial hardship, hospitalization, domestic violence displacement, housing instability, or another temporary crisis, families shouldn't have to lose a beloved pet because of circumstances beyond their control.

We help families weather the storm for up to 30 days — giving them time to regain stability while keeping their pets safe and cared for. This compassionate program is made possible entirely through the generosity of our community.

YHS COMMUNITY PET FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Pet Food Pantry helps feed more than 60 families each month allowing their beloved pets to stay at home — right where they belong.

When times get tough, a simple bag of food can make the difference between staying together and facing an impossible decision.

This program is made possible through donations of dog and cat food from caring community members like you. The next time you're at the store, would you consider picking up an extra bag to help a neighbor in need?

Donations can be dropped off at our main campus, 1625 Sundog Ranch Road in Prescott.



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



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Prescott Dog magazine

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PRESCOTT DOG MAGAZINE

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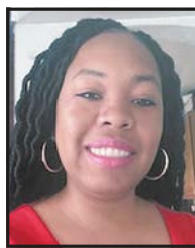
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My servant Mark took my picture



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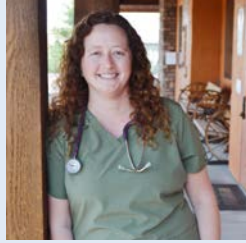
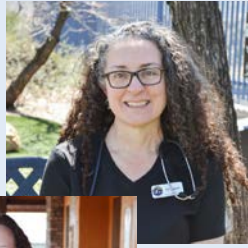


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Equestrian Writer

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Mimi, Our Cover Dog

I'm Mimi. My servant Mark took my picture.

I live in Amazing Prescott, and I just turned two in March.

I don't eat kibble because I'm considered high maintenance. I prefer Raw Dynamic grass-fed beef or lamb.

My favorite people food is In & Out puppy burgers. My favorite toy is any toy my brother has. I just take it from him.

I do like riding in the convertible.

When I am indoors I like bothering my brother. Everyone knows I'm ALPHA.

I like naps in my cozy bed. I do a lot of walking to stay fit, then comes treat time. I also like my brother. He knows I'm The Boss.

A perfect day for me involves sleep, food, treats, and a ride out to Skull Valley. And bothering my brother.



Prescott Dog **COVER DOG 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:

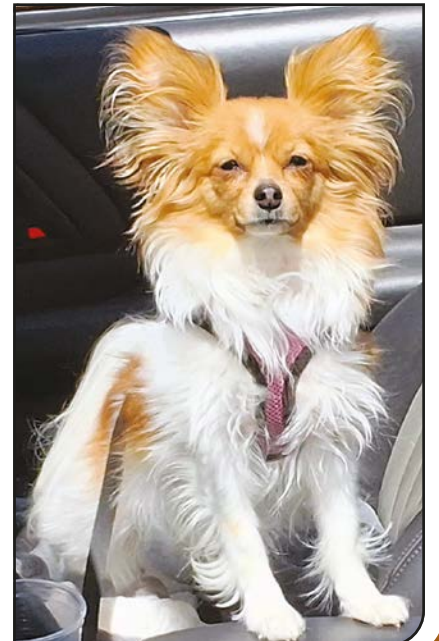
- 1) A \$50. Gift Certificate
- 2) 50 copies of Prescott Dog
- 3) A personalized social media post congratulating your dog as the winner and an electronic copy of the printed cover



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



HAZEL HOWLS (Now with 80% More PRU!)

...or was it *Consolation...*
maybe *Conversation*

Hazel paused to look at Dad one more time before going down the hallway to meet with Pru.

"Go on, Haze... It'll work out," Dad said quietly.

At the doorway to the master bedroom, Hazel looked to find Pru surgically de-fuzzing her tennis ball. She'd managed to surround her front paws with miniature-looking cigars of rolled fuzz.

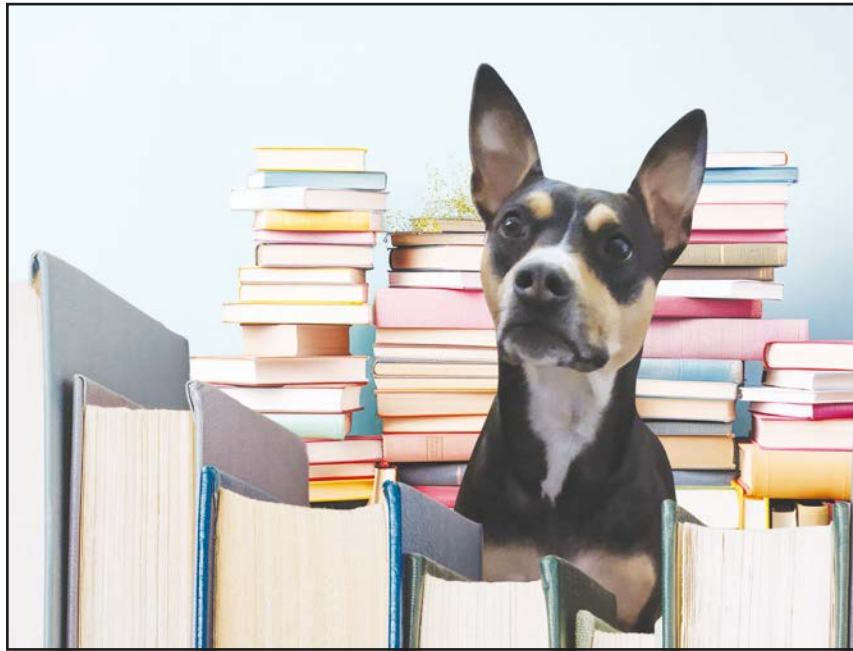
Hazel stepped into the sunlit room with a yawn. "So... have you decided on a story, Pru?"

Pru couldn't answer right away, as her tongue was busy pushing a bright green fibrous wad repeatedly against her upper front teeth to roll and spit out another 'stogie'.

"Well, about that, Hazel... I know you told me to pick one subject to write about today, but I started talking to Keira in Mom's office, and I spent the time encouraging her in her new role... and... I found this tennis ball."

With that, Pru began working a new spot on the ball.

"I think we can set aside the tennis ball for now," Hazel said, stretching and lying down next to Pru. "So, for the last couple of weeks, Prudence, you've been pacing up and down the length of the house spewing endless ideas for your new column, so what have you come up with for today?"



Pru

"I don't spew, Hazel." Obviously annoyed, Pru pulled roughly on her ball and loudly spit out fibers. Skipping the rolling part.

"You don't know where to start, do you?"

Rougher pulling and spitting.

Hazel rolled onto her back and wiggled her hips to center herself next to Pru.

"This is what I do when I have to solve a problem or come up with an idea," Hazel stated playfully.

"I don't see how that would help," Pru said, attempting to imitate Hazel's position while juggling her ball.

The ball, apparently having had enough, escaped Pru's grip and rolled out of reach to temporary sanctuary under the bed.

"See what you made me do," Pru said from her upside-down position to Hazel's also upside-down face.

Both now lay side by side with all paws proudly aimed at the sky. This was the exact moment Dad looked in at them, hopeful and holding his laptop. When Dad took in the scene at the foot of the bed, he correctly assumed he wasn't needed at the moment and moved on.

"Now wiggle your hips, and you can scratch your back on the carpet," Hazel demonstrated exuberantly.

Dad passed by again, glanced in at the wriggle fest, and threw up his hands.

"Let me know if either of you find a story anytime soon," he said walking away.

"Now the best way to start to try writing a new column is to introduce yourself to the readers," Hazel said stopping her gyrations for the moment.

"You mean like my name and stuff?" Pru queried while rolling to her side to look at Hazel.

"Yes, Pru, start with your name."

"My name is..."

Hazel interrupted "Start with 'Hello everyone'."

"Hello everybody, my name is Promise Prudence Pepper, AMC Pacer, Torpedo Away, Muscle Sausage, Flying Pru-lenda, Slick, What Were You Thinking, Incoming, Pru-Dee-Doo, and I am of the breeds Maxi-Pin, Chi-Wiener, and Dobbie-Hua-Hua. I am the newest and youngest member of the Red Dog Pack of Yavapai of which there are four of us, Hazel, Tucker, Keira and me. I am also a sworn Constellation Officer that protects the garden and trees and is not supposed to ever, ever, ever again dig up garden beds.

"I have a Pack Mom and Dad and a backyard and I like to tear up boxes and cardboard to tease my sister Keira with 'til she gets angry and let me tell you, I can really ruffle her fur to where she does this wild bucking bronco spin thing to try to knock me over, and I always get away, mostly, and then I tease her again and sometimes she's quick enough to steal my piece of cardboard and plays keep-away and I try to get it back by going at her from all angles.

"Then our Pack Sheriff Tucker hears the commotion and assumes I started the ruckus and he comes after me to read me the riot act and then he feels bad for yelling at me and sits me down to wash my face and ears and I love that part cause that's what my birth mom did and I really love my pack and my job and..."

"Did you say Constellation Officer, Pru?" Hazel said interrupting, "I thought you were a Consternation Officer, if I remember right."

Pru thought for a moment, "No, Haze, I'm pretty sure it's Constellation."

Both were quiet for a moment, trying to remember.

Pru stood up to stretch. "So is that a good beginning to a story?"

"Other than the run-on sentences, I think we found a path, but we should whittle down the number of names maybe. Don't want to confuse anyone trying to remember who wrote the column."

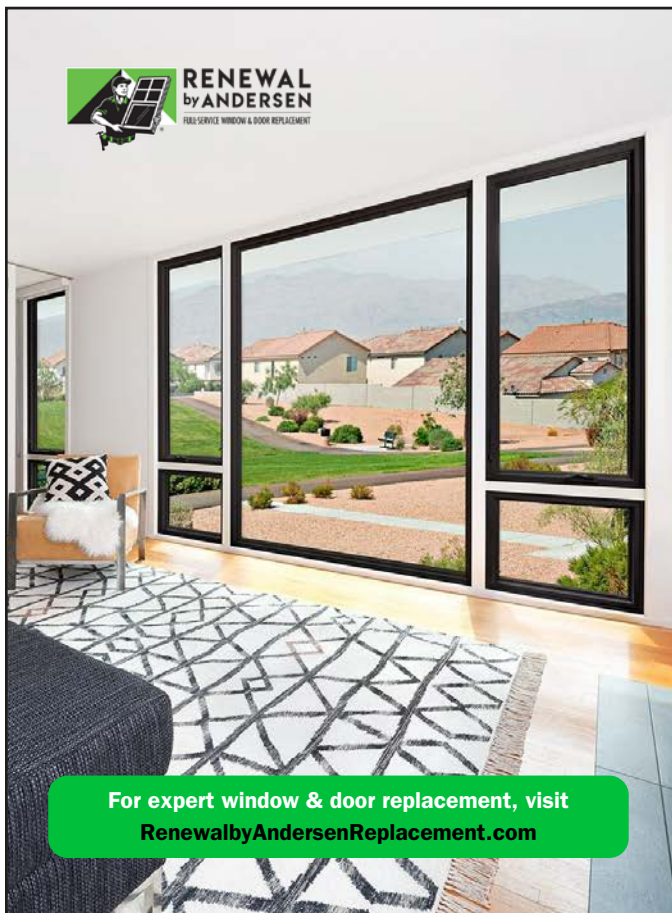
Pru turned to the window to watch quail coming in to land on the fence. Her eyes widened, watching for the slightest movement of the intruders heading down into the garden.

"I feel a sense of mission coming over me," Pru said.

Hazel promptly rose to her paws. "DAD, Get the laptop. Hurry!"

~Hazel Bazel &
Promise Prudence Pepper

Hazel Howls (Now with 80% More PRU!)



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HAIRBALL DIARIES: SHADOW'S TIPS & TRIX FOR SUMMER 2026

By Kay and Shadow Lockett



Shadow at the table

My name is Shadow, Mama's black cat. Today I yukked up my first kitty gift of the season—an odd-shaped wet thing, which is a far cry from the lizards and birds I used to leave when I was indoor/outdoor.

This latest situation calls for a few tricks—one is that our grooming efforts must be sped up to double time as I do not particularly like chocking these things up. Besides that, Mama doesn't like them and starts to hover over me to be sure I am okay. She really gets uptight when these goopy goodies have bits of food. Add this most recent big one to the Hairball Hall of Fame.

Some of the side remedies for hairballs are really tricky, such as that funny tasting gel she tries to jam down my throat. The only hairball remedies I like are extra-long grooming sessions along with a specially made kibble hairball remedy. Don't ask me how these work, but they are better than that gel stuff. Though I have to admit that the gel does loosen things up when I'm constipated.

Now for the discussion about my sleeping habits. Mama knows I need to sleep all day. I hear her creeping around my quiet space to check on my breathing. At my top senior weight of six pounds and almost fifteen years old, I may look like a bundle of feathers piled on the bed. But hey, that's me asleep, resting up for



Shadow's new doll



Watch for the blink

my regular nocturnal pursuits.

What I treasure is the time to do what cats naturally need to do: sleep 15-20 hours a day. Biologically, it allows feline healing and regenerating that ultimately gets passed on. It's said that a cat's purring vibrations are peaceful and healing to all.

Now it's almost time to rise, eat dinner as the sun sets, and ready myself for my midnight prowling antics. Tonight I will be yowling at the moon, jumping over and onto the snoring lump in the bed, and attempting robbery as I try to pry open the pantry door.

Yay for your midnight slumbering as I creep onto the kitchen counters, the dining room table, and check the toilet to see if the lid was left open. I know that the toilet water is the big no-no. Mama says that there are always hidden toxins down there, but I keep hoping to find it open to see for myself.

Next up for cat tips is to settle the eternal question about the meaning of life: Who Rescued Whom? Remembering that I own and preside over you, that I bless you with my presence, that you use my name for your online password, and that I give your life meaning and joy—again, I ask who rescued whom?

As to the subject of clingy-ness, please, no one use the word 'pest'. When I am asleep, you hover, when I am aloof, you persist, and when I meow, you listen and fetch.

I hear some whispers about cats and dogs being... what? Vegan? Seriously? A carnivore is a carnivore. Please pay attention: Do you want to kill off my species?

I hunt because, as soft and sweet as I am at home, I am by nature a sleek, panther-like huntress, eating what nature designed me to eat. My



Shadow finds a new resting place

fav are baby lizards in the spring, mice all the time, and hopefully, a baby bird or two now and for the holidays.

Showing how much I love you is subtle. Here are some of the many ways I show how kitty-love is given and received. When I blink at Mama, she slow blinks back. When I follow her around—not asking for anything—she talks or sings to me. When I want to be on the chair, she of-

fers me her lap. And, most fun of all, when I am making biscuits, she gives me space on her blanket.

Did you know that when cats yawn and stretch for seemingly no reason, it's our way of showing love because we feel safe with you? And did you know that when we rub up against you, we're actually marking you with our scent to show that we trust you? We stare for no reason, but when we blink, it's a kiss.

Mama is a good blinker. She never jostles me when I am asleep, and she tickles me under my chin.

Finally, it's important you're aware that I also show love by snuggling up, purring loudly, rolling over, and by bringing goodies mentioned before—including the big wet goeey one I left today.

Sending feline best wishes to all for a happy summer season. MEOW



Ahh, a comfortable lap



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WOOFSTOCK SECTION
PAGES 12-16

Hairball Diaries: Shadow's Tips & Trix for Summer 2026

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS

AARF ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY

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

BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY

Shows adoptable dogs at Prescott Petco Sun 11a-1pm or by appt.
Info: blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942.

CATTY SHACK – CAT ADOPTIONS

Onsite: Tue-Sat, 10a-2p,
609 S. Granite St., Prescott.
snsmart@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

PET LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

3rd Wed of each month 2p-3p, Unity Church, 145 S Arizona Avenue, Prescott. More info: Jennifer 928-899-0520 or jenleighaz@paws4compassion.net

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

Tue-Sat 9-4. Donations accepted
Wed-Sat 9-2. Every Tue is 25% OFF for Veterans & Active Duty Military. Every Wed is 25% OFF for Seniors (55 & over). 1601 Iron Springs Road, Prescott 928-445-5668

YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS

Most Sat at Prescott Petco.
Visit YavapaiHumaneTrappers.org to request mtg or complete pre-adoption form.

MAY & JUNE EVENTS

HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- May 1 Zoo by Moonlight
- May 2 Evening with Wolves
- May 9 Breakfast with Eagles & Raptor Friends
- May 16 Walk on the Wild Side
- May 23 After Dark at the Park (Adult)
- May 30 ZooLittles
- May 30 Sip & Paint (Adult)

- May 31 Zoo by Moonlight
- June 6, 19, 27 ZooLittles
- June 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22-26 ZooCamp
- June 13 Breakfast with the Lemurs
- June 30 Zoo by Moonlight

CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK EVENTS

- ALL-BREED OPEN SCHOOLING SHOW. May 2
- MINIATURE HORSE ASSOCIATION FUN SHOW. May 16
- COWBOY CHALLENGE/EXCA CLINIC AND COMPETITION. May 30-31
- DRIVING SHOW. Jun 6
- BRAVE HEARTS EQUESTRIAN EVENT exclusively for Veterans, Active Military and First Responders. Sponsored by Horses With Heart. Jun 13. Register: auctria.events/bravehearts or 928-533-9178.
- BRAVE HEARTS HOME TOWN HEROES BBQ at 2705 S Hwy 89 in Chino Valley. Jun 13, 3p-7p. Sponsored by Horses With Heart. Info: 928-533-9178 or horseswithheartaz.org/bravehearts-2026
- WESTERN DRESSAGE. Jun 14



Rescue Resources

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



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



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICES
Shelter for animals in the event of a disaster.
PO Box 10793, Prescott • 928-642-0758
AnimalDisasterServices.com

LASER
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laser-shelter.org



What Does Being a Rescue Dog Mean?

We may come from mixed parents and we call them mixed blessings.

If blended, we are one-of-a-kind", less fragile, live longer with less ailments.

Perhaps we were a cute puppy until we weren't: too active, too noisy, too this or that, no real training or socialization, just expectations we can't live up to.

Some call us leftovers but someone has let us down. Some say we no longer fit into their life: a move, health/job change, divorce, new baby, younger puppy, even our color.

We are victims in a way, but also survivors. All we ask is for someone to believe in us, love us and make us the best we can be in that special home and family.

"I have arrived at a different place called AARF Animal Rescue and get to stay here with loving people who treat me as special until I can find my real forever family. I have friends to play with, good food and treats, volunteers who walk me, and know I will be safe & cared for."



Leo

P.S. They come to this rescue (a place called AARF) hopefully for a short stay. We ask that you help when you can so others can follow when they are ready to say 'so long' and 'thank you' to all those volunteers who made our days special.

In the past two years, we've received the majority of our intakes from owner-surrenders, and that is a sad reality today. Just look at the Facebook rehoming sites, and you will see too many wonderful pets on them, waiting for what they hope will be their forever home.

A few of our residents have been with us far too long. We are also a sanctuary, but that's not our focus, and we want to find that special person for Chablis, Doodles, Jewels, Leo, Cotton, Ziggy, Foxy, Rhea, and Tali. If you'd like to know more, please go to Peffinder/AARF—or better, come out to meet them. Some may also be at the upcoming WOOFstock event.



Barb's Dog Rescue of Rocky Point is excited to load up the BDR bus and bring our charming, adorable Mexi dogs to Prescott Valley for this year's Woofstock event. This will be our third year attending, and we wouldn't miss it for the world.

Barb's Dog Rescue is the largest on-site dog rescue in Mexico, located along the Sea of Cortez in beautiful Puerto Penasco. We work tirelessly to save the lives of the innocent, voiceless street dogs. BDR heals their broken bodies and spirits, and makes them available for adoption at our Mexico campus, our sister location in Peoria, and through events like WOOFstock.

We've received such a warm welcome from our Prescott area supporters, and dozens of our lucky dogs have found their forever homes in the Prescott area. Our dogs can't wait for their road trip—we will see you very soon. barbsdogrescue.org



Eve and her unborn puppies received a last-minute reprieve from a death sentence, thanks to the networking efforts of United Animal Friends (UAF) alongside rescue groups on the Navajo Nation. She had been picked up as a pregnant stray on the border of Arizona and New Mexico, where she ended up in a shelter that lacked the resources to care for her and her litter of forthcoming puppies. After being scheduled for euthanasia, Sunshine Dog Rescue sent out a desperate plea for

help, and UAF answered the call.

Eve arrived at the UAF Rescue Ranch the day before Christmas in 2024 and was named for the day that marked the beginning of her new life. Four days later, she gave birth to six healthy puppies. As our dog trainer, Sammi Maon-Lovell, evaluated Eve's friendly, calm disposition, she remembered a woman who had asked Sammi to keep an eye out for a dog who might have the potential to become a therapy dog.

Lee and her husband, Mark, had previously adopted two other dogs, Penny and Sadie, from UAF. They dearly love them, but neither dog had the right temperament to fulfill Lee's post-retirement dream of helping people as part of a dog/human therapy team. After seeing Eve's kind and caring nature, they decided to adopt her into their family.

When Sadie gave her less than a warm welcome, Eve serenely waited for her to come around and was accepted after a few days. Lee said, "Eve has a way of making both dogs and people feel welcomed in her easy-going, balanced, and inviting presence."

Lee adds, "Mark and I are huge proponents of adopting rescue animals and love the way UAF attends to and handles the dogs coming into their facility. What we didn't realize then was that while we were helping

Eve find a forever home, Eve would enrich our lives in ways that we couldn't imagine." Lee and Mark are so grateful to UAF that they have now become volunteers, helping others to experience the joy of adopting.

Eve excelled at Sammi's group dog-training classes and quickly earned her AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate. Lee and Eve then went on to pass the Pet Partners evaluation at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix to become a certified

dog therapy team. After narrowly escaping death, Eve, alongside Lee, is now bringing comfort and joy to those who are experiencing an unfortunate turn of events in life.

Eve's puppies have all been adopted into loving homes. She and five of the six pups recently attended a one-year reunion party at the UAF Rescue Ranch, where they wore specially made scarves, feasted on dog-

(Cont'd on page 10)



Chino Valley Equestrian Park is Going to the Dogs

Showing exceptional versatility in hosting events that appeal to a broad spectrum of animal lovers throughout Arizona, Chino Valley Equestrian Park we opened our gates to NASDA Dog Trials and more.

Featuring a variety of canine competitions ranging from Trailing & Locating, Urban Locating, Shed Dog and Lost Items, a variety of dog breeds competed from all over Arizona during the NASDA Working Dog Trials.

April brought along Earth Dogs, an extraordinary event using manmade underground tunnels to gauge the hunter's ability to find a (caged)



Earth Dogs underground

rodent. Earth Dogs include terriers, dachshunds and miniature pinschers who are nature's avid rodent hunters.

We continue to offer a full schedule of equestrian events, including our annual All-Breed Open Schooling Horse Show Series, Driving Shows, Cowboy Challenge and EXCA, Western Dressage, Obstacle Challenges and more. You can see our entire calendar schedule by visiting events@cvequestrianpark.org.

(Cont'd from page 9)

gie cupcakes, played games, and did an art project.

United Animal Friends, Sunshine Dog Rescue, and Lee and Mark gave Eve and her puppies the gift of a second chance at life when they needed it, and Eve is now returning the gift by offering her kindness to people who need her.



They Didn't Ask to Be Here

Every dog and cat at Yavapai Humane Society ended up in our care through no fault of their own. One day, they had a cozy bed, a favorite toy, daily walks with their person, or peaceful nights curled up on the couch. They were loved. They were home. And then—everything changed. Suddenly, they're here. In a kennel. Surrounded by unfamiliar sounds, unfamiliar smells, unfamiliar faces. It's loud. It's stressful. It's scary. They don't know what happened or why. They only know that their whole world vanished in the blink of an eye.

Some of them came to us as strays—fired, hungry, frightened. Wandering the streets without direction, dodging cars, sleeping in bushes, scavenging just to survive. Were they abandoned? Did someone love them once and lose them? Did their person pass away or fall on hard times? We may never know. What we do know is that no matter what they've been through, they still hold on to hope. They still believe in love. And that says everything.

Fred was one of those dogs who made an impression on everyone here. He spent over a year waiting for his person. He wasn't flashy, just a good, steady, loving dog who would happily join our staff and volunteers for a nice long walk right by your side. Day after day, people passed by his kennel. Until one day, someone stopped. Someone saw him. And now Fred is exactly where he was always meant to be, in a home where he's loved beyond measure.

Ranger's story looks a little different. He needed more time, more patience, and someone willing to see past first impressions. He built a special bond with one of our team members, and little by little, we watched him start to trust again. When the right person came along, everything clicked. Today, Ranger is in a home of his own, still learning, still growing,

and finally getting the chance he deserved.

Stories like Fred's and Ranger's are why we do what we do. Because the truth is, adopting a shelter animal isn't always a Hallmark movie moment. Sometimes it's messy. Sometimes it takes patience. These animals are scared. They don't know your routines, your house, your family. They've been through something and perhaps a lot of somethings. Some haven't felt love in a long time. Some may never have known it at all.

But when they're given a chance, the transformation is pure magic. They bloom. They learn to trust. They come out of their shells and show you their goofy side, their cuddly side, their true self. All they need is someone to believe in them, to give them the time and safety to settle in. Someone to say, 'You're safe now. I've got you.' You can see it in their eyes if you take the time to look. That silent plea of 'Love me. Give me a chance to love you.'

It's one of the hardest things in the world, watching these beautiful souls sit and wait day after day. They don't understand why the world they knew is gone. They don't understand why every new face walks past without stopping, or the barking. The chaos. The heartbreak. But still, they hope. They hope someone will come. Someone who sees beyond breed, age, or behavior notes. Someone who sees their heart. Because they have hearts. They have emotions. They have souls. And they deserve a second chance. Will you be the one to give it to them?

Visit yavapaihumane.org to see all the animals looking for their forever home, and make an appointment to walk through our kennels—not just with your eyes, but with your heart. Because there just might be a dog or cat here who's been waiting for you.



It all began with a phone call from Skyler's uncle: someone he knew had a litter of puppies. One wasn't thriving and was now near death. He knew Skyler had the medical skills to change this two-week-old puppy's downward spiral, and hence his plea for her to help. It was mid-November, and Skyler had just finished bottle feeding an earlier lit-

ter of pups, so she was all set up and ready to go.

The baby was so weak that Skyler was forced to syringe-feed her; she didn't have the strength to nurse on her own. So, it was every two hours of formula for this little girl. When she didn't rally, Skyler had to resort to tube feeding. The puppy did eventually bounced back.

Someone commented that she looked and acted like a little spirit bear, so that became her name moving forward. And what better name for a puppy born on Halloween? She became fearless as she grew and was determined to hold on to life, which helped her pull through. And so she thrived and came into her own as a vivacious, happy pup.

Her next challenge took place when she was almost two months old: Skyler's older labrador corrected the rambunctious baby, accidentally dislocating Spirit's jaw in the process. It was a frantic few moments when she was screaming and running, as the other dogs were startled and reacting. Skyler and her family were frantically trying to get to the puppy.

Spirit was rushed to a vet who was limited on time and equipment, but she was given the medications she needed to stabilize. Later, a visit to a specialist confirmed the dislocation, and her jaw was reset while securing it with a soft muzzle.

Now Skyler's challenge became feeding Spirit enough food with the



Spirit

muzzle on and keeping the area clean for three weeks. But that is what Skyler did, feeding Spirit gruel up to five times a day. It paid off when the vet declared Spirit stabilized, and she earned her freedom from the muzzle.

Spirit could then be a full-on puppy with all her silliness coming out as she gained confidence. Fortunately, she showed no fear of other dogs or people and was learning the fun of being safe and exploring her world.

Her last challenge from this injury will be the removal of a few of her adult teeth that will likely, due to the bite damage, be out of alignment when they grow in. But Spirit's spirit is strong, and she is sure to get through that with flying colors.

Rescue work has its challenges. But when we can make in an animal's life turn around regardless the setbacks, so they can prosper, we know our time is well spent. It's said that our lives are a reflection of our deeds, and the more light we give to the world, the brighter our own lives will be.

To see if you'd like to meet Spirit or help another animal in need, please visit our website. While the struggles of animals trying to survive can be daunting, we're the ones who can step up and make a positive change. Visit us at blackhathumane-society.org to find some great ways to make a difference for reservation dogs and cats.





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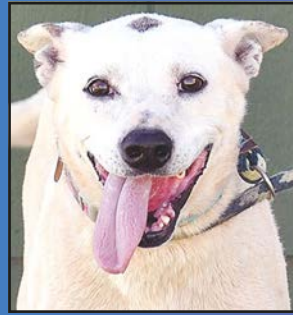
PANCAKE: A 2mo male puppy. Full of personality & ready for his forever family. Mom appears to be a Lab/Shepherd mix, so him to grow into a wonderful medium-sized companion. United Animal Friends 928-778-2



ARABELLA: A 5-year-old female Red Heeler who weighs 45 pounds. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society for more information. 928-445-2666



BOO: A three-year-old male Terrier. He can be a bit timid, so he is looking for someone willing to help him acclimate. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666.



DOTTIE: A 2yo female mixed breed, named after the dot on her head. Loves being w/her people. Mellow, easygoing, and kind of heart. She enjoys walks, perfect on the leash. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



BUBBLES: A 3-year-old female Australian Cattle Dog. A sweet female with a gentle heart and shy spirit. She can be overwhelmed, so she is looking for a calm, patient home. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



MISSY: A 2yo female red Cattle Dog mix. Has a calm, loving personality. Good w/other dogs. Is a gentle, loving companion with a soft spirit. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



BROWN: A 12-year-old male Australian Shepherd. He is a quiet, gentle soul. He's a little shy when meeting new people, but underneath he has a heart full of love just waiting to shine. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



PATSY: A tricolor female puppy. Funny, curious, playful, smart, goofy, confident, active. Good W/ other dogs and cats. Great match for active family & and hiking buddy. Blackhat Humane Society at blackhathumane@gmail.com



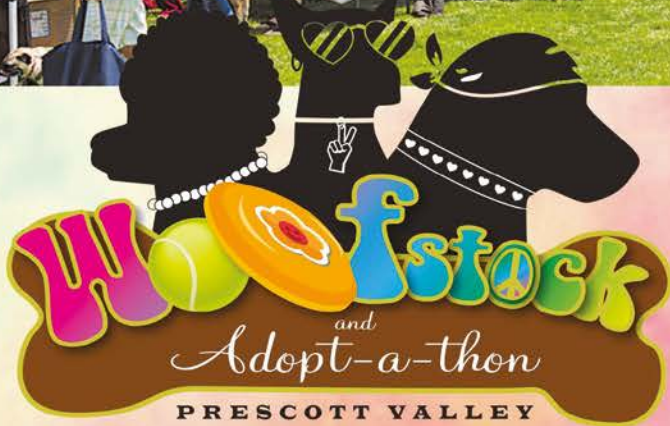
DAWN: A 2yo female Rottweiler weighing 60lbs. Easygoing, enjoys head rubs & back pats. Looking for a forever home with someone who enjoys taking long walks and cuddles. Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



JINGLE: A male yellow Labrador/Cattle Dog puppy. He is friendly, playful, smart, curious, sweet, and very affectionate. He would love to find someone to nurture his willing personality. Blackhat Humane Society/foster Toby 928-899-3942

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SEE FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM MARYS PEAK SUMMIT TRAIL

Story and photos by Cheryl Hartz



Cool respite to look toward the Pacific Ocean.

Because Arizona is a treasury of Native American cultural sites, we tend to forget that such treasures exist in other states. Oregon, with its Marys Peak—all 924 acres of it—is a prime example in the Suislaw National Forest. For the Kalapuya people of the Willamette Valley, the peak is a sacred area. However, they call it Tcha-Ti-Man-Wi, the Spirit Mountain.



Another view toward the Pacific from Marys Peak.



A biker relaxes amid wildflowers.



What animals might live in this hollow tree?

Immigrants who came long after the native people found a variety of uses for the mountain. But it seems the mountain did not always appreciate the intrusions. Capricious weather played a large role.

The earliest of these drove their grazing livestock to its meadows. Loggers transported their goods from the peak by local railroad in the early 1900s.

A gravity flow water system, constructed in 1905, continues to supply water through the Municipal Watershed from Marys Peak to the City of Corvallis below.

In 1959, the US Air Force built a radar station that was never used after a storm blew the antenna away. Rather than rebuild, the Cold War Continental Air Defense System abandoned the site. Contemporary radio communications towers currently serve from the summit, however.

In 1930, The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built a fire lookout that stood until 1968. For a decade in the 40s and 50s, a ski club operated a tow rope on the summit. Unpredictable snow pack caused its abandonment.

At 4,097 feet, Marys is one of Oregon's highest peaks. In fact, it is the Coast Range's highest point. Stunning views toward the Pacific Ocean 25 miles to the west and the Cascades to the northeast are available on clear days.

Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson, the Three Sisters and even Washington state's Mt. Rainier nearly 250 miles away might be in sight. With nearly 13 miles of trails to explore, you might



Hikers get a glimpse of the expansive view.

have a chance to see it all. But please stay on trails, as the mountain plants are fragile.

We had just such a clear day for our hike up the Summit Loop (1388) and East Ridge (1324) trails. The trail is a gravel road, but closed to motor vehicles, horses and pack stock.

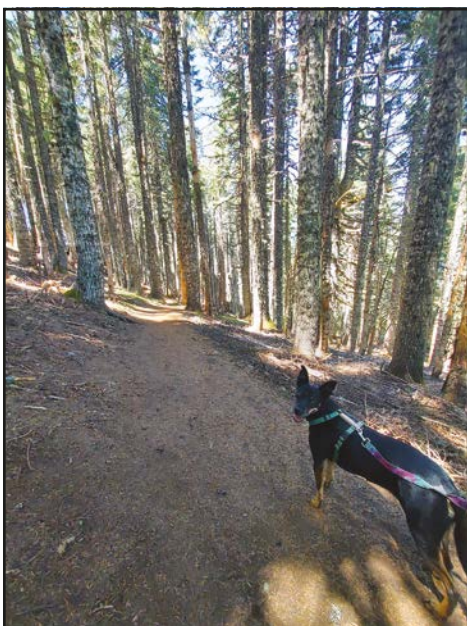
Dogs are welcome, and our Ducky enjoyed every bit of the 2-mile round trip hike.

A unique Noble fir forest exists on the mountain, which is a designated Scenic Botanical Area because of its meadows, abundant spring and summer wildflowers and a profusion of native plants and trees, including towering Douglas firs. Wildlife likes it here, too. Birders have recorded more than 70 species of avians.

Mary Lloyd, the first white woman to cross the Marys River, might be the inspiration for the common name. Although Marys Peak might be easier for most people to remember, personally, I find "Chateemanwee" more fun to say.

It's also a fun place to hike.

Happy scenic hiking!



A hiker and his dog head up the Summit Loop Trail.

See for Hundreds of Miles from Marys Peak Summit Trail

HEATWAVE, FIREWORKS, THUNDERSTORMS AND OTHER HAZARDS

Plan Now to Keep Your Dog Safe and Healthy This Summer

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Summer brings unique challenges for keeping our beloved dogs safe and healthy. But with a little planning, you and your dog can enjoy all the activities of the warmer season without worry.

Keeping your pet safe on warm summer days

Know the signs of overheating

It's important to plan ahead for summer outings with your dog, so you can avoid the dangers of overheating. You should know the symptoms of overheating, which can include excessive panting, difficulty breathing, drooling, and in severe cases, weakness, lethargy and collapse. Overheated pets can vomit, become lethargic, or have seizures. If you are out in hot weather, and your dog begins to exhibit these or other signs that are out of character, move them to someplace cool and get immediate veterinary help.

It's especially important to be aware that dogs with flat faces - called brachycephalic, - such as pugs, Pekingese and bulldogs, cannot pant effectively in heat, and can more easily suffer heatstroke. Other risk factors are dogs that are overweight, elderly, and those with health issues. It's important to keep these dogs in controlled temperature conditions during hot weather.

Plan ahead for summer activities – avoid hot paws!

Having your pets with you as you enjoy summer activities is enjoyable, but planning ahead is crucial. If you go hiking, running or biking, make sure your dog is in shape to handle the activity you've planned. Some Arizona desert communities have laws against hiking with your pet during hotter days. Be sure you know the laws in your area – violations can carry heavy fines, and your pet's safety is paramount. Carry plenty of water with you, and realize that if your dog cannot continue, you'll have to find a way to carry him.

It's especially important to realize that pavement and even dirt can become uncomfortably or even dangerously hot for your dog's paws, sometimes causing serious burns. Hot asphalt or sand can also cause your dog to quickly overheat.

Never leave your dog in a parked car

Every year, law enforcement is called to rescue pets left in a parked vehicle. It only takes a few minutes for your car to become hot enough to kill your dog, even if the windows are left slightly open. Even if you think you're going into a store for

a few minutes, time passes quickly and if you are delayed, it could mean your dog's life. If you're going out in the summer, it's best to leave your dog safe at home.

Access to shade and clean water

Just as we need to stay hydrated, our dogs must have access to plenty of clean water to stay healthy during hot summer days. Dogs should always have cool shelter, shade or stay indoors in hot weather.

Be careful around pools, lakes and rivers

Some dogs are natural swimmers, but others, such as those with short noses or those with health conditions, can quickly find themselves in trouble in a body of water. Supervise carefully and don't overdo the exercise, even if it is in the water. Make sure your dog can easily get out of a pool if you allow him to swim, and if you're in an area with a pool, be sure your dog cannot jump or fall in without a way out. Be aware that some lakes in summer have algae that can be fatal to your dog – know the conditions of water before you allow your dog to swim. Your dog will also need plenty of clean water to drink, regardless of whether you are around water or not.

Don't shave your dog if it will be outdoors in summer

It's easy to think that your dog will be comfortable if you shave it during the summer. But a dog's coat is designed to insulate against cold, heat and sun. It's fine to trim long hair to make your dog more comfortable and easier to care for, but a complete shave can make him susceptible to sunburn and heatstroke. Many people shave their elderly pets in summer – if you do, keep them inside and supervise outdoor time.

Beware of garden and plant hazards

Dangerous plants and garden products

Dogs love to run and play on cool grass, but insecticides and fertilizers can be dangerous to your pet. If you fertilize or use insecticides, be sure to read labels carefully and keep your pet off the grass for the amount of time the label suggests. Keep all garden products out of reach of pets. Certain mulch products, such as those made with cocoa bean, are deadly to dogs. Read labels and research before you use such garden products. It's also wise to research the kinds of plants you place in your garden, as some are dangerous to dogs.

Safe summertime - prepare for fireworks and thunderstorms

Thousands of dogs are lost each year during fireworks celebrations because the noise and vibrations cause them to panic and try to escape. Frightened dogs can jump or climb fences, break through windows, or panic and escape even if on a leash. As summer fireworks shows approach, make sure your dog is microchipped and during fireworks, securely contained in your home. Play soothing music, and if your dog is particularly afraid of loud noises, check with your vet ahead of time for a calming sedative if needed. Many pet outlets carry natural calming chews and treats that are effective.

Some dogs are especially sensitive to thunderstorms, but there are steps you can take as summer monsoons approach. Offer your dog a safe place to shelter during thunderstorms – a closet or covered crate often helps. Thundershirts™ are a proven help for anxious dogs during summer storms. Thunderworks.com™ offers a number of calming products and advice to help your pet during these times.

Update your pet's vaccines and guard against pests

Some dangerous or deadly illnesses such as Rabies, Parvovirus and distemper are more prevalent during warmer months. Be sure to keep your pet's vaccinations up to date, and remember to check dates for Rabies vaccines – bites can happen anytime and can require quarantine for your pet. You'll want your pet to be protected in case it comes in contact with a wild animal.

Use caution with topical pesticides

It's wise to be careful with topical insecticides for pets – some dogs are sensitive to them and they can even be fatal. Many natural products will control the occasional tick or flea, but consult with your vet if you have a more persistent problem. Be aware that some dog breeds are more sensitive to certain topical pesticides and medicines – know your dog's breed before use.

Guard against foxtails

While you're out, watch out for contact with foxtails. Your dog can pick up foxtails in your yard or while out for walks and hikes. These little barbed seeds can work their way into paw pads, nose or ears, and sometimes require extraction by a veterinarian. Be aware of excessive sneezing, ear scratching or pain, or any sore or lump that might indicate a foxtail has worked its way under the skin. Check often in between your dog's paws, in its ears, and down to the skin to remove foxtails before they become a problem.

Resources

Summer Safety & Travel Tips

- Arizona Humane Society: azhumane.org
- American Kennel Club: tinyurl.com/2s43b9se
- Thundershirts™ and calming products: Thunderworks.com

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It's Time to Get Animated!

Find out which Cartoon dog you embody the most

By Njeri Dean

I think all of us can agree that people love to watch cartoons. Cartoons have been a staple in peoples' lives for many years. Everybody can relate to cartoons because they depict different walks of life and scenarios that are relatable to the majority of people out in the world.

One commonality that is always a frequent occurrence in many cartoons is the presence of pets. Think about it. If you have ever watched the cartoon show Scooby Doo or Courage the Cowardly Dog, the main characters on the shows are the pets. Pets, especially dogs, have been shown as frequent characters in cartoons.

People shouldn't be surprised that one of the world's most popular pets is chosen in cartoons to frequently display what a family is like to TV audiences around the world. Have you ever wondered if you embody the characteristics of one or more of the cartoon dogs that have been shown on TV? This is your chance to see if you relate to any cartoon dogs from your childhood to now.

Clifford the Big Red Dig

You're the elephant in the room. You stand out, but in a good way. When you walk into a room everybody notices because of the positive way that you treat people. Everybody is a friend to you. You rarely single anybody out. When you see somebody that doesn't belong to a particular group, you usually take them under your wing and befriend them. You already have an established friend group, but you always want to meet new people and make people feel that they belong.

Loyalty is the name of your game. The people in your circle of friends can be trusted to keep your secrets and stand up for you when the time is right. Your only downfall is letting too many people in and revealing so much of yourself. Let yourself be a mystery sometimes and don't reveal everything all at once.

It's nice to know that you're an open book, but sometimes you need to keep some things to yourself and let others



come to you for a change. With your big heart, you're always meeting new people and sticking up for people who are different. What are friends for if you don't think big with a big heart.

Snoopy

You're very creative. You are often in your own head a lot and tend to overthink. Your friend circle is limited because your main priority is yourself most of the time. Thinking of ways to outsmart your opponent and do better in all areas of life is your main concern. People might think you are lazy and antisocial because you invest in yourself a lot more than you invest in others.

Trying to go with the flow is really hard for you because you have your own ideas, and you're very independent. You have very high self-esteem and don't need approval of a group to validate yourself. Your weakness comes in social situations and the way you come off to people. Others might think that you come across as arrogant and a little rude.

Try to expand your social group and not isolate yourself from the human race. You never know when you might meet your best friend and your intellectual match. Being independent isn't a bad thing, but opening your heart to people could expand your horizons.

Scooby Doo

You're very timid and shy. It takes a lot out of you to make friends. The good

thing is that once you make friends with somebody, you are a loyal and committed companion. You hate being alone because you fear that you won't cope well with being independent. Once you're in a friend group, you usually go with the flow and don't speak up for yourself.

You have encountered instances where people take advantage of you, and you don't do anything about it. It's great that you don't rock the boat sometimes. You want everybody to be happy. You're not a natural disruptor or a kill joy. You yearn to be independent, but you don't know how to separate yourself from your group of friends. Once you learn how to find your voice and stick up for yourself, you will gain confidence and be on your own more often. Believing in yourself is the best medicine for you

Pluto

You are always out for a good time. You never have an off switch. People describe you as always on the go and try to make every moment magical and amazing. You're the life of the party and always there to make a boring moment fun and amazing. People tend to feel overshadowed by you on most occasions. It's good to share the spotlight and let your friends be the center of attention sometimes.

With you, people feel that they can have endless conversations and be themselves. You attract a lot of people. Yet you tend to have people that hold animosity towards you because you are so popular and well-liked. Watch out for people who call you friend and then talk about you behind your back. You are a diamond in the rough, and you should be treated like the amazing person you are.

Courage the Cowardly Dog

You exaggerate about everything. You make tiny problems into bigger ones just by worrying. You mean well, but sometimes you take things too far. The good thing about your personality is that you are on your guard most of the time.

You're really into your surroundings and pay attention to people when they have something to say. If you feel that somebody is not right for you and your lifestyle, you gradually distance yourself from that person or group of people.

You are rarely fooled by anyone or anything. You may need to let your guard down once and while. Not letting people in can start to affect your mental and physical well-being. You know that everybody can't be your friend, and you can't be friends with everybody.

Knowing what is positive and negative to your life is what makes you a truly perceptive human being.

Bluey

You love to play and be outdoors. You're the best at making up games to play with your friends and younger children in your care. Your imagination is what fuels your life, always exploring and seeking your next adventure. People feel that when you're around them, they will have a good time and learn something new. There is never a dull moment in your presence. To boot, you have a great family life and dynamic with the people around you.

With people surrounding you all the time, you might feel the need to pull back and have some time for yourself. You need to know who you are and stand on your own two feet. Taking time for yourself doesn't mean you're antisocial, but it's time to re-group and give your brain a rest. Try reading a book or even going on an outing alone to see what you truly like to do outside of the bubble you are already in.

Odie (beloved dog from the Garfield franchise)

You are openly optimistic. You take negative energy and turn it into positive energy. Others may not see you as the sharpest tool in the shed, but once you get the courage and confidence to show them what you are really made of, you surprise people in the end. Sometimes you doubt yourself, but for the most part you turn your doubt into motivation to do better, trying to get people to see you in a different light.

You let people overshadow you. You need to tell people to lay off sometimes. If you can't get people to treat you right, you should let them go and be around people who love and respect you. The best part about you is that you do let people in, but you shouldn't have to prove yourself all the time to get people's attention.

Goofy

You don't take life too seriously. People see you as a klutz, but that is not totally who you are. You are lovable and have a parental instinct like no other. You love to foster creativity, especially in young people. You always want to make people happy, and you are devastated when people don't like you back. Being a people pleaser can be helpful sometimes, but it can do negative things to your confidence.

Keep being you, but don't be taken advantage of by people who have ill intent. Be more perceptive of the people and places around you, and you will be just fine. Being you and not caring what others think will make you better off in the long run.

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THE GIFT OF LOVING MORE THAN ONCE: LETTING LOVE FIND YOU AGAIN

By Jennifer Leigh Baker

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

~Winnie the Pooh, by A.A. Milne

For many, after the loss of their animal companion, choosing not to adopt again can feel like the safest, most tender way to protect a heart that's been through so much.

Just like our human companions, animals who enter our lives bring something entirely their own. One may have been your shadow, another your comic relief, another your quiet presence through a difficult season. They are not interchangeable, and the bond we feel with them isn't either.

Sometimes, in the quiet space that follows loss, we begin to recognize just how much care and connection we carry, and why we felt called to rescue, adopt, and welcome them into our lives in the first place. That devotion doesn't disappear; it stays with us, woven into who we are, often finding its way into the world in ways we don't expect.

For some, that may one day include opening the heart again, not as a replacement, but as a continuation, where the love we've known begins to expand, reaching beyond what once was and into something new. For others, it may look like honoring that bond in different ways: through memory, connection, or simply carrying that love forward. There is no single path.

We've been given this gift to extend our devotion to animals and to each other, creating lives rooted in compassion and connection.

Finding Your Way Forward

If you find yourself saying, "I could never get another animal," you're not alone. That feeling often comes from a place of deep love and a desire to protect your heart from experiencing that kind of pain again.

Grief, whether for humans or animals, has no timeline. There's no expectation that you should feel differently than you do. What matters is giving yourself permission to be exactly where you are, while also gently allowing that, in time, something may begin to soften.

What feels like never right now may one day feel like maybe. You may find you're learning how to carry that connection in a new way.

It might begin in small, gentle ways: spending time with a friend's animal companion, supporting a local rescue, or even fostering. Even a quiet openness can make a difference—for an animal's life, and your own.

When the grief feels heavy, you don't have to carry it alone. Reaching out to someone who understands can create space for

healing, at your own pace. Moving forward doesn't mean letting go; it means allowing the possibility that your heart, when it's ready, may open again.

Embracing a New Path

Perhaps one of the quieter gifts animals offer lies in the nature of their shorter lives. They don't just teach us how to love deeply but also show us that we can love deeply again. Maybe not in the same way or with the same story, but with a new bond that still carries meaning and can even help save lives.

In those moments, people often discover something surprising: the love is still there. Not only what they shared, but also the capacity for joy, connection,

(Cont'd on page 23)

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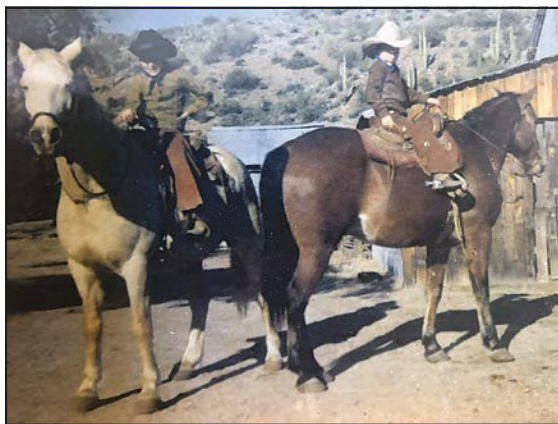




The Gift of Loving More Than Once

LEGENDS ARE MADE OF THESE

By Rita Thompson Tinsley



Bud Balow (L) and younger brother Ben Balow (R), saddled up

Sweet success might seem illusive until you discover the most important keys. True passion, determination, and a whole lot of sweat. That's what these legendary horsemen/and woman have in common, each from very humble to modest means.

Ben Balow grew up in Skull Valley, a rural ranch community west of Prescott where his family were fifth generation ranchers. At 12, Ben got his first job working at the Cross U Ranch, where Rancher Bill Murphy taught Ben the ropes. At 16, Ben was starting horses for neighbors as he and a friend began a small business selling the trained colts.

Early on, Ben decided he wanted to work for a big horse-training operation, so he headed for the Phoenix show barns with a bedroll in his truck and an unrelenting dream in his heart. Eager and determined, Ben drove for days before a trainer enlisted his services. He worked cleaning stalls, eventually riding horses, sleeping in a concrete stall bunk and getting paid very little. He went to horse shows where he initially witnessed a reining horse ridden to a sliding stop.

Trainer Brett Stone showed reining horses so that's where Ben needed to be. He worked hard for Stone, learning a tremendous amount and putting in long hours.

Hearing of legendary reining guru Bill Horn, who lived in Ohio where the reining industry began, Balow called Bill to see if he could come observe his training and offer to pay for the privilege. After earning enough money, Ben flew to Ohio to meet Horn who sadly didn't remember the call. However, he kindly refused Ben's money and Balow eventually got his dream job working and learning more about reining techniques from Bill and riding great horses.



Ben Balow on Reining Horse

Three years later, Ben returned to Skull Valley to open his training barn where, "I got extremely busy extremely fast," says Balow.

Client Susan Nibley trained with Ben for 25 years, winning a world championship on the horse that Ben had chosen and trained. Aside from living his dream as a successful trainer, Ben received his NRHA Judges Card and has enjoyed traveling to many places and five different continents.

Rhonda Sedgwick Stearns was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1977. She grew up on a Wyoming ranch southwest of Newcastle on Mush Creek. At the age of two, she won her first horsemanship award and went on to become a champion barrel racer, rodeo queen, rodeo organist, and published western writer. At 17, Rhonda won the Miss Horsemanship title in the Miss Rodeo America competition.

One most cherished memory she shares is that of acquiring her beloved horse, Leo. Rhonda attended the 1960 QH sale at Denver's Western Stock Show with her parents when three-year-old General Leo was led into the ring.

Rhonda reports, "There was something about this horse that almost stopped my heart. I felt like he looked right at me once for a few seconds, and I stared back trying to telegraph the words "Be calm, it's okay." Finally, Rhonda heard the gavel bang to the tune of "Sold to the gentleman in the black hat," she recalls, as the auctioneer pointed to Rhonda's dad.

According to Stearns' "That moment was the amazing beginning of a precious love story. He truly loved me as I truly loved him." She continues, "I'd never before, nor have I since, bonded so deeply to a horse."

Rhonda went on to ride many a horse. After she and her beloved husband Will had free time, they helped others by day ranching for free when they could afford gas. They loved life on a good horse and enjoyed the work. Rhonda continues to live and breathe the western heritage that she conveys so eloquently in her writings.



Gary Gang Roman Riding Topper and Sargeant



Rhonda Barrel Racing on Leo



Rhonda and Author Rita at the Cowgirl Hall of Fame Museum in Fort Worth

Gary Gang's first memory on a horse was when a door-to-door salesman with a pony took his picture in the saddle. He loved western movies and the horses that brought action and true adventure to life.

As a young man in West Virginia, Gary and a friend noticed riding stables nearby and began riding every morning before work. Soon, Gang moved to Hollywood, California for work. Gary's boss Arnie decided to take up polo, and since Gary had horse experience, he was awarded the duty of grooming and warming up Arnie's polo pony.

Gary was able to find perfect boarding for the horse at Mark Smith's Stables in Burbank. The place not only fit the bill but opened a lifelong friendship between Gary and Mark Smith.

Gang eventually moved into the stables and worked for Mark starting horses and riding client horses. This offered an amazing training field for Gang to learn more about riding. Mark taught him Roman Riding (standing on two galloping horses' backs), trick riding, and driving.

Along the way, Gary acquired great mounts like Leto, an Arabian cross bay and his Roman Riding pair, palominos Topper and Sargeant. Topper was Gary's favorite, while Sargeant was one of the horses appearing in the movie Tombstone.

Leaving California with wife Karen, the couple landed at ranch acreage in Chino Valley where Gary teaches everything equine at Yavapai College. He continues to train horses and horse people with astute professionalism, sprinkled with the warmest, most fun, and entertaining details a horseman could deliver. Especially a horseman from Hollywood.



MISO: A 2-year-old Blue Point Siamese mix. He weighs 8 pounds. For more information, please contact Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



TOBY: A 2-year-old fancy male Tuxedo cat. He weighs 10 pounds. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society 928-445-2666



CHER: A 3-year-old female orange tabby. She is a sweet little rarity, as orange girls aren't nearly as common as the boys. She's tender, shy, and incredibly soft-coated. She enjoys pets and offers a few chirps. Miss Kitty's Cat House 928-445-5411



DUNCAN: A 2-year-old all-black House Panther. He is sweet and a little bit goofy. He's also one of the friendliest cats ever. He likes to be carrier and held and is a true lap cat. Catty Shack 928-778-6951



ASTRID: A 2-year-old female silver-blue shorthair, born 9-17-24. She is a true love. Hobbies are chasing wand toys and interactive toys. She loves pets. Catty Shack at cattyshackrescue@gmail.com

(Cont'd from page 21)

and even lightness again. It isn't a replacement, but a continuation.

Loving more than once is simply allowing that connection to keep moving through you, finding new relationships and memories. It's also about recognizing that your heart was never meant to love just once.

The joy, connection, and sense of purpose you may have thought were gone can open again in new ways,

while also offering an animal a safe place to land, to be cared for, and to be truly loved.

And while there are so many animals waiting, hoping to be seen and chosen, this isn't about pressure or obligation. It's simply an invitation.

An opportunity to let the love you still carry become something living again in the world.

In that exchange, something quiet and powerful happens—healing begins on both sides.



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Cats for Adoption

NATURE IS NURTURE: HEALING TRAUMA WITH PACK TIME IN THE WILDS

By Solana Kline. Honorary four-legger, dog rescue advocate, and US public lands/trails researcher



Exploring the wilds within and outside

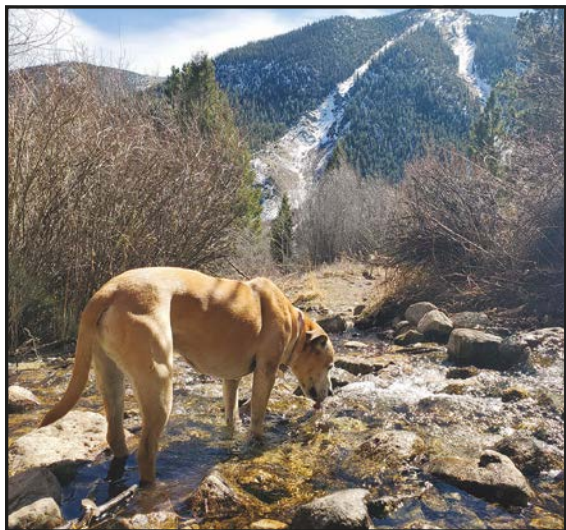
Golden hour is thick this evening, sunset's dense embrace of way-too-early spring warm. The trees and grasses aren't awake yet. They know better—after all, it's only mid-March. Descending from our hike, me and the hounds have one more stream to cross, sleeping willow branches dancing with the breezes, dipping in and out of the babbling waters.

Betts is tiptoeing across, avoiding the frigid flow on her delicate princess paws. There is pure peace in the air up here, the calm before the storm of Spring flurry and life and growth. A quiet that perhaps only exists at the change of seasons, like that unmistakable silence of first snows. Betty stands there mid-stream, balancing on boulders, sunbeams haloing her white hairs.

Micks has already flopped down in the soft tufts of last year's creek-bank grasses, rolling around scratching his back, nestling his nose into the earth down. I sit beside him. After a hectic year of man-made mayhem and unnatural human hustle, I sit with this boy in the sunset. Betts braves the creek passing again to re-join the pack chill. We all breathe deep and exhale, palpable shared calm.

Out here there is no mile-long to-do list, no phone service, no traffic, no people. Just our wild pack communing with our real home, where we get to be feral and free. Where our respective amygdalae rest, where our respective past traumas are carried downstream and upwind, down into the earth to be reborn as wild rose blossoms. Where all that matters is deciphering the next sniffer that floats across our faces.

Out here, we remember our natural state as animals, unincumbered by societal pressures to be a good dog



Cold creek crossings make for the best watering holes

(i.e., don't sniff butts/crotches, don't pee there, don't romp around or bark too loudly) and be a docile woman (i.e., don't sniff butts/crotches, don't pee there, don't romp around or speak too loudly). Out here, we just are, our stress responses calm, and we nap in the grace of sunbeams on an early Spring day.

Nature heals us because it is home, it is where Homo sapiens (humans) and Canis lupus familiaris (domesticated dogs) have lived for hundreds of thousands of years, up until industrialization and urbanization, mainly the last one or two hundred years. For the first time in dog-human coexistence, we are living in concrete, artificial noise, and constant nervous system stimulation.

Now nature, our home, is out there, away from the city development and norms of polite society. And with it is one of our most immense healing sources for both canine and human healing. In nature, our minds, bodies, psyches, and souls heal. They regenerate via rest and peace and connection in and with nature.



Never underestimate the comfort of a granite couch

Most of my research focuses on this, the non-monetary value and worth of our US public lands, especially trails. I've experienced this exponential healing firsthand. US public land trails have literally saved my life more than once, but, more importantly, I have seen and felt the immense impact outdoor time in nature has for our pups, especially our adopted pups who may have some difficult past traumas and lingering responses.

Mickey and Betty both came from human-urban landscapes. Ms. Betts as an ex-street dog from Sacramento, littering from her first heat, healing broken wrists and ribs in alleys, fending off bums and other street dogs. Eventually being separated from her litter by the puppy police and thrown in the high-kill clink and death row.

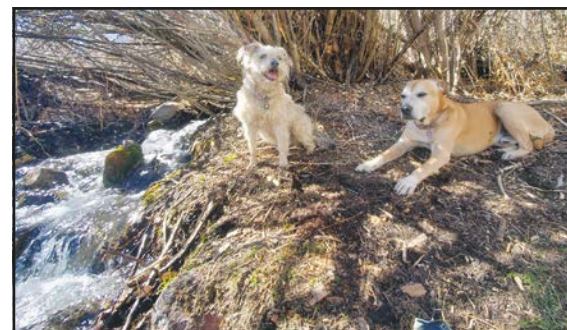
Thank goodness Oregon Friends of Shelter Animals swooped her up, with so many other survivors, in their old gutted out RV and fostered her up in Oregon where I could find her. Mr. Mickey was born and prodded to fight, caged and chained, scarred skins and broken bones, waterless, no space to run or play, tortured with fire and famine, ears assaulted with guns and constant onslaught of noise and aggression. Thank goodness some good human reported his conditions, and he ended up in the Nevada Humane Society where me and Betts could find him.

The first place I brought both of these wagglers was to the trails in the woods. Where their trauma and fear responses could calm, where the fabricated human constraints and controls melted away. Where they could sprint and sniff and explore the ways that their biology told them they were destined to. It is out here in nature, on the trails together as a pack, that I've seen these two learn how to be dogs, learn how to be a pack.

In our human societies, we call this ecotherapy or nature-based therapy. Humans across the globe are practicing this to heal and manage PTSD and other high trauma/high stress responses. There isn't much research or programming on how we can employ these strategies



On scent of wild burro near Kingman



Taking in the creekside calm

for helping our pups heal and be healthy as well, so let's go ahead and change that right now.

The researched benefits of nature-based healing for humans are: reducing stress hormones like cortisol, physical grounding and reconnection to the body, coming out of fight-flight response and regulating the nervous system, using sensory experiences to restructure our brain's neural pathways into calm positive possibilities, restoring trust and safety, fostering safe connections to ourselves and nature, re-learning relationships with self and others, learning/remembering how to play and adventure, and remembering that life is more than the trauma we experienced.

Betty and Mickey have experienced all of these benefits during our trail time together in nature. The changes were both immediate and long-term. Betty had only been in concrete and pavement, she went from being a novice tottering off-road explorer to bounding around as the nimblest of mountain goats, beasting across any terrain with ease should she get that zoomy inclination. Shifting from flinching at any little creek or critter to becoming the stout warrior staring down bear and elk and human and cattle.

On Mickey's Freedom Day, our first stop was Brown's Creek Trail up in USFS lands above Reno. Slow and hesitant at first, he delighted in the soft texture of the dirt trail, Tigger-springing around, unsure of this new environment, promptly falling into the creek- not yet understanding thin ice and flowing water. A completely different pup from the terrified and highly reactive boy I'd met hours earlier in the humane society.

Over the years, our daily trail adventures have brought peace, confidence, play, and grounding to each of these hounds. They truly have become fully themselves and fully a pack through the healing of trails in nature.

We prioritize nature trail time for exploration and peace. For healing and bonding. For remembering that we are here on earth to connect. To give and receive unconditional love. To play and laugh and wag together as pack families. To remember our birthright and roots as animals of this earth. To be and feel the goodness of nature and ourselves.

Until next time, here's to the healing powers of happy tails and happy trails of Spring!

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE: VINCENT

By Sonya Endres

You were the best friend ever! These six words describe my relationship with Vincent purrfectly.

I had lost my wonderful cat Dakota in 2009. I was devastated. In April of 2011, I was listening to music when this thought entered my head. I was told to bring up the Arizona Animal Welfare League website on the computer. Next, I was instructed to scroll the cat's section. I would know the cat when I saw it. I stopped on a small black-and-grey tabby named Heathcliff. He was the one. I was to go adopt this cat immediately. I knew it was Dakota leading me to my new best friend. I went to the shelter to meet Heathcliff and bring him home.



I decided to change his name. He became Vincent, named after my favorite artist Vincent Van Gogh. The date was April 10; Vincent turned one on April 14. He was so petite, he reminded me of a perennial kitten. He was full of life and energy. I fell in love with this vibrant firecracker instantly.

A couple weeks later, we discovered he had a mouth issue. It turned out to be a horrible case of stomatitis. He was so sick. We treated it with steroids but eventually, he needed to have all his teeth extracted. The surgeon was fantastic and he recovered quickly. We were living in Buckeye, Arizona at this time.

In September of 2012, we moved to Prescott. We arrived with eight cats and a dog. Vincent brought his favorite stuffed toy, Snakey. He would carry this little snake in his mouth and scream at the top of his lungs. Then he started jumping on the other cat's backs, grabbing them by the neck while still holding Snakey in his mouth. I called him my little mountain lion! Vincent also loved to play Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em Robots and have wrestling matches with his sister cats.

After playing, he would curl up in his bed for a nap with Snakey by his side and his one paw laying possessively across Snakey's belly.



In June of 2013, we were awakened by a noise on the roof, and then something large slid down the side of the house. Vincent decided to investigate and pushed the window screen out. Scampering to discover what caused this commotion, he found a mountain lion stalking a lone javelina. They clashed on top of the hill behind our house and Vincent secured himself a front-row seat to view the action. He had no fear!

The javelina held off the big cat and the two eventually ran off in opposite directions. Now came the task of corralling Vincent. It took my brother, Eddie, an hour to capture him, and at 3:30 a.m., Vincent was finally safe and sleeping once again in his comfy bed.

On his 4th birthday in 2014, Vinny Boy, as he came to be known, received his animal print hotrod stroller. Oh, how he loved that thing! He got to go for rides around the two lakes located where we live. He also became the life of the party when I hosted birthday parties for him from 2015-2018. Those invited brought a gift for Vinny; in return, they received lunch and a goodie bag.

Vincent enjoyed Fancy Feast chunky chicken and Party Mix treats. We played games like Pin the Tail on the Donkey Cat. He arrived at the parties in his beloved stroller, and usually a sister cat accompanied him. His two favorites were Bidy and later Kona after Bidy tragically died from cancer.

Vincent loved Christmas. He camped out under the Christmas tree and slept on the wooden rocker decorated with a soft Santa blanket and his stuffed Christmas kitty. Vincent got lots of gifts but he seemed to enjoy the tissue paper most of all. His handsome face graced my Christmas cards from 2011-2014.

Vincent was a ham when it came to having his picture taken, and that inspired me to write six children's books about Vincent and Snakey. They were an introduction book; one about a year in his everyday life; Halloween; Christmas; a Birthday Boy book; and, a tribute memorial book on Bidy. I used his actual photographs. He was adorable, though I know he preferred to be described as handsome.



Vincent and I spent only a few nights apart in the nearly 15 of his 16 years we shared together. We were best buddies. He was talkative, lively, friendly, smart, loving and yes, a brat. He loved to cuddle, give neck hugs and receive kisses on the top of his head. Vincent was an expressive cat. He had a face that showed many emotions. He was an awesome companion.

But Aries cats have two weaknesses: mouth infections and kidney disease. He recovered completely from the first, but in the end it was kidney disease that took him from me. They say small cats die sooner than large ones and it's the direct opposite with dogs.

Vincent in the last few months of his life, would look at the painting of his Grandma Dakota hanging next to our recliner and talk to her. He would wait for an answer and talk more. I believe Dakota was preparing him for what was coming.

Vincent went to the Rainbow Bridge on January 16, 2026. I miss him so very much. But like Dakota before him, he has shown his spiritual side. I asked him to send me a rainbow once he was with Grandma Dakota. Three days after his departure, he sent me the most spectacular rainbow display cast by the sun on a prism in the window. It was an explosion of a hundred rainbows dancing around the room.

I never saw this before, and it hasn't happened again. But last week the sun cast light on the rocker he loved, and a cat-head shadow appeared off the seat, just as if it was created by the sun shining down on his once-sleeping body there.

So, until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge, Vincent Van my little boy man, stay in touch. Mom loves you, Vin—to infinity and beyond.

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